

Year 5&6 Key Stage 2



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Resource File

Year 5 units of work - Poverty and wealth - Bible teachings





Lesson 1 Bible teachings

The big picture

This lesson explores some of the stories and teaching that Christians use to form their attitudes towards money and how to use it. It begins with a reflection exercise, which will mean some discussion with the class if they have not taken part in an exercise of this type before. The key to a successful reflection is for everyone to remain still and quiet, even if some people in the class are struggling to keep their thinking focused. This will allow the rest of the class to take part in the activity.

Learning objective

Learning about:

- To learn what the Bible teaches Christians about the use of money and how those teachings affect the attitude of some Christians to money.

Learning from:

- To consider what questions this teaching raises about personal attitudes to money.

Success criteria

Learning about:

- Pupils will be able to explain and understand the meaning of Christian teaching on money. They will also be able to suggest the way that this teaching affects some Christians' use of money.

Learning from:

- Pupils will have written some questions to help them consider their own attitude to money.

Religious Education Council Requirements

A1, A3, B1, B2, C1, C2, C3

Resources

- Two purses
- Money (notes and coins)
- **Resource sheet 1:** 'Jesus talking about money'

Vocabulary

Collection, mite, offering, parable, poverty, tithe, wealth

Key questions ?

What does Jesus teach about money?

Introduction

Prepare the classroom so the lighting is not too harsh; for most classrooms this will mean having the lights switched off. Clear enough space for people to sit in a circle either on the floor or on chairs. Ensure that people have individual whiteboards and pens positioned under their chairs or just behind them. Ask them to sit silently and listen to and follow your instructions. Explain that there will be time to talk later in the activity.

Place a purse overflowing with notes and coins on a table in the centre of the circle. Ask people to look at it and to let any different thoughts and ideas associated with what they can see go through their mind. After a couple of minutes ask them to take their whiteboards and write down their thoughts, feelings and ideas. It is best if the class remains silent during the recording part of this exercise and so let people know that it is OK to just try to spell things themselves. After everyone has recorded their ideas ask them to put

their boards out of the way. When they are settled and quiet, replace the purse with another purse that is almost empty with just a few, low-value coins coming out. Again, after a few minutes allow people to record their thoughts, feelings and ideas.

Allow people to share their responses with a partner.

Discuss with the class some of the ideas that the two purses made them think about. Did they make them think about anything in their own lives? Did they have different feelings about the overflowing purse and the almost empty one? Why do they think that was?

Allow them to discuss any other ideas that they had about the two purses.

Introduce the learning objective: 'In today's lesson you are going to consider money and some of the things Jesus teaches Christians about how to use it. You will also start to think about how you are going to use your money now and when you are older.'

Activities

Stimulus

Tell the class the story of the widow's mite and the parable of the rich fool (see **Resource sheet 1**). As these are quite short it is better if you can try and learn the stories and share them with the class in your own words rather than reading them out. Remind the class that parables were stories that taught the followers of Jesus how God wanted them to behave.

Response

Divide the class into groups of three or four and allocate one of the stories to each group, matching the size of the group with the number of characters in the story. Explain that each group will need to act out the story and then at the end, each of the characters will have to discuss with the person playing Jesus the meaning of his teaching.

A suggested character list for the story of the widow's mite would be: the widow, Jesus, a rich man and a disciple. And for the story of the rich fool it would be God, Jesus and the farmer. If anyone is uncomfortable portraying God, they could use a voice off-stage.

Everyone will need to stay in their role for this activity. The aim is for people to find out exactly what Jesus meant in his teaching and how he expects Christians to act. You might want to put the following questions on the board to help people:

(The widow's mite)

- As a rich person, I put in enough money to buy a whole new Torah scroll. The temple doesn't need any more of my money does it?
- As a poor widow, I only had a tiny amount of money. How will that help the temple?

(The rich fool)

- What was I supposed to do with all my crops then?
- Have I got to work for ever?

After each group has practised, give them a chance to perform their work.

Afterwards, ask everyone to write an explanation of the story, focusing on what Jesus was trying to teach people. The following sentence starters may be useful to support some people's writing:

- The story is about...
- Jesus taught that...

Plenary

Ask the class to discuss and then record how they think Christians' use of money is affected by the Bible's teaching.

Explain that some Christians believe that they should give 10% of all their money to the church and other charities. This is called tithing. Other Christians give different amounts of their money to good causes.

Ask the class to think about the money they have got now and might have in the future. Discuss with them what questions they might need to consider when deciding what to do with their money now and any future earnings. Ask them to write themselves two or three questions to think about. Keep the questions until the end of this unit of work and allow people to look at them and see if they have come up with any answers.

Differentiation

This work is accessible to people of all abilities.

Extension

More able people should be asked to work without the sentence starters and write a more detailed explanation of what Jesus taught in these two stories. They could also use a Bible and try to find more teaching about money.

Notes



Name: _____

Date: _____

Jesus talking about money

The widow's mite (Mark, 12:41–44)

One day Jesus was in the temple watching the prayers. He was sitting close to the collection box and observed the way that money was thrown into it.

Several rich people came and put in extremely large contributions. Next a poor widow came up and put in two small copper coins – each one just a mite, which would have been worth less than a penny.

After watching this, Jesus called to his disciples. He explained, 'This poor widow gave far more to the collection today than all the other people put together because she put in all she had, which was far more than she could afford. She gave everything. The others might have given a lot of money but they will never miss it because they have so much.'

The rich fool (Luke, 12:16–21)

Jesus told this parable:

'There once was an extremely rich and successful farmer. One year the farm produced an even better crop than usual. The farmer was over the moon but wondered how on earth he was going to store the enormous crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? My barns are nowhere near big enough for this massive crop. I know, I'll knock down these ordinary barns and build enormous barns in their place. When that is done I will be able to fit in all my crops and belongings. I will have so much that I will never have to work again. I will be able to take life easy, eat, drink and be merry.'

But God said to the farmer, 'You fool, tonight you are going to die and then who will get all your things?'

This is what it will be like for anyone who only stores things up for himself and doesn't spend any time with God.'