

Not Enough to Give

A 20-minute lesson for Sunday school, VBS or midweek kids · 1 John 3:18

Questions or a church request: hello@ljandfamily.com · ljandfamily.com

AGES	4–10 (adaptations for 3–5 and 10–12 at the end)
YOU NEED	A screen for the episode · a clear jar · a handful of coins or buttons (enough for each child to hold two) · paper and crayons · the coloring page
EPISODE	Ep 4, Not Enough to Give (2:10) · youtu.be/JpGZhaSRuwo
MEMORY VERSE	“Let’s not love in word only, or with the tongue only, but in deed and truth.” 1 John 3:18
GRANDMA’S BIBLE STORY	The widow’s two coins, Mark 12:41–44
THE ONE THING THEY TAKE HOME	God doesn’t ask for enough. He asks for yours. A small gift given with love is never too small, and together small gifts become a lot.

The class plan

MIN		WHAT HAPPENS
0–2	Welcome	Hold up an empty jar. Ask: “If you wanted to help someone, how full would this need to be?”
2–5	Watch	Show Ep 4, Not Enough to Give (2:10).
5–10	Talk	Three questions below. Let them answer before you do.
10–14	Bible	Tell the widow’s two coins from Mark 12:41–44.
14–18	Activity	Two coins in the jar (below).
18–20	Pray	Close with the episode prayer.

Talk about it (5 minutes)

1. Why did LJ think his coins wouldn’t make any difference?

Listen for “it was too small”, “a house costs a lot”. Name it: that thought stops grown-ups from giving too.

2. What did each person do to help Marcus?

Mom prayed and held him, Dad remembered being helped, Ms Harper gave him a box, the class and neighbors gave. Nobody did it alone.

3. What is in your hands today that you could give this week?

Help them past money: time, a toy, a drawing, sitting with someone. Write a few answers down.

Open the Bible (4 minutes)

“But whoever has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, then closes his heart of compassion against him, how does God’s love remain in him? My little children, let’s not love in word only, or with the tongue only, but in deed and truth.” 1 John 3:17–18 (WEB)

How to tell it

Set the scene at the temple offering box. Rich people drop in big handfuls that clatter. Then a poor widow comes with two tiny coins, the smallest there were, and drops them in. Jesus calls His friends over and says she gave more than all of them, because they gave from their extra and she gave all she had. Pause there. Then ask: was her gift small? To whom?

Going deeper with older kids

With older kids, read 1 John 3:17–18 together and ask what “love in deed and truth” looks like at school. Point out that Jesus was watching how people gave, not how much. Ask why He might care more about the heart than the amount.

Activity: Two coins in the jar (4 minutes)

- Give every child two coins or buttons. Place the clear jar in the middle.
- Ask each child to say one small thing they could give this week, then drop their two coins in.
- When everyone is done, hold up the jar. Say: “Look what happened when everyone gave a little.”
- Leave the jar out and invite families to add to it for a real need your church knows about.

A WORD OF CARE

Marcus’s house burned in the story, and some children have a real fear of fire or have lived through one. Say it once, the way the episode does: “his family got out safe.” Don’t dwell on the fire, and don’t ask children to describe fires they’ve seen. If a child shares something serious, thank them, move on gently, and follow up privately with a parent.

Close in prayer (2 minutes)

Have the children fold their hands and repeat after you, one line at a time:

God, when what I have looks too small, remind me that You never ask me for enough. You ask me for mine. Give me eyes that notice people and hands that open. Amen.

Adaptations

Ages 3–5

Skip question 1. Let each child drop in their coins and say “Jesus, this is for You.” Sing a simple thank-you song.

Ages 10–12

Do the Going Deeper section. Ask them to plan a real class project with a specific person or need in mind.

Large group

Pass the jar down the rows during the activity while music plays. Take three answers to each question.

Short on time (10 minutes)

Watch (2), one question (2), tell the widow's story (3), drop the coins in and pray (3).

A note for teachers

Watch the money talk. The episode never names an amount, on purpose. Don't praise the child who brings the most, and never compare what families can give. The point is the open hand.

Send the family guide home with every child so families can watch and talk about it together. It is free to print and share at ljandfamily.com.