

# The Gospel at Home

## This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

This Sunday's Gospel is a call for us all to share ourselves with others. The widow gives to the Temple two small coins that are significant to her livelihood. Jesus contrasts that with the showy gifts the rich and learned gave to the Temple treasury. They gave something of their great abundance. The widow gave of herself. We are all called to do the same—to give of ourselves.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child learned how important it is to say thank you. Take a few minutes to help your child write a thank-you note to someone who has done the family a kindness, paid a visit, or given a gift. Teaching a child the value of gratitude is an important step in the development of faith. You can also write a thank-you note to God and have your child put that note in the collection at next Sunday's Mass.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** In class this week, your child learned about generosity in giving. Play the game on page 2 with your child. (He or she will teach you how.) You can also play the game with real personal treasures. Post the "I Can Give" envelope on your refrigerator or bulletin board. All members of the family can enclose gift certificates for one another in the envelope.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** This week, your child learned about generosity and trust in God from the two widows in Sunday's readings. The first widow generously gave of the little she had to feed Elijah and trusted that her family would be cared for. The woman in the Gospel gave what little she had for the good of others. Invite your child to share these stories with the family. Talk about how the Seventh Commandment is about respecting the rights and property of others.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** This week, your child learned about both the Gospel and the Old Testament reading from Sunday Mass. Through the stories of two widows, your child discovered examples of generosity. The class learned about the value of the collection at Mass as a way to help spread the Good News. Finally, the class explored the Catholic social teaching about rights and responsibilities. Talk about ways your family shows generosity. Discuss ways that your family can help protect the rights of others.

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** This week, your youngster's class learned that the choices they make are good indicators of their values. They learned from the Gospel that true generosity means giving from the heart and giving what is important to each of them. Ask your youngster to share with the family the story, "The Widow's Gift." Talk about the real meaning of the word charity. List the activities, people, and things that your family values most. How does sharing these with others indicate your desire to follow Jesus as his disciple?

## Pray Together

Before an evening meal, offer prayers of thanksgiving for all the people who have given generously to your family. Talk about how you can best repay their generosity by "paying it forward," that is, by being helpful and generous to others.