

Alley SG—May 29th-31st, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Gotta Live (Widow's Mite) • Mark 12:41-44

Today's Bottom Line: Practice living for God.

Today's Key Question: How can you live for God?

Monthly Memory Verse: *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.* 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Coins (One large bag per group)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a coin.
- Instruct them to do the following steps in preparation for the Coin Catch Challenge.
 - Bend one arm at the elbow so that their forearm is horizontal to the floor and their hand is touching their shoulder.
 - With palm facing up, place the coin on top of their elbow so it is facing the ceiling. They are now ready for the challenge.
- Tell kids to quickly snap their arm downward as they try to catch the coin before it hits the ground.
- Encourage kids to keep practicing until they can catch the coin several times in a row.
- Stack a second coin on top of the first once they can easily catch one coin then let them try again. As they succeed, keep giving them more coins to see how many they can catch.
- Suggest other coin challenges as time allows.
 - Coin Spin: How long can kids spin a coin on a flat surface such as an uncarpeted floor or table.
 - Coin Stack: How many coins can kids stack on their forehead while standing with head tilted back?
 - Coin Tower: How many coins can kids stack in one minute using only one hand?

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: "Commitment Code" card (1 per student) pens

What You Do:

- Read the following quote from the book by Dr. Seuss, "Horton Hears a Who":
 - "I meant what I said, and I said what I meant and an elephant's faithful one-hundred percent."
- Give each of the kids a copy of "Commitment Code" card and a pen.
- Challenge kids to write a code or motto that reflects something they should do if they want to live for God.
- Their motto can be a short phrase, a sentence, or a rhyme similar to Horton's.
- Provide discussion and suggestions as needed to help kids think about focusing their words and actions in ways that communicate the over-arching idea of commitment by practicing living for God.

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, coin (from Activity 1)

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Read aloud the brief narrative of today's Bible story found in Mark 12:41-44.
- Invite kids to take turns flipping a coin in the air. Based on how the coin lands, they can share what they remember from today's lesson.
 - Heads – Share a fact or detail from this story.
 - Tails – Share something we can apply to our life from this story. (Kids can share about what they have to give, like the widow gave her coins. How can they use what they have to show others who God is?)
- After each kid has had a turn tossing the coin, ask:
 - How was the widow showing trust in God?
 - In what ways was the widow practicing living for God? How was it different from the others in the story?
- Reiterate that living for God is about more than giving money. It's about trying to include God in every part of your day. It's about asking yourself before you make a choice, "Does this honor God, and does it show love to others?"
- Look up and read Luke 10:27.
 - If you could sum up from this verse what it means to practice living for God, what would it be?
 - In what ways does this verse sum up what it looks like to practice living out your faith?
 - What questions should you ask yourself when trying to make a wise choice and live for God?
- Repeat the coin toss, but this time ask kids to take turns sharing the following answers based on where the coin lands.
 - Heads – Share one way we can honor God.
 - Tails – Share one way we can show love to others.
- As kids give answers, prompt them to go deeper than the typical or "easy" answers.
 - Challenge them to go a step further in their responses by adding a "SO THAT . . ." or "BECAUSE . . ." after their answer as well.
 - This will help them think beyond the surface answers that they know are correct but may not have taken to heart or know how to apply.

4. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Finish the following sentences:
 - Living for God is easiest when . . .
 - Living for God is hardest when . . .
- Is there a difference between KNOWING God and LIVING for God? Explain.
- If someone said they wanted to live for God but didn't know how, what would you tell them? What's the first step you'd tell them to take?

5. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, index cards (10 per group per service), markers

What You Do:

- Form groups of 2-3 kids.
- Make sure each group has a Bible or device with a Bible App.
- Assign each group one of the verses below.
 - Exodus 20:15-16
 - Philippians 4:8
 - Micah 6:8
 - Mark 12:30
 - Ephesians 4:32
- Allow a few minutes for groups to look up their verses and discuss what they say about how God wants us to live. Each verse is fairly straight-forward, but let kids ask any questions they may have about the meaning.
- Set out markers and give each group several index cards.
- Ask teams to look over their verses for key words that could be turned into a simple drawing or a symbol, such as a heart for the word “LOVE.”
- Ask kids to write the word on one side of the card then turn it over and draw a simple picture that illustrates their word.
- Each kid on each team should have at least one word card but can do as many as they come up with.
- When finished, invite teams to share their cards as the others guess what word the picture illustrates.
- After their words have been guessed correctly, let the team read their verse before moving on to the next group.
- Prompt discussion by asking kids to think through actual situations and practical ways they can live for God as they live out that verse.
- Save the index cards containing the kid’s illustrations for use in “Make it Personal with Prayer.”

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Index cards from Activity 5

What You Do:

- Set out the index card illustrations kids made in “Verses to Take with You.”
- Invite kids to identify one or two words from the cards that makes them think of an area they struggle with when it comes to living for God.
 - For example, if one of the cards is a heart, they might be reminded that they need to do a better job of asking God to help them show kindness to someone that’s not easy to get along with.
 - Or if one of them is a big “number 1,” they might ask God to help them offer forgiveness when a friend does something wrong.
- Encourage kids to spend time in prayer asking God to help them practice living for God by honoring Him with the choices they make and showing His love to others.
- Remind them that COMMITMENT is making a plan and putting it into practice.

- That means they need to not only ask God's help but determine HOW they will follow through with the challenge they've been given today to practice living for God.
- And when they do that, they'll have the privilege of showing others who God is.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, we know You gave us Your Word to help us learn how to follow You. Help us commit to putting into practice what we've discovered today about how to live for You. Remind us this week to make choices that honor You. We need Your help to stay focused on You and on Your ways as we run the race of life. Remind us also that we can show Your love to the world in the way we act, talk, trust You no matter what. In Jesus name, amen."