

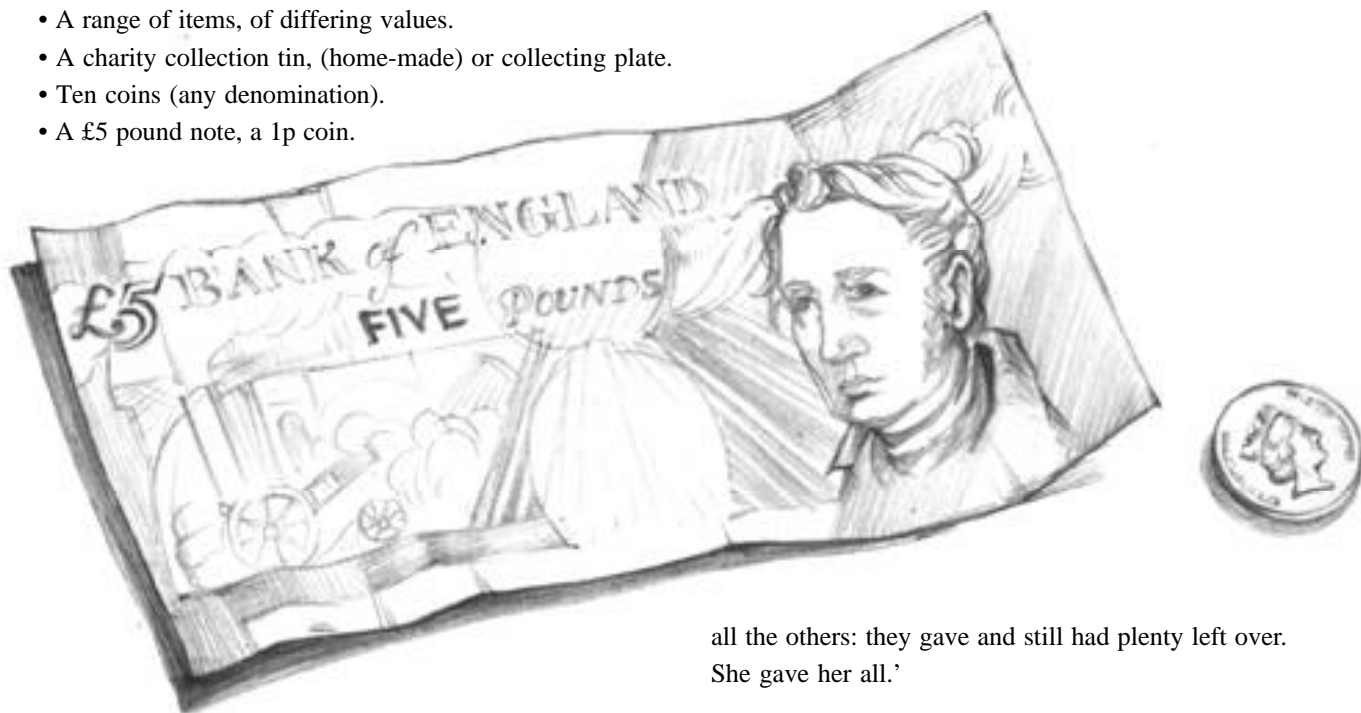
Motives

Biblical Material: Proverbs 16. 2

‘People may think everything they do is right, but the Lord judges not only the actions but also the motives.’

You will need:

- A range of items, of differing values.
- A charity collection tin, (home-made) or collecting plate.
- Ten coins (any denomination).
- A £5 pound note, a 1p coin.



Introduction

Ask the pupils what £5 could buy. Ask them what 1p would buy. Give one pupil a £5 note and another 1p. Ask them to come and select items they could buy for either £5 or 1p. Talk with the pupils about the difference between the two amounts. If both were put in a collection box, which would be the greater amount? This story is about a woman who gave very little, but Jesus said it was considered a great amount by God owing to her motives and circumstances.

Core Material

Tell the story of the widow's mite. This can be found in Luke 21.1-4.

In the Temple at Jerusalem stood large collection boxes into which people dropped their donations as they went by. As Jesus watched, some rich people went by, dropping in huge amounts. Later, a very poor widow crept by. She dropped in two tiny copper coins. Together the coins were worth far less than 1p. Jesus turned to his disciples and said, ‘That poor widow gave far more than

all the others: they gave and still had plenty left over. She gave her all.’

Talk with the pupils about the giving in this story. Read the Biblical Material. The widow was different from the others who gave large amounts because her circumstances were different. She was unlikely to be showing off in her giving, when she was so desperately poor. She was not giving her ‘left over’ money. Her motives must have been very strong to give everything she had. In the Bible, it constantly emphasises that God looks at motives behind giving, not the gift itself.

Prayer/Reflection

Ask some pupils to drop a few coins into the collection tin/plate before each line.

(Drop coins) *Some give because they feel they have to.*

(Drop coins) *Some give because they want to show off.*

(Drop coins) *Some give because they have lots of spare money.*

(Drop coins) *Some give because they feel guilty.*

(Drop coins) *Some give because they care.*

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.