



# for the **one**

## Leader's Guide - Jesus Still Watches Our Offerings

Mark 12:41-44 | Pastor Dave Bennett | March 22, 2026

### Session Overview

This session explores Jesus' response to the widow's offering and what it teaches about commitment, sacrifice, and the kind of faith that Heaven notices. Participants will reflect on how God sees beyond outward appearances, how true commitment costs something, and how even small acts of faith can be multiplied for Kingdom impact. The group will also connect generosity, invitation, prayer, and obedience to the church's broader mission of reaching their one.

### Session Flow (60-75 minutes)

#### 1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10 min)

When have you seen something that looked small on the surface make a much bigger impact than anyone expected? *It may be helpful to talk about "The Ripple Effect" or "The Butterfly Effect".*

*Purpose:*

To help participants begin thinking about how God values faithfulness differently than the world does, and to prepare them to reflect on their own willingness to trust Him with what they have.

#### 2. Scripture Reading (5 min)

Read Mark 12:41-44 aloud.

Optional: Also reference Exodus 35:20-29, Luke 21:1-4, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Romans 12:1, and Colossians 3:23-24 during discussion.

### 3. Discussion (40-50 min)

Use 6-8 of the following questions depending on time and group size. Encourage personal reflection, honest application, and practical obedience more than abstract debate.

#### **Leader Coaching Sidebar: Commitment That Heaven Notices**

- Remind the group that Jesus is not impressed by appearances, but by surrendered hearts.
- Keep returning the conversation to faith, trust, and willingness rather than dollar amounts alone.
- Encourage participants who feel that what they offer is too small to matter.
- Highlight that commitment includes inviting, praying, serving, and giving for one's one.
- Help the group see that sacrifice is not about performance but about surrender.
- Emphasize that God often multiplies what seems small when it is offered in faith.

### Discussion Questions

#### **1. Jesus watched the crowd giving, but focused on the widow. What does that reveal about the way Jesus sees people and measures devotion?**

Leader Note: Draw out the contrast between outward visibility and inward faith. Help the group notice that Jesus sees what others miss.

#### **2. Why do you think the widow's offering mattered so much to Jesus, even though it was financially small?**

Leader Note: Emphasize that in the Kingdom, sacrifice and trust often matter more than size and visibility.

#### **3. The sermon says, "God doesn't need your wealth. He wants your willingness." What does that statement challenge or encourage in you personally?**

Leader Note: Invite honest reflection around control, comfort, and what surrender actually costs.

#### **4. What are some ways people can underestimate the value of their invitation, prayers, service, or generosity?**

Leader Note: Help participants connect the widow's two coins to everyday acts of faith that may feel unimpressive but matter deeply to God.

#### **5. In what area of life are you most tempted to give God what is left over instead of what is first or best?**

Leader Note: Move the group toward self-examination without shaming them. Focus on surrendered living, not guilt.

#### **6. The message connects commitment to inviting your one, praying for your one, giving for your one, and living on mission. Which of those feels most natural to you, and which feels most difficult right now?**

Leader Note: Encourage specific personal application and make room for honest struggle.

**7. How have you seen God multiply something small that was offered in faith, whether in your own life or someone else's?**

Leader Note: This is a good place to build faith by drawing out testimonies of God's unexpected impact.

**8. What would sacrificial commitment look like for you this week as you respond to Jesus and make room for Him to work through you?**

Leader Note: End with practical next steps. Push toward action, not just inspiration.

**4. Application and Prayer (10-15 min)**

Invite each person to reflect on where Jesus may be asking for deeper commitment right now.

Ask: "What is one specific way you can trust God with your invitation, your prayer life, your serving, or your giving this week as you live for your one?"

**Closing Prayer Suggestion**

Lord, thank You that You see what others miss and that nothing offered in faith is wasted in Your hands. Teach us to live with surrendered hearts, not just outward appearances. Help us trust You with our invitation, our prayers, our serving, and our giving. Give us courage to live for our one, and multiply every act of obedience for Your Kingdom and Your glory. Amen.