



Week 1- Give From the Heart

Bible Story: The Widow's offering (Mark 12:41-44)

Key Verse: Mark 12:43, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box."

Main Idea: We look at the story of a woman who gave everything she had, even though it was a very small amount. Her big heart shows us that when times are hard, the best of who we are can come out. It's not about how much we give, but how we give that matters.

Gospel Connection: Ultimately, it's a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that is the source of one's "UNBREAKABLE" character.

Welcome and Icebreaker (5 -10 min)

Strong Towers. Teams will have 10 minutes to create an 'indestructible tower'. They can only use the materials provided. They need to work together, to build a tower that can withstand wind, in just 10 minutes.

ONE80 MC:

Good morning everyone! This morning we are going to get straight into our activity. In your group you have 10 minutes to build an "Indestructible Tower" that can withstand the storm. Each group has the same limited materials (paper, tape, straws, popsicle sticks (whatever is in your basket)). It needs to be at least 20cm high, and able to withstand a 'windstorm'.

Debrief:

Well done to both teams, you put in a great effort. It is really tough to make something strong enough that it can withstand wind.

1. What made some towers stronger than others?
2. What happened when one piece failed?

Well this activity is a great introduction to our new series, "UNBREAKABLE". Over the next 3 weeks, we're going to discuss how our relationship with Jesus helps us build strong and unbreakable character that will help us stand in really tough times.

What is character?

Character is your personality, your values, your beliefs, everything that makes you, you! When we follow Jesus He slowly changes us and grows characteristics in us that reflect Jesus. We are going to be discussing some of these traits over the next few weeks, and what a strong character founded in Jesus looks like.

Open in Prayer (2-3 min)

Praise God for who He is. Thank Him for all he has done for us, and for giving us His word that teaches and instructs us. Thank Him that He is always in control. Ask him to prepare our hearts as we study his word and that His love would grow in our hearts.

Bible Exploration – The Vine and the Branches

(If the group is large you may prefer to split the group and do the bible lesson in two

groups)

The character we are going to focus on today is generosity, and giving from the heart.

- What makes something a great gift? (Show the two examples provided)
- Is it possible for a gift that has very little value, to mean a lot (even more than something that costs a lot of money)?

Fastest finger first - Who can find Mark 12:41

ONE80 Volunteer:

READ: Mark 12:41 - 42

As Jesus sat near the temple treasury, he watched the people giving money. He didn't just care about how much money they gave, but he also cared about their hearts. Then came a poor widow, a woman who didn't have much. She couldn't give much money because she only had two small coins.

Even though her offering was small, it was huge in the eyes of Jesus.

Why?

Because she gave everything she had. All her living, her whole heart, was in those two coins.

Think about how brave and trusting the widow was to give all she had.

What does this tell us about her faith in God?

GOSPEL CONNECTION: This story isn't just about giving money; it's about how we give from our hearts. The widow's trust in God shows us something very important about faith.

READ: Ephesians 2:8-9

What does this verse show us?

Remember, it's by grace through faith that we are saved, not because of anything we do ourselves. *Like the widow, our relationship with Jesus and our faith in Him makes our actions*

meaningful. We can't earn God's love with our actions; instead, we show our love for Him by trusting Him completely with our lives.

So, what we learn from this amazing woman is powerful: when we give, let's give like she did—not from what we have a lot of, but from the heart, with full trust in Jesus.

Snack Time

Small Group Discussion

(Split into 2 groups— preferably boys and girls if numbers allow, and find a quiet space where you can be real) Remember to pass an object around to and give each member an opportunity to talk.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think the widow gave all the money she had? What does this tell us about her trust in God?
2. Why is it so important for Christ followers to be generous?
3. If we get generosity right will it get us into heaven easier? READ: Ephesians 2:8-9 and explain that salvation is a gift and cannot be earned by good works.
4. What do you find easier to give? Money? Candy? Time?

Prayer Requests:

Alright, thank you for sharing your thoughts! Now, does anyone have any prayer requests? We can pray for anything - whether it's something you're thankful for, something you're struggling with, or a prayer for someone else. We can also pray and ask God to help us to listen to Him.

*Allow time for children to share— and jot down their requests. Make sure each child's request is prayed for. As a volunteer you can lead this prayer time by asking specific children to pray for specific requests, break into pairs and pray for each other or you can pray corporately— however you feel led.

Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank you for teaching us today about how Jesus is the Vine, and we are the branches. Help us to stay connected to Him so we can grow strong and full of joy. Please listen to our prayer requests now [mention any specific requests]. Help us this week to remember to pray and read Your words every day. Thank you for loving us and being with us always. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Time (5min)

Ask children to find a space where they can be alone and focus on Jesus. Use the reflection sheets to spend time praying and reflecting. The facilitator will let you know when time is up.

Memory Verse Challenge (5 min)

John 15:5, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me, you can do nothing.

' Mark 12:43, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box."

Wrap up and take home challenge

Challenge:

Think of ways that you can stay connected to Jesus this week, and try and put 1 of them into practise.