

Sunday between September 18 and 24 – year C

Preparation

Read [Luke 16:1-13](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/properc20.htm>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/do_right_thing.htm

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/25-c/A-25-c.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-cwvx.htm#p25> – word puzzles

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Nickels : bring as many as you can; try to make sure that you have at least two or three for each child

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you.

With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth.

Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Loving God, creator of us all, be with us today.

Loving Jesus, friend of us all, show us the way.

Loving Spirit, helper of us all, stir us with love everyday. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Show the children the nickels. Ask them if they know anything they can buy with one nickel (five cents – there probably won't be anything). Now ask them what they can buy with 10, 25 or 100 nickels (wait for their responses). Now ask the children if they have ever owed a favour or money to someone. How did they pay the favour or money back? (Wait for their responses.) Explain that in today's story they are going to hear about someone who dealt with a lot of money and owed favours to many people.

Story Time

Instructions

- Get settled together in a comfortable way to hear and tell today’s story.
Give each child two or three of the nickels from the opening.
Put the rest in the middle of the story telling area.

Jesus was teaching his friends and the other people who were following him by telling them stories. Special stories that are called parables. They are stories that tell us something by pointing to something else. Listen and you will hear.

He told them this story:

There once was a man who worked for a really, really rich man.

The man was the rich man’s manager – the person who took care of his property.

Now the man was accused of doing some very wrong things.

He had been doing the wrong things with the rich man’s property.

The rich man brought his manager into see him. The rich man said,

“I am hearing bad things about you. You have wasted so much of my property. I want you to tell me how you have spent every penny that I have given you to take care of for me! You cannot be my manager anymore.”

The manager began to get very worried. He didn’t know what he was going to do. He said to himself, “What am I going to do? My master is taking my position from me. I am not strong enough to work with my hands. I will never, never beg! I know what I will do and people will welcome me into their homes later.”

So the manager brought together all the people who owed his master money or goods. He asked the first man, “How much do you owe my master?”

The man said, “I owe him 100 hundred jugs of oil.” *(Have the children count out ten nickels from the pile or from the ones they have.)*

The manager said to him, “Quickly take your bill and make it fifty.”
Have the children take away five of the nickels.

Then the manager asked another man, “How much do you owe my master?”

This man said, “I owe 100 containers of wheat.” *(Have the children count out ten nickels again from the pile or from the ones they have.)*

The manager said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.”
(Have the children take away two of the nickels.)

The rich man heard what his crooked manager had done. He praised the man because he had acted cleverly.

Jesus said to his friends, “You need to act cleverly in this world. Make friends with many so that they may welcome you into their homes. Remember whoever is faithful in little will also be faithful in much.”

Response

Project Idea 1: Faith Bookmarks

Physical reminders of the need to have faith in little and much can be a way for the children to express what they have learned through the story.

Materials needed

- card stock
- nickels from story
- clear contact paper
- fine line markers
- yarn and glitter
- glue sticks
- hole punch
- scissors

Instructions

Cut the card stock into 5 cm (2 in) widths along the short side. Either print or have the children print the following down the long side of the bookmark: **“Faith in little”**.

Have the children decorate the bookmarks with the markers and glitter (by spreading glue from the stick and sprinkling the glitter on). Have them place their nickels and then help them to cover the bookmarks with the clear contact paper. Use the scissors to trim the contact paper.

Punch a hole at one end and cut a piece of yarn that is about a 15 cm (6 in) length.

Put the yarn through the hole and tie off. Encourage the children to put their bookmarks into a favourite book so that they can remember Jesus’ words about faith.

Project Idea 2: Faith Posters

This response will be a way for the children to work together to express what they have learned from Jesus in this story.

Materials needed

- poster board
- nickels from story
- strong clear tape
- magazines
- glue sticks
- scissors
- permanent marker

Instructions

Print or have one of the children print the following across the top of one of the ends of the poster board: **“Faith in little, faith in much”**. Have the children look through the magazines and cut out pictures that show for them people doing acts of faith (some examples might be sharing food, helping others, or smiling at someone). Ask the children to work together to place their pictures and then glue on with the glue sticks. If they want have them write the faith action under the picture with a marker. When they are done that have them place the nickels throughout the poster and tack them on using the strong clear tape. With the children choose a place that they can put up the poster so that others can see it and remember what Jesus had to say about faith.

Project Idea 3: Faith-Offering Containers

Faithful giving is something all Christians can work towards. These containers will be a way for the children to work towards that act of faith.

Materials needed

- small plastic containers with lids
- sharp knife
- construction paper
- glue sticks
- permanent markers
- scissors
- strong clear tape
- nickels from story

Instructions

With the sharp knife cut a slit into the lid of the container. Cut circles of construction paper that fit the lids and cut strips of construction paper that will wrap around the containers. Give each child a container with the prepared lids. Have them glue down the construction paper circle onto the lids and then using scissors poke the slit into the construction paper. Have them wrap the construction paper around the container and then tape it on. Invite the children to decorate the offering containers with the markers, possibly printing “**Faith**” on the top of the container. With the children decide what they will gather the money for (a church charity or other local charity would probably be best) and then ask them to take their offering containers home. At home they can encourage family members to put in loose change. At the end of November, ask the children to bring their offering containers back, and then give the money they raised to the charity you chose together.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle.
Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Thank you God for loving care;
Thank you Jesus for loving choices;
Thank you Spirit for loving ways. Amen.