



The Widow's Pennies

Welcome (Parents and Carers asked to stay until after the Pilots Prayer)

Welcome back to Friends on Faith Adventures. We are looking forward to going on a journey and nobody knows where we will end up. All we know is we have got our crate filled with adventure and an open path ahead. So, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!!

Let's hear about FOFA bear and FOFA cam's adventures this week and how everyone got on with the Walking the Way challenge. (Encourage everyone, including parents and carers, to join in.)

The Pilots Prayer

Lord help us to be:

Prepared for adventure

In all we do.

Loving and caring,

Open to others

Together as one community

Sharing the love of Jesus on our way.

Amen

Fun Together

What you will need for this game:

- 8 plastic bowls
- 2x score symbols for the bowls: 10, 20, 50, 100
- A large supply of 2 pence pieces.

Place 4 plastic bowls in a line and in the bottom of each place a score: 10, 20, 50, 100. Place the higher value bowls further away than the lower value bowls. Do the same with the other bowls. Dived the group into 2 teams. Mark a line to stand or sit behind. Take turns to toss 5 coins each into the bowls to score points. The team with the highest score wins.

The theme of this session is about giving your all, like a woman with a few pennies once did.



The Widow's Pennies

The Big Story : The Widow's Pennies Luke 21

Required in the bag:

- Lots of posh clothes
- Bags of money
- Old torn and ripped clothes
- Apron with two small coins in the pocket
- Grey wig (made out of grey wool or purchased)
- A table-top cross, posh bowls, tablecloth etc

[You will need three volunteers.]

Reader 1: So today we are going to the temple (think extra special church or cathedral – but more so!)

Reader 2: Hold on, this doesn't look much like a temple.

Reader 1: Let me see what we can do about that.

[Get the cross and the nice pots out and put on a nice colourful cloth]

Reader 2: Wow, they're a bit special.

Reader 1: Well, that was one of the things that Jesus had a problem with at that time. The temple wasn't always treated as a special place that everyone could come to whenever they liked to pray and to be with God. Some people used it as a place to make money. Some people used it as a place to show off how much money they had or how special they were. Jesus didn't think this was right.

Reader 2: So, is that what the story is about today?

Reader 1: Well, kind of. Jesus was in the temple one day and there were lots of people coming in who were rich... very rich.

[Get two of the volunteers to be the rich people]

Reader 2: These two don't look very rich!

[Go in the bag and get out the posh clothes and dress them up.]

Reader 1: The rich people were bringing huge bags of money to the temple, but it didn't mean much to them, as they had loads of money.

Reader 2: Hold on, I can't see any money.



The Widow's Pennies

[Go in the bag and pull out some bags of money]

Reader 1: Oh, and boy, did they like to make people know they had money! They walked around jingling their money bags and made other people feel really rubbish.

Reader 2: I don't think I like these people!

Reader 1: Just then an old, poor woman walked in.

[Get the third person to be the old woman]

Reader 2: She doesn't look very old or poor, for that matter.

[Go into the bag and dress the young person in rags and give her a grey wig. Make sure the two coins are in the pocket of the apron]

Reader 1: The woman delved into her pocket and pulled out two tiny little coins.

Reader 2: Well, that isn't much is it? The rich people gave huge bags of money; her little coins won't count for anything compared to that, will they?

Reader 1: Well, no, it wasn't much in terms of money that the woman gave - but it was every penny the woman had.

Reader 2: I guess that was really nice.

Reader 1: Jesus said that by giving only the two coins, she actually gave much more than the rich people had done. She gave everything - the others gave only a fraction of all they had. God doesn't notice how big, how shiny, how loud we are or how much money we have. God sees the real cost to us.

Reader 2: I wonder if I could ever give away something really valuable to me?

Creative adventure

For this adventure you will need:

- Biscuits (round in shape, enough for at least 2 each). If you have time and the facilities, the young people could bake the biscuits themselves
- Royal icing (yellow in colour)
- Items to create designs (cocktail sticks, spoons etc)
- Rolling pins
- Jam or marmalade



The Widow's Pennies

Get the young people to roll out some icing, smear the biscuit with some marmalade/jam to help the icing stick. Cut the icing into a circle and cover the biscuit with it. Get the young people to design the biscuits as coins. They can do a number of coins, but each must have two at the end. It doesn't really matter what the subject on the coin is, but you could encourage them to think about making the image about giving.

The young people get to take the biscuit coins home, set them a challenge to give one (or both) of their two coins away to someone who would appreciate the gesture. The idea is that they don't have many; but they are willing to give what they have away, just like the widow.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder, what is your most valuable possession and what makes it precious to you?

I wonder, how hard it would be to give this away?

I wonder, why did the old woman give away all the money she had?

The Adventure Map

Explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written shortly after Jesus's time. They tell us about what Jesus said and did and how his friends lived their lives, sharing with others how to be good followers of Jesus.

Take the young people to the Adventure Map that you have created on the wall. Get the children to find where on the Map today's story came from. Choose one or some of the things created by the children to be photographed and attach this to the wall to create a visual reminder of where the story came from and your adventure together. The aim is that in a year you will have lots of reminders of the stories and where in the Bible they come from. Use a piece of string or ribbon to connect the photo of the craft work to the book of the Bible.

Walking the Way

This is a time to invite the parents and carers back in to share what the children have been up to during the session. They will also be here to hear about the Walking the Way challenge and the tasks (should they choose to accept them) that the children (and parents) are about to undertake.

For the Younger: FOFA the bear



The Widow's Pennies

This is FOFA. FOFA likes nothing more than to go on an adventure; FOFA is a little more adventurous than me. FOFA believes that faith is a journey and that's why FOFA would love to take you on a journey with him and walk the way of God in our everyday lives. Each session FOFA would like to go home with one of you and add to FOFA's scrapbook of things you do together. FOFA doesn't mind if you draw a picture of what you have done, take a photograph or just write a story about it. FOFA also doesn't mind if you just come and tell the rest of us what you got up to together. But because FOFA's memory isn't very good as FOFA's brains are made of stuffing, it would be better to save the memories in the book if you can. At the end of our time together we can always remember the great adventures we have been on together with FOFA and hopefully you will walk a little closer with God.

For the Older: FOFA cam

This camera is your window on the world. You have one shot at this, so choose carefully. You will be given a very precious piece of equipment – a FOFA cam. You have one photo to take with the camera, that records one thing – a way you have met the challenge. If there are other people in the photo, please ask their permission first and explain this photo will be put on display here. Bring back the camera and your photo next time to share your moment - and remember you only have ONE shot at this!

Every time we will choose someone to take FOFA bear and someone to take FOFA cam to help them with the challenge – but we can all have a go at the challenge!

Our Walking the Way Challenge this time is: give out your biscuits to people you think would like to receive them (and perhaps say why!)

Adventurers Go!

So today we have seen how an old woman's act of generosity was greater in Jesus' eyes than rich people's donations, who gave more but not everything. We all have the ability to give all of ourselves to God and it isn't about money - it is about our gifts and talents. So, when you go from here, share your skills and talents generously and let people you meet feel the love of God.



The Widow's Pennies

Prayers (choose one/both)

Dear God

Jesus shared a message in the story - he told about the old woman and her two little coins

Sometimes we might think we don't have much to offer

Help us do all we can to help others and to serve you

Amen

Active Prayer

Get three bowls with titles next to them (i.e School, Home, Church, Environment but you can use your own.)

Hold 2 coins (or pebbles) in your hands. Think about the things God has given to you and the things you can do. God can use our gifts in lots of different ways. Place your stones in one or two of the bowls to represent where God might use your gifts this week/month.

Amen

End Prayer Every Session: Altogether

We are Friends on Faith Adventures, travelling together with God.

Adventurers go! Amen



The Widow's Pennies

What you need for this session

Game

- 8 plastic bowls
- 2x score symbols for the bowls: 10, 20, 50, 100
- A large supply of 2 pence pieces.

Drama

- Lots of posh clothes
- Bags of money
- Old torn and ripped clothes
- Apron with two small coins in the pocket
- Grey wig (made out of grey wool or purchased)
- A table-top cross, posh bowls, tablecloth etc

Craft

- Biscuits (round in shape, enough for at least 2 each). If you have time and the facilities, the young people could bake the biscuits themselves
- Royal icing (yellow in colour)
- Items to create designs (cocktail sticks, spoons etc)
- Rolling pins
- Jam or marmalade

Location	Possible hazard	Action required	Action taken	Signature
Before session	Possible allergy to certain ingredients. E.g. Celiac disease	Check consent forms for dietary requirements	Consider buying gluten free biscuits or biscuits suitable for dietary needs.	
During session	Use of cocktail stick and sharp points	Inform children of the dangers of the sharp sticks	Closely supervise smaller children whilst using sharp objects and make sure they are aware of behaviour expectation.	