The widow's mite

Mark 12: 41–44

Jesus Christ watched the people as they put money into the offertory box in the temple. Many rich people put in large amounts of money. A poor widow put in two little copper coins (worth about a penny).
The Lord Jesus said to his disciples: "I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offertory box than all the others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had."

The children perceive how important it is to offer in a God-pleasing manner.
God notices how we bring an offering.

The following incident took place in the forecourt of the temple in Jerusalem. The Jews went to the temple primarily to pray and to offer. One day this happened:

The Lord Jesus goes to the temple with his disciples. The disciples sit down in a shady corner of the forecourt. They rest there and observe the people around them. The Lord Jesus moves away from them a little and leans against a pillar.

He gazes out over the courtyard. Not far from where Jesus is standing, there is one of the many offertory boxes in which the Jews place their monetary offerings. He watches some of the rich Jews drop their offerings into this box.
Suddenly a murmur goes up from among the group of disciples. Peter says: "Just look at that smartly dressed man over there!" Another of the disciples remarks: "He is going up to the offertory box to offer. Look at that, he has put in a large gold coin! He knows how to please God!" Jesus Christ has also noticed this rich Jew.

Then his attention is drawn to an old woman. From her shabby and threadbare clothing he can see that this must be a widow. The disciples have now also noticed the old woman. John pokes his neighbour and says: "Did you see that? She only put in two small copper coins. That was really something, wasn't it?" They smirk and make jokes about it.

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Jesus Christ becomes very thoughtful. He goes over to the disciples. John and James move up a little to make room for him. Jesus sits down. He asks: "What do you think? Who offered more?" The disciples think for a moment. Finally James says: "Surely, it must have been the well-dressed gentleman who put in a gold coin just now."
"I watched someone else," says Peter, "who appeared to put in a heavy bag of coins. He must have given still more." The other disciples nod their heads in agreement. But Jesus Christ shakes his head. "No," he says decisively, "the poor widow put more into the offertory box than any of the others." Peter asks: "But two little copper coins only amount to very little, surely...?" The Lord Jesus looks at Peter and says: "Yes, when one only considers the value of money, two small copper coins do not amount to much. But God looks into our heart. He wants to know how we offer. This widow has no earthly possessions. She put in all the money she possessed. All those who offered before her are rich. They have so much that they hardly notice when they take away a large sum of money." Sheepishly, the disciples look at one another. Once again they have learned something of Jesus.

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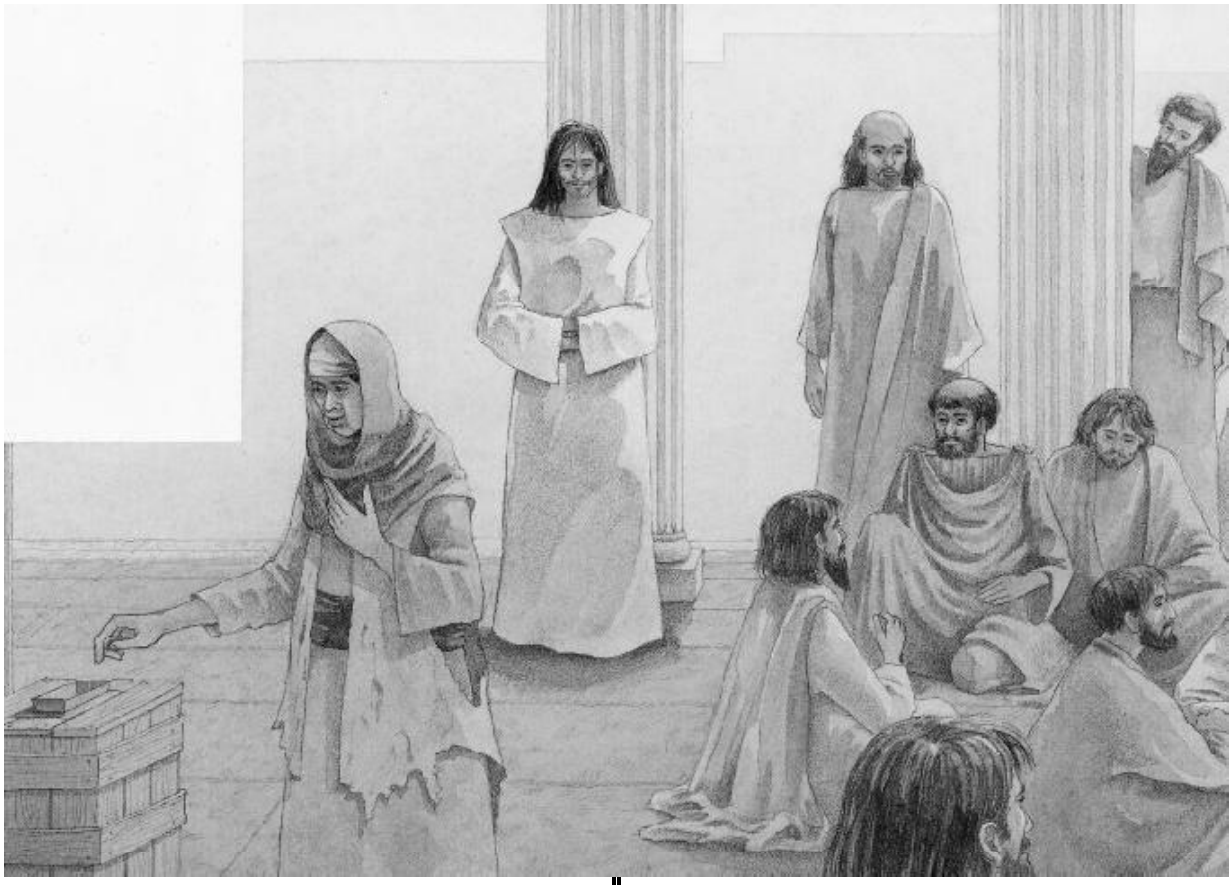

The Lord Jesus taught: "Offer as the poor widow did, out of love and thankfulness to God."

1 **We look at the picture in the children's book. We discuss the remarks of the disciples. What will the Lord Jesus say to this?**

2 **We discuss the way in which the various people offered.**

3 **God looks into our heart. How do we offer? (Out of the joy of giving, out of love for our heavenly Father, out of thankfulness etc.) We tell the children that also small gifts bring joy to God.**