

Elementary Sunday School Lesson for World Renew Gift Catalog

Time: Approximately 50 minutes

Materials: Gift catalogs (order online at worldrenewgifts.net), scissors, blank paper, glue, writing supplies, trail mix ingredients (peanuts, M&Ms, raisins, Cheerios, Chex cereal, etc), cups, large bowl

Outcomes:

- Kids know that God has given them much and that there is joy in sharing others.
- Kids know what projects are available in the gift catalog and can express which projects are important to them and why.
- Kids know that World Renew projects can be self-sustaining and even multiply.

Step 1 – Introduction: (2-3 min) Pass out gift catalogs to the children in the classroom. Ask them to look through the catalog and tell you what they notice. Ask if any of the children have heard about the World Renew gift catalog before or if they ever gave from the catalog before.

Step 2 – Bible Story: (2 min) Ask the children to put away their catalogs so that they can listen to a Bible story. Read 2 Kings 4: 1-7, Elisha and the Widow’s Oil.

Step 3 – Reflections: (5-8 min) Reflect on the story. Ask inductive questions that help the children deduce that Elisha was trying to help the poor by reaching out to a poor widow and her sons. Talk about how Elisha gave the woman oil and God multiplied the oil until all of the many jars were full.

Step 4 – Bible Story: (1-2 min) Read Mark 12: 41-44, The Widow’s Offering.

Step 5 – Reflections: (5-7 min) Reflect on this story. Ask inductive questions that help the children deduce that Jesus is happy when we give even a little, as long as we are giving as much as we can. Explain that the widow gave out of compassion and love, not to impress others.

Step 6 – Discussion Questions: (10 min) This is where the children will be able to participate and learn the most.

- When we give to others, how does that help them? (They can buy food, they can pay for a place to live, they can buy blankets, they can use what is shared with them so that they are then able to share with others some day!).
- What is something important that another person gave or shared with you?

Please see other side.

- What does Jesus say about giving? Is it important to do our best even if it is just a little bit or does it only count if it is a huge amount? (It doesn't matter if it is a little or a lot, it is important to do our best!)
- Does Jesus care about the reasons for why we give and share? (Yes! Jesus loves us no matter what and promises to take care of us just like he took care of the widow who shared her oil. We can have fun sharing and giving because we know Jesus loves us already. Jesus wants us to give to others because it honors him and he already gave so much to us.)

Step 7 – Conclusion: (5 min) The widow in our first story started with only a small amount of oil, just like the widow in the second story could only give a few coins. However, in Elisha's story, God took a small amount of oil and made the jars overflow! God takes our gifts, large and small, and makes them count in big ways!

When we give with the gift catalog, we are giving people a small amount of oil that replenishes itself. We are giving a goat, that will keep giving the family milk and cheese, or a cow that will keep giving the family milk, or a water system that will continue to clean the family's water for many years. God works through World Renew to make our small gifts huge!

Step 8 – Examples of Small Gifts: (7-10 min) Ask the children to once again look at their gift catalog, and this time pick out the gift they like the most. Ask them to cut out the picture and description and paste to a piece of paper. Ask them to draw or write why that gift seems important to them on their piece of paper.

Step 9 – Activity: (7-10 min) Bring ingredients for trail mix: peanuts, M&Ms, raisins, Cheerios, Chex cereal and so on. Split each ingredient into a cup for each child. Make sure that each cup has only one type of ingredient (raisins, Cheerios, etc). Bring a large bowl which you put into the center of the room. Pass out a cup of snacks to each child, and then explain that each kid must share their snack with everyone else. If each child shares their snack by putting it into the bowl. then everyone can share in something delicious. (Optional: give a couple of the children empty cups. Explain that in order for them to also have a snack, everyone else needs to share). Activity adapted from childrensministry.com.

Step 10 – Closing Prayer: (1-2 min) Give thanks to Jesus for the many gifts that he gives us. Ask Jesus to multiply the gifts that we give. Give thanks that we get to honor Jesus by giving.