

CITY LG – May 25-26, 2024

Today's Bible Story: All I Have to Give (The Widow's Offering) • Mark 12:41-44

Today's Bottom Line: Practice living for God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.* 1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV)

Monthly Virtue: Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

LG Supplies: Baggies filled with 5 unsharpened pencils for each small group

WORSHIP

One in a Million

As the World Shakes

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Group

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, everyone! I'm so excited to be here today. I just love coming to The City because we always have so much fun together! This month, we've been training hard and talking about commitment.

SLIDE: Virtue

Commitment is about **making a plan and putting it into practice.**

SLIDE: Theme

Anytime you decide you want to be better at something and you practice **DOING** that something, you're showing commitment! That's definitely true about our faith in God. When you commit to your relationship with God by doing things like reading the Bible, praying, and talking **ABOUT** God, you'll grow stronger in your faith.

Now, if we're going to live with commitment, we'll need to work out and build our strength and physical fitness. So, I'll need our Small Group Leaders to come up on stage for this exciting challenge!

Bring all of your Small Group Leaders onto the stage.

Okay, leaders. I have a pencil here for each of you.

Give an unsharpened pencil to each leader.

You'll balance the pencil on top of your flat hand, straight out in front of you, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Then, when I say 'go,' you'll toss the pencil in the air and catch it in the fist of that same hand. (*Demonstrate.*) Easy enough, right? Now you can try it. Ready? Go!

Let the leaders catch their pencil a few times.

Looking good, everyone! Let's make this a little more difficult. For the next round, you'll hold TWO pencils, and then try to catch both of them.

Have each leader grab an unsharpened pencil from their bag.

(To audience) Let's have a drumroll, everyone.

The kids make a drumroll with their hands on the floor.

(To leaders) Three, two, one, go!

The leaders try to catch both pencils. Congratulate those who are successful and have them remain in the game. Also clap for those who were unsuccessful and have them stand to the side.

Keep going through additional rounds of the game, adding a pencil each time for the leaders who are still in the game. Have the kids do a drumroll each time for maximum suspense. Keep going until you have a winner. (If your finalists are all "out" at the same time, declare them co-winners.)

Collect the pencils as you dismiss the leaders to their seats.

Wow! That was incredible! What amazing concentration and commitment. Let's give ALL our leaders a hand as they head back to their seats.

We've been talking about a training plan that will help us grow stronger in our relationship with God. These are some habits we can put into practice that will help us be more confident in what we believe, and that will help us keep learning and discovering new things about God.

What are those habits? We can practice hearing from God by reading the Bible. We can practice praying to God. And we can practice talking about God with other people.

Today, we'll talk about another important part of the plan that we can commit to. It's something that we can see in a story from the book of Mark. *(Hold up Bible.)*

For three years, Jesus traveled all around with His disciples, healing people, performing miracles, and teaching people about God's kingdom. In everything He did, Jesus lived fully for God, and He taught others to do the same. In this story, Jesus noticed the way someone lived their life for God . . . and He wanted to make sure His disciples didn't miss it!

Let's take a look....

VIDEO: Bible Story

The rich men gave a bigger amount of money than the widow did. We know that. But when you really think about it, the widow actually gave the MOST. She didn't keep anything back. She held everything she had with open hands (*demonstrate*) and trusted God with all of it.

That's the kind of trust I want to have. I want to live in a way that shows that I can trust God no matter what. If we can learn to live that way—with that kind of commitment—then we'll grow stronger and stronger in our faith as we follow Jesus each day.

This is another important part of our training plan. Take a look:

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

We should **practice living for God**.

If we're paying attention to the people and situations around us, we can find lots of ways to live our lives fully for God. We can live for God at home, at school, at practice, and anywhere else we go.

We can be generous—not just with money, but also with our time, our kind words, and our good attitudes. Jesus said that when we do things for others, it's like we're doing those things for Him. So let's think about it. What could you do for someone else this week that would also honor God?

Let's pray and ask God to help us with that.

SLIDE: Theme Background

"Dear God, the story of the widow's offering is pretty amazing. She didn't have much at all, but she trusted You with everything she had! Help us to trust You like that too. Your goodness and love fill us up and make us want to make a difference in the world around us. Please show us how we can follow You and share Your love in everything we do. Help us to live for You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING

What mission are we supporting this year? Yes, Morning Star Mission! Morning Star helps people who are struggling financially. They help people in need with their basic necessities AND they help them with whatever it is they need to do, to be able to support their families. I know Christmas seems a long time from now but look at this video about one of Missions of Hope's programs called Stars of Hope. If you have your offering, bring it up as we watch this...

VIDEO: Stars of Hope

So Merry Christmas...WAY early. But Missions of Hope prepares all year to be able to have Christmas gifts for kids in families that need financial help. Think about some ways you can raise some money for kids in need in our area!