

SPARKS

MAIN POINT: For each child too think about giving and what it looks like to share what we have with others.

10:50am Free Play: Some time to play before beginning the main session.

11:15 Tidy Up Time: In order to keep their attention during the crafts and story be sure to tidy away everything so that there are no distractions in the room.

11:20 Story + Snack:

What does Generosity look like? Is it easy to share toys? How good are we at sharing what we have?

Tell the children that it can be hard sometimes to share. That we aren't always good at giving things away too even though God wants us to be kind and love others by sharing what we have or by giving away what we no longer need.

TELL THE STORY: Use a puppets to tell this story

"Hello! I'm Martha, and I'm a widow. That means my husband has died. I am very poor, because my children are too young to work yet, and we haven't got much money. I use all my money to make sure we have enough food.

I am grateful to God because he has given me so much. I have a home. It's only small, we all share one room, but it is ours. God is good.

*And there is food every day – not very much, but enough. So I am grateful to God. And today I have come here, to the Temple, to give him a gift to show how much I love him. Look, here it is! **(Show one coin)***

I can see by your faces that you don't think it is enough. I know it isn't, but I don't have much but it's all I have to give and although I could buy more food with it, I want to give it back to God.

Oh, look!

(show another puppet with lots of coins)

Wow....he's rich. He's got loads of money to give to God. Everybody is staring... I have never seen so much money at one place!

Oh dear, oh dear! I want to give God something, but now I'm not sure. Should I give it, or should I just go back home?

No. I want to give God something, and I'm going to. I hope nobody sees, I'll just creep up and give it – there. Thank you God for everything you have given me!"

Did you know Jesus saw this lady put her money into the collection box at the temple?

Guess what he told his disciples? He said the lady had given the best gift of all because she had given everything she could afford to give!

Pray

Ask the children to hold out their hands and tell them we're going to say a prayer together to ask God to help us share better and be more generous.

Father God, we thank you for everything you give us.

Help us to share the things we love and give away even when it's hard.

In your name we pray, Amen.

11:30 Craft: Create the widow's purse.

Each child gets a little envelope to make their own purse. They can decorate it with stickers and then once made they can add in some of the large pre cut coins.

11:50 Songs: Use the iPad to worship God. Feel free to pick whichever songs you'd prefer by searching on YouTube. Some examples: Our God is a great big God/Alive by Hillsong/My Lighthouse by Rend Collective.

If ahead of time then free play or play games together like duck duck goose or musical statues using CD player. 12pm Children given their crafts and taken down stairs to the meeting point ready to be picked up.

FLAMES + BLAZE

MAIN POINT: For each child to think about how we can raise money for church and their part to play in that.

11:00am Play a collective game once all children have arrived.

Something like duck duck goose, bean game, simon says, number ladders, what's the time Mr.Wolf, ZipZapBoing!

Let the children take turns to come to the box and pretend to take out a gift. By miming they should make it clear what the gift is. Let the others guess, and the correct guesser gets the next turn.

Leaders may have to demonstrate this first, and the children will probably copy their ideas, at least to begin with. For instance, if it's chocolate, pretend to unwrap and eat it. If it's a kitten, stroke it. If it's a dress, try it against you. Whoever is miming could give their imaginary gift to the person who guessed correctly to introduce the idea of giving things away.

11:15 GROUP TIME

Sit as a group and ask: *How are you doing?*

Ask the children what the best thing that has happened this week.

Then open up the chat that today we are looking at Generosity.

Could anyone explain what it means? Or a time when they have seen amazing generosity?

Generosity: being kind with what you have and being willing to give away or share what you have with others.

Get them to think about when they have seen generosity or stories of people who have been generous to them.

Can you think of ways that God has blessed us? What ways is God generous?

Our God is very generous with his love, his time and every good thing he gives us.

God wants us to be generous too with what we have.

11:30 BIBLE + Snack

Look at the story of the feeding of the 5,000 using the book provided.

Ask the children where the amazing Generosity was in the story?

See what they say and then point out that the little boy was very generous in giving away his lunch to help feed everyone.

But you could also say that God was generous with the miracle. Not only did he feed everyone but there were incredible leftovers too.

Encourage the children that we all have amazing gifts that God has given us that he wants us to be generous with. And if we are generous with what we have how much more will God be generous to us with what he has.

Ask the children what they remember about last week?

(We were talking about the story of Werbs and how we fit into it. We recapped all

the cool things that have happened at Werbs and what the children remembered being a part of.)

Remind them that over the next few weeks we are all going to help raise money to do up our new building that we've got down the road. Tell them some of the money will also go toward Ukraine.

You might want to make cakes and sell them next week or the week after at church. You might want to do a sponsored run or see how many hoops you can make with a basketball. Or do a sponsored dance.

Whatever talent you have, think about how you can use it to raise money for our building. Tell the children that they shouldn't ask their parents but other family members or family friends to sponsor you instead as your parents might be already giving money to church.

Explain to them that after church today we will be selling our crafts and cupcakes that we decorate today in our groups. Encourage them to help on the stalls by selling what they've made.

11:45 CRAFT: DECORATE CUPCAKES AND WOODEN

Finish decorating the wooden circles. There will be a few blank ones too if they didn't manage to make one last week or would like to make another.

Last week they used paint but this week DON'T GET OUT PAINTS! Explain to them it won't dry in time to sell so instead say that pens work very well and to create something special using that instead plus there will be a few other ones that Amy will have painted in advanced that can be written on.

As well as these there will be cupcakes to decorate. Every child doing this MUST wash their hands. Remind them these are not for eating but for selling and (although it might seem harsh) if they want it they will need to ask their parents to pay for it.

They can decorate the cakes in any way they want but there is a fun way using mini marshmallows and maltesers with eyes that can make cool sheep cupcakes.

There will also be some allergen free cakes. These should only be decorated with icing and non allergen based decorating to ensure they are safe for those who would like to eat them. For example: marshmallows are not vegan or gluten free.



11:55 LEARN BIBLE VERSE

2 Corinthians 9v7b God loves the person who gives happily.

Ways to learn it:

- Repeat it over and over in different ways (loud, quiet, high pitched, slowly, super fast)
- Play hangman with it
- Create actions together to remember it