

# Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving

Mark 12:41-44

## Bible Point: Give cheerfully to God

Think of something you could give to others right now, in this moment. What could it be?...

Maybe you could give a smile, hug, high five, or kind words to someone? At first we might've felt like we had nothing to give, but we really do have things we could give to others!

Now let's think of giving up something that is very special for someone who may need it? Would you be able to? What if the person who needed it was Jesus? Would you be able to give it up then?

Today we'll learn about a woman who didn't have much, but she still gave everything she could to God. In the Book of Mark, in the Bible, it tells a story about a day when Jesus was watching people come and bring their gifts to the temple. In those days, people would line up and drop off their money for the church in a big box. Some people made a big deal about how much money they gave; they would brag and boast about how big their gift to the temple was. Other people – those people who didn't have a lot – would be more secretive and humble about what they gave. One day:

*“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.*

*Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.” (Mark 12:41-44)”*

Jesus cares more about how we give than what we give. Some people may think it's better to give lots and lots of things and to make sure other people know they're giving so much. That's what the rich people in the Bible did. But Jesus accepts any gift—big or small. And he's most happy with the gifts that we are happy to give. God doesn't necessarily want us to give away all our money, but he does want us to listen to him and to give to him cheerfully. Our Bible Point for today tells us just that- Give cheerfully to God!



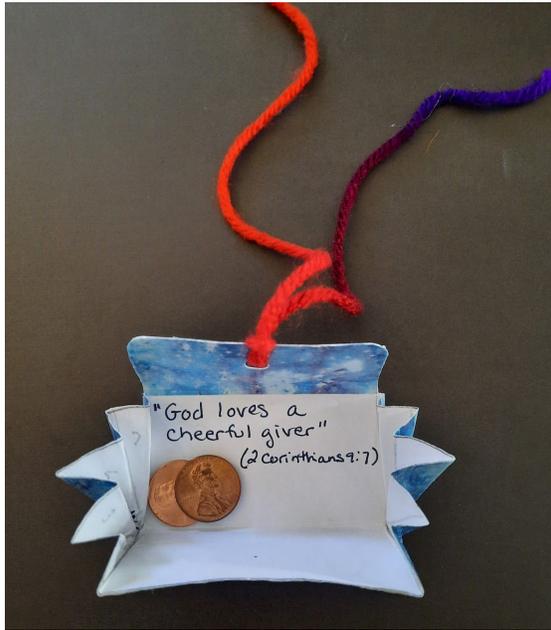
## Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for the good things we learn from your Word. Thank you for all the ways you give to us and take care of us. Help us to give with happy hearts.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

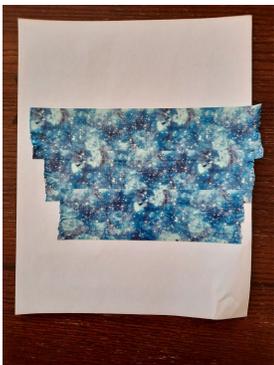
## Coin Pouch Craft:



**Supplies:** Copy of Coin Pouch Template (see below), duct tape or packaging tape, marker, scissors, yarn or velcro dots, hole punch, 2 pennies

### Instructions:

Print a copy of the "Coin Pouch Template" and then take about 3 strips of duct tape and line the back side of the pouch shape, overlapping the tape at least a quarter inch. Next, cut out the coin pouch.



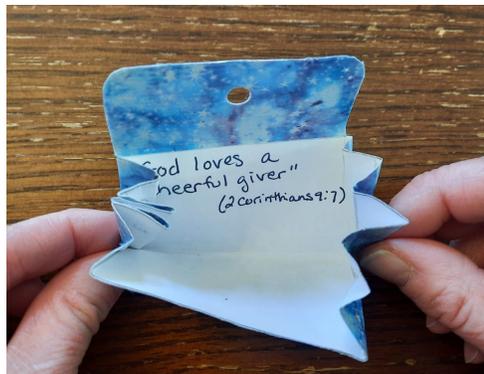
Once you have cut out the shape, fold down the top rectangular area and then unfold. This will be the "flap" of the coin pouch. Punch a hole where there is a small circle. Then place another strip of duct tape covering the inside of the flap to reinforce it and trim away the excess. Re-punch the hole.

Now it is time to create the pouch. Start by folding the bottom up to the base of the "flap", then unfold. Next fold both of the sides in creating two half circles. This creates two wings on each side.



Write the words **"God loves a cheerful giver"** 2 Corinthians 9:7 on the center so that you can see it on the inside of the coin pouch.

Refold the base up and then working from the edges fold the wings in creating four triangles. When you unfold there will be 8 triangles on each side. This will help to make an accordion on each side of the pouch. This is a little tricky! Start by pinching the centerfold and then using your index finger and thumb of your other hand- pinch the next triangle to the centerfold.



Cut a piece of yarn about 12 inches long and fold it in half. Attach it to the flap by sending the center loop through hole from the inside and then take the ends of the yarn and pull it through. Now wrap one piece of the attached yarn around the coin pouch to tie it closed. You can also use velcro dots instead of yarn. Place your coins inside!



Coin Pouch Template:

