

### Unit 3: Praise Makers

**Faith Focus:** We worship God together in different ways.

*Let every living thing praise the LORD! (Psalm 150:6)*

## GROW IN FAITH

### We Worship God with Our Gifts—Luke 21:1-4

In this story, Jesus is addressing the attitude of giving. When Jesus talks about the offering of the poor woman who gave all she had, he affirms that the intention of giving is more important than the amount that we give. The story of the widow's coins has a reassuring message. Jesus' recognition of the woman's gift looks beyond financial contributions and reminds us that it is not about the amount we give. Rather, it's what is behind our giving.

In giving all that she had, the woman was offering God her trust and praise. God does not always require our money. Instead, we each give what we can, offering to God a portion of what we have received. This can look like many things, such as giving of our time, our talents, our presence, and our witness. All of these things and more are ways to give what we have to God.

- Discuss giving and giving back.
- Engage in a mission project.
- Explore ways children can give to the church.

## SUPPLIES

*pencils*

*CEB kids' Bible or Bible storybook*

*TV and DVD player or streaming device*

*sticky notes*

*crayons*

*supplies for service project*  
*scissors*

*jars*

*tape*

*chairs*

*Sunday church bulletins*

*musical instruments*

*hymnals*

*offering plate*

*other equipment for re-enacting a worship service*

*markerboard and markers*

## SESSION OUTLINE

### COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—We Worship God Together in Different Ways

Coin Math (Math)

### FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

### FUN WITH FAITH

Service Project (Service)

Coin Bank (Craft)

A Worship Service Full of Gifts (Re-enactment)

### SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Community

# COME TOGETHER

## Prepare to Learn

*Supplies:* All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

*Prepare Ahead:* Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16), Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20), and Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Winter Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the coins sticker on the Session 12 space.

**SAY:** Praise makers give joyfully to God's work in the world. We can give our time, give our money, and donate our things to help others. There are lots of ways to give gifts to God.

## Faith Focus—We Worship God Together in Different Ways

*Supplies:* All-Ages Class Pack

*Prepare Ahead:* Display the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20).

- Show children the Faith Focus Poster.

**SAY:** Our faith focus for today is "We worship God together in different ways."

**ASK:** What is the best gift you were ever given? What is the best gift you ever gave someone?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

**SAY:** We can praise God when we give gifts to our church and people in need. We can praise God when we receive good gifts from God and our loved ones.

## Coin Math

*Supplies:* Activity Sheets, pencils

*Prepare Ahead:* Tear out "Coin Math" (Session 12 Activity Sheet) for each child.

- Have the children work on the coin math activity. Pair up younger and older children.
- Then have the children work on the journaling exercise on the back of the page.

**SAY:** In today's story, we will learn about how one widow used her only money to give praise to God.

# FAITH CONNECTIONS

## Read the Story

*Supplies: CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read about the widow's coins (Luke 21:1-4) from a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

**ASK:** What do you think the people listening to Jesus were feeling in this story?

## Big Faith Video

*Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device*

- Watch the Session 12 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, in small groups, or all together.

**ASK:** What was your favorite part of the video?

## Faith Response

*Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons*

**Prepare Ahead:** Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16), Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20), and Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

**SAY:** Jesus wanted everyone to know that God cares about our hearts as we give. When we give everything we have out of joy and love for God, we give praise to God.

**ASK:** What are some ways you can joyfully give to God? I wonder what kinds of gifts you can dream up to give God and God's people.

**SAY:** We can praise God when we give our time and our resources to God. We do not need lots of money or cool stuff. We can give through the caring we offer to the people around us.

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

**ASK:** What do you see on our poster?

- Invite each child to write or draw on the note a gift he or she wants to give God.
- Encourage the children to share and to stick their notes in the Gifts section of the poster.

## FUN WITH FAITH

### Service Project

*Supplies:* any supplies necessary to complete a service project around the church

*Prepare Ahead:* Speak with leaders in the church about small service projects your class may be able to contribute to the church community during this session. Cleaning windows, organizing drawers, and sweeping the floor are all excellent options.

**SAY:** In today's story, we learned about a woman who gave her coins to God. Jesus pointed out that with her small gift she contributed more than those who were giving large sums of money but only a small portion of the money they had. We may not have money, but we can give our time to care for God's people.

- Have the children work together to complete the service project.

**SAY:** Thank you for being part of our church and caring well for our community.

### Coin Bank

*Supplies:* crayons, scissors, jars, tape

*Prepare Ahead:* Make copies of the reproducible "Coin Bank" (Leader Guide—p. 82).

**SAY:** Our church has an offering every Sunday. The offering contributes to services and special care we give to our community. Some of the money goes toward keeping our building running. Some of the money funds our staff. Some of the money goes to our ministries that care for people in our community.

- Give each child a copy of "Coin Bank" and a jar.
- Have each child color the coin bank label, cut it out, and tape it to his or her jar.

**SAY:** During the week, try to collect coins to bring back next Sunday to give to our offering.

## A Worship Service Full of Gifts

**Supplies:** chairs, church bulletins, Bibles, musical instruments, hymnals, offering plate, other equipment for re-enacting a worship service, markerboard and markers

**SAY:** Every Sunday, members of our church community offer their gifts and talents to make sure we can all worship together.

**ASK:** What are the parts of our worship service? Who participates in our worship services? What kinds of jobs do people have on Sunday mornings?

- On a markerboard, write down some of the ideas that children share about what happens on a Sunday morning. If your church uses a bulletin, look at the bulletin together.
- Have the children set up your classroom as a worship space. Invite the children to volunteer to re-enact different parts of worship.

## SHARE YOUR FAITH

### Big Faith Idea—Faith in Community

**Supplies:** All-Ages Class Pack

**Prepare Ahead:** Display the Winter Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21).

Photocopy the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 95–96) if needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

**SAY:** Praise makers have all kinds of fun ways to praise God.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- One at a time, invite each child to share a favorite way to praise God.

**SAY:** Praising God is a lifelong commitment. We find new ways to praise God as we grow and learn from God. Giving to God’s mission by caring well for God’s people is one way to participate in God’s good work on earth.

**PRAY:** Thank you for everything you give us, God. Help us to remember that you are good and all that we have comes from you. Please help us to be generous with our resources. Amen. *(Have the children repeat after you.)*

- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child who hasn’t received it.
- Send home any activities or items made during today’s session.

REPRODUCIBLE  
**SESSION 12**  
**Coin Bank**

Color and cut out the label. Tape it to a jar. Use the jar to save coins each week for the offering on Sunday.

