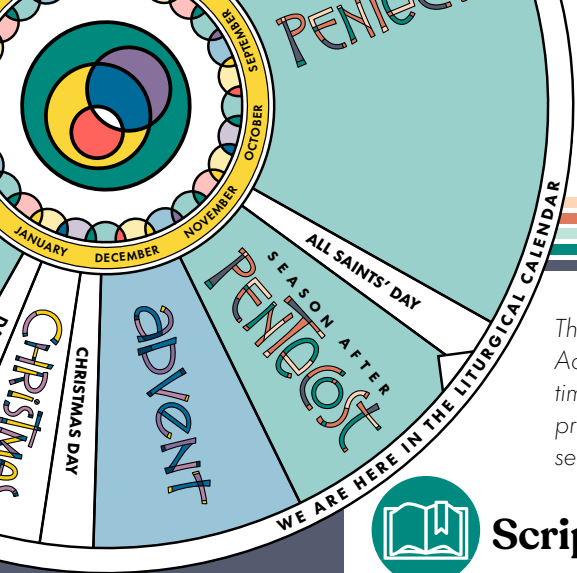


Mark 12:41-44

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday between November 6 and November 12



The Season after Pentecost is the period between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This season makes up half of the calendar year, and its liturgical color is green. It is a time to focus on the life and growth of the Church in the world, empowered by the gift of the presence of the Holy Spirit. 12th-century mystic Hildegard von Bingen captured the essence of this season when she wrote, "The Holy Spirit is the greening power of God. Our task is to blossom."



Scripture

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."



Questions

- Jesus noticed people gave money to the temple, a place of worship. What did you notice about the story?
- For most of history (and even now), women couldn't earn money as easily as men, so widows had a difficult time providing for themselves. This scripture tells us the woman was a poor widow. What did Jesus say about the woman who gave all she had to the temple?
- The Bible reminds us to take care of those who need our help, specifically people who don't have others to help them. Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves, and everyone is our neighbor in the family of God. What other stories from the Bible remind you of this, too?
- Part of the money given to the temple helped widows and orphans. Many places of worship use part of their collection to help people in their community. In what ways does your church, school, or family help people in need?
- The widow in the story had very little money or power, but she had a lot of love for God and her neighbor. She was poor in money but rich in love. What resources can you use to love people in your community?

Look it Up!



Look up the story of Mari Copeny.

Mari sent a letter to Former President Obama telling him about the struggles in her community when people in Flint, Michigan didn't have clean water to drink. From her small action, she created a change!

mini
REVOLUTIONS





Activity

Materials:

Paper
Pair of dice
Coloring utensils

Have you ever wondered why generosity is so important? Being generous with what we have (time, empathy, money, food) is one way of actively loving our neighbors. When we practice generosity, we help people thrive!

In this activity, participants will expand their understanding of generosity by designing Generosity Robots. As a group, brainstorm a list of ways to practice generosity. How many ways can you think of? Encourage participants to be specific by thinking about their social contexts.

Example: "I can be generous with my time," narrows down to, "When I'm at school, I can take an extra minute walking to class and pick up trash in the hall."

Break into small groups and give each group a few sheets of paper and coloring utensils. If virtual, with your safe church practices, consider using breakout rooms and whiteboard features. **Note:** *If there is a small number of participants, do this activity as one group.*

Assign each group one of the following spaces in your community, or think of your own: *school, park, library, hospital, animal rescue, assisted living facility, emergency/temporary shelter.*

Consider what's needed for each space to thrive. Then explain that each group will design a Generosity Robot to be "placed" in their chosen space. Design a robot with features that can generously help meet those needs—but there's a twist!

Before you begin, each group must roll the dice. Whatever number is rolled is the number of features their robot must be equipped with to practice generosity in their community space.

After a designated amount of time, come back together and invite each group to share their Generosity Robot design and how each feature helps their community space thrive.

Activity Adaptation

Begin by talking about how we can be big helpers in our families and communities through generosity. Then, take turns sharing ideas of how you can practice this at your home, school, church, or neighborhood!

After sharing ideas, design a Helping Robot together as a group. Select one of these community spaces: *school, park, library, hospital, animal rescue, assisted living facility, emergency/temporary shelter.* Encourage each participant to design one part of the robot that can provide help in that space. "Place" the robot in the community spaces and share how each part helps your community. Depending on age, participants can share their ideas, or they can draw their contributions on the page.

Virtual adaptation: *If you're doing this activity virtually and using Zoom, participants could use the whiteboard feature to draw their contributions.*



Micropractice

In the time of Jesus, every time someone gave coins to the treasury box, they would clang loudly. Everyone would hear that someone had been generous. When you hear the jingle of coins, consider how you can be generous to others.



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: illstrtdm.in/minirevBAP24



Prayer

Dear God, thank you! You are kind, generous, and always looking out for those who need help. Fill our hearts with love for everyone around us and help us share what we have so all may thrive. Amen.

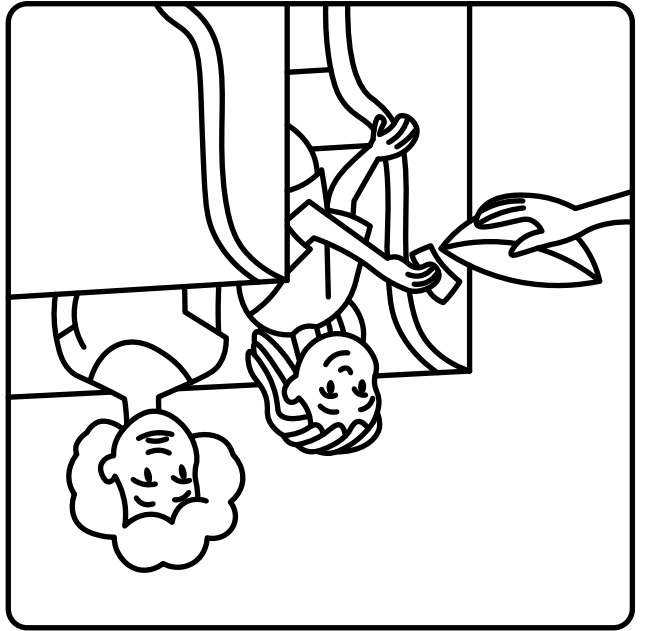
THEN JESUS called his DISCIPLES
and said, "TRULY I TELL YOU,
this poor WIDOW has put in
MORE THAN all those WHO...



ARE

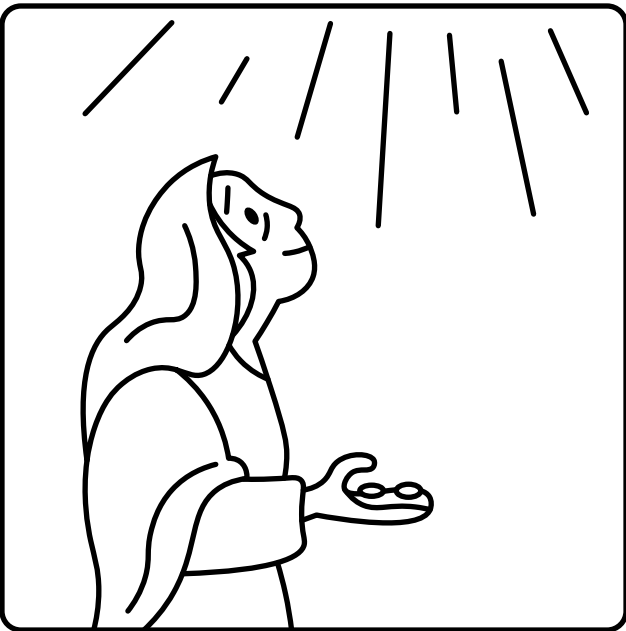
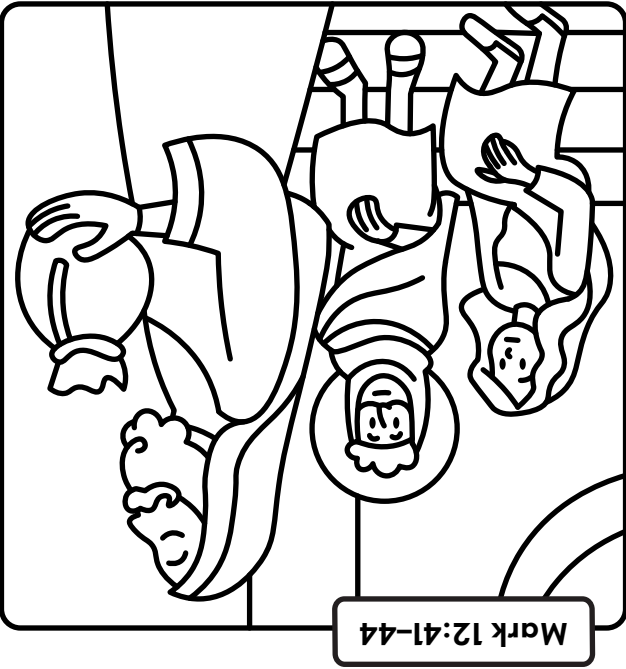
CONTRIBUTING to the TREASURY."

4. God doesn't need our money; God wants our total love and trust. When we give to people who have needs, we love them. God loves them, and we trust God will take care of us too.



3. Jesus told his disciples: "That woman gave all she has to God! The rich just gave their extra money, but she gave everything. Her gift is more precious and beautiful than all the money of the rich!"

1. Jesus was at the temple with his disciples, watching people give money to God's house. Some of that money would be used to help the poor. They saw many rich people giving lots of money to the temple.



2. Then a poor woman came. Her husband had died, so she was a widow. She took out two small coins. Jesus knew the two coins were all she had. She put them into the collection box.