The Widow’s Offering

OVERVIEW: Be humble and do not look down on others. Kids will learn God wants them to be humble and honest about their faith.

PREPARATION: Balloons & Bibles


ICEBREAKER:
- What’s your favorite snack?

READ: A Hole in Your Heart

LIFE APPLICATION:

Read Luke 20:45-21:4
1. Why did Jesus warn his followers to look out for the teachers of the law?
2. What offering did the widow give?
3. Why did Jesus say the widow gave more than anyone else?
4. How did Jesus teach us to be humble?
5. Why is it important to be honest about our faith?

Call them Cheetos, call them Cheese Puffs, or call them Cheese Balls. Whatever you call them, there’s no denying that puffed up cheesy snacks are delicious. These puffed up snacks are light, airy, and delicious. Not only do you get the initial cheesy, delicious treat, you also get that sticky, cheesy residue on your fingers that give you an extra treat. You’ll need that extra treat too, because Cheese Puffs are not exactly filling.

Take one bite and you realize that BIG Cheesy Puff is mostly air. You can never eat just one because one is never going to satisfy your hunger! Being puffed up with air is great if you’re a Cheesy Puff, but it’s not so great for a person. We’ve all known people full of “hot air,” haven’t we? They like to brag and boast. They look down at other people and truly believe they are better than everyone else. They’re no fun to be with, and they’re not exactly good friend material.

Being puffed up is especially bad if you are a Christian. We serve a God who loved us so much, he asked his only Son to leave his throne, leave Heaven, and live on Earth. Not only that, he lived the life of a poor carpenter’s son. He didn’t dwell in palaces. Some nights he didn’t even have a roof over his head. Jesus humbled himself so that he could reach out to us and be our friend.

Jesus cautioned his followers and his enemies about being puffed up. He took every opportunity to remind us that, as he liked to put it, “The last will be first,” in his kingdom. It was a warning to the religious leaders of his day, but it’s a warning we need to hear today as well.

READ LUKE 20:45-21:4

There were some puffed up believers in church that day when the widow gave her offering. These were men raised in the church who knew the scriptures very well. Instead of making them humble, it made them proud. They thought knowing the Bible and knowing God made them better than everyone else.

Jesus shames them by pointing to the widow. While the religious leaders gave a small amount from their plenty, she gave more than she could afford. She didn’t hold back, but she gave all she could. Her humility put the pride of the Pharisees to shame. Luke wrote
down the story of the widow to caution us against becoming like the religious leaders. We should never look down our noses at others, but consider them better than us. We need to be humble like the widow. We need to lay down our lives like Jesus. We need to be honest about who we are so God can use us.

We’ve all run into kids who are bigger and tougher than the rest of us and know it. They like to push the little kids around. We call them bullies, and we can all agree that bullying is bad. But just as bad is when we make silent, little judgments that cause us to look down on others. “He doesn’t wear nice clothes. He’s always getting in trouble too. I can’t talk to him. I can’t be her friend. They’re not good kids like me.”

Any time we make a judgment like these, we are just as bad as those who looked down on that widow. We distance ourselves from other people, and we lie to ourselves, thinking we are better than others.

The religious leaders thought they were better than anyone. They were only fooling themselves. They were human just like the widow, and that means they were sinners - just like us. Knowing about God didn’t make them any better than anyone. In fact, Jesus said it made them all the more guilty of sin because they knew God’s Word but they didn’t live it. They kept other people at a distance, and their pride made them incapable of helping anyone.

If we want God to use us, we need to stay humble. We need to be honest and remember we are sinners. We need to confess our sins to God daily, and confess when we have wronged someone else. We should never look down and judge others because we should remember that we are no better than those we judge.

If anyone had a right to look down on others, it was Jesus. He was God’s Son, and the only man who never sinned. Jesus humbled himself so that he could save us, and he expects us to follow his example. Remember what Jesus did for you. Remember the example of the widow. Stay humble. Be honest. Be the kind of person Jesus was so God can use you to share his love with other people.

Balloon Toss

What You Need: 1-5 Balloons

What You Do:
- Toss a balloon in the air in the center of your group and begin to bat it around in a circle.
- How long can you keep it afloat? What about two? Three?

What You Say: Don’t over-inflate yourself with pride. Remember what Christ has done for you and be humble.

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:
- “Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the person who goes to him for safety.” Psalm 34:8 (NIRV)
- Give each kid 1 word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

RETURN:

Return to the Life Group and have the kids share their Bible Verses or Craft Activity. The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time. Or, you could watch one of the many, many awesome kids’ videos available to you on www.rightnowmedia.org – it’s free!