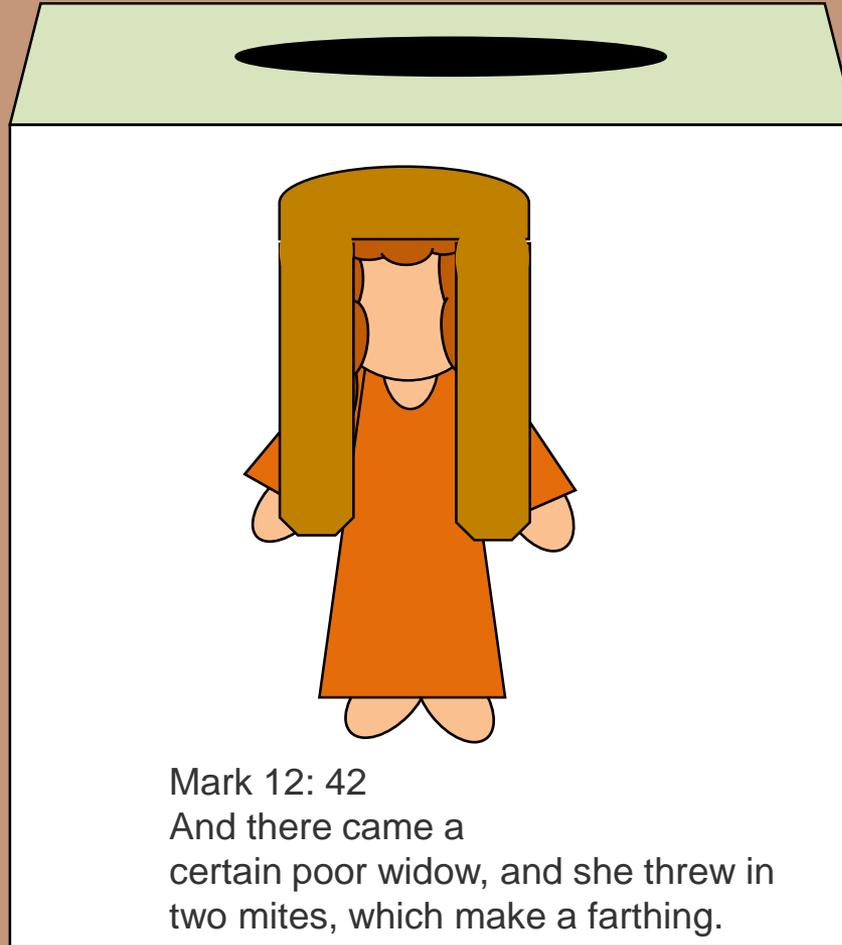
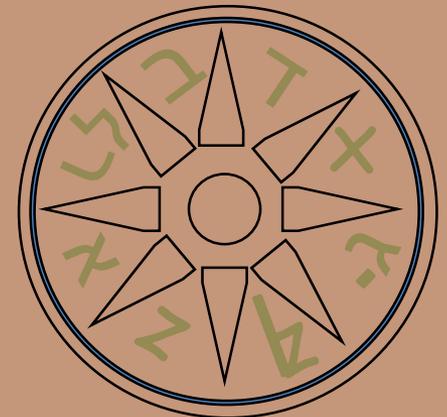
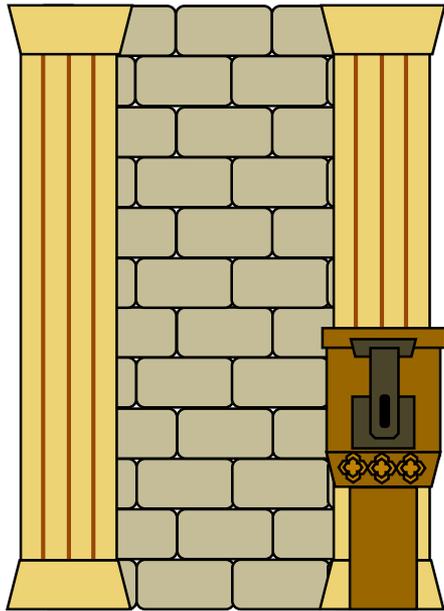


Primary 7: New Testament
Lesson 24 "The Widow's Mite"
Mark 12:41-44
Sample



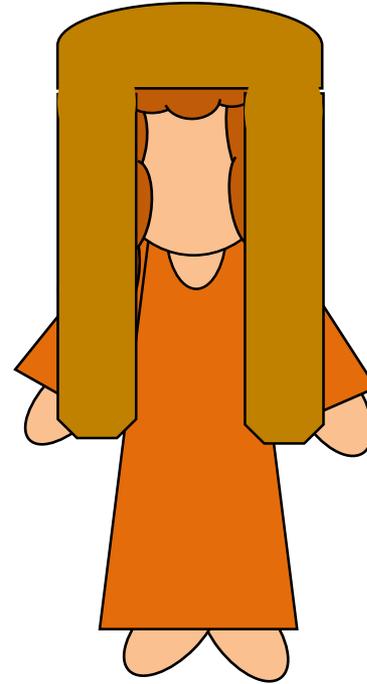
Square tissue box activity





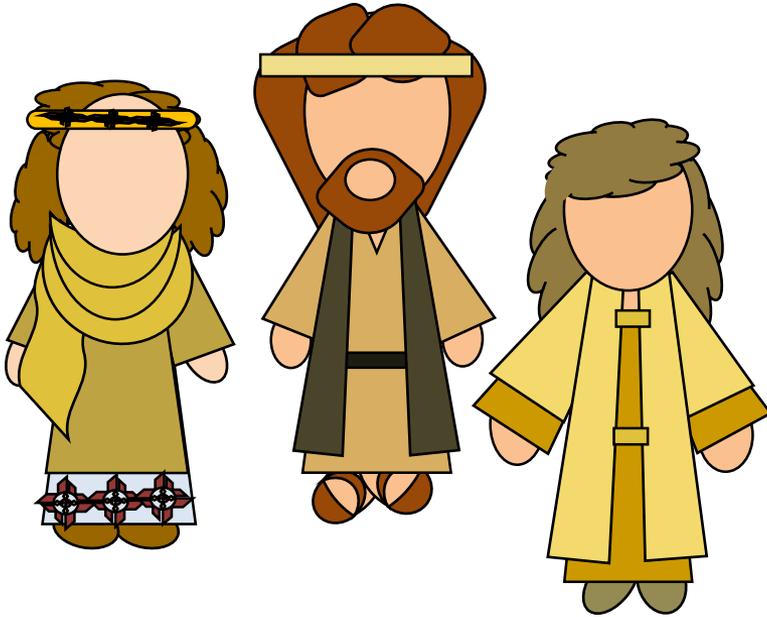
Mark 12: 41

And Jesus sat over against the treasury,
and beheld how the people cast money
into the treasury: and many that were rich
cast in much.



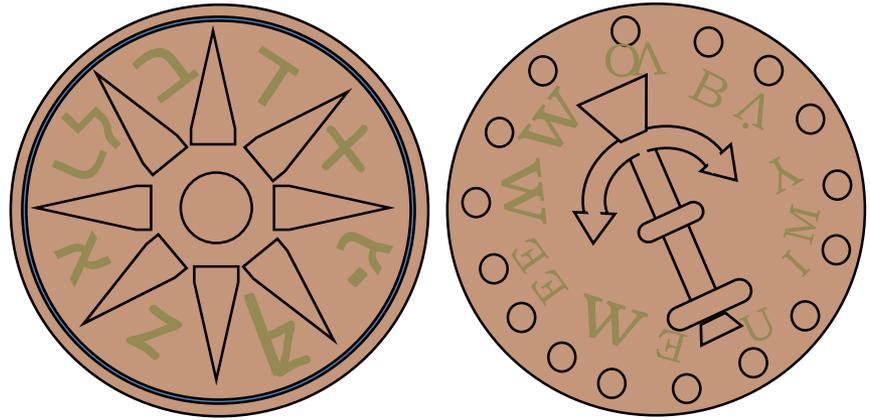
Mark 12: 42

And there came a certain poor widow,
and she threw in two mites, which
make a farthing.



Mark 12:43

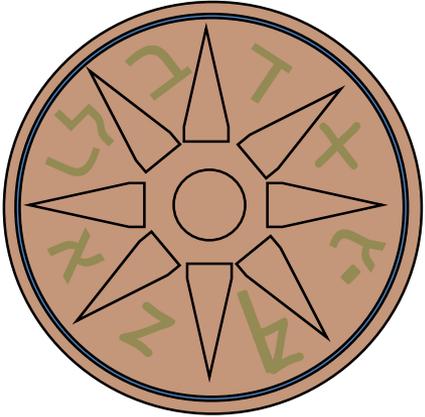
And he called *unto him* his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:



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For all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, *even* all her living.

Copy coins to be put in the tissue box

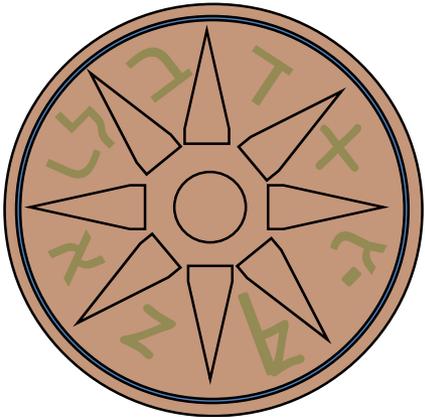


“There are people who say they cannot afford to pay tithing because their incomes are small. ... No one is ever too poor to pay tithing”
Pres. Spencer W. Kimball

When should I pay my tithing?

To whom do I give my tithing and other offerings?

How is my tithing money used?



“The Lord has promised that he will open the windows of heaven when we are obedient to his law.”
Pres. Spencer W. Kimball

How are fast offerings used?

What is tithing settlement?

Why should I pay tithing?

Instructions:

Gather empty box tissue boxes...one for each child

Page 2 Copy and tape around box. There will be a small overlap on the third side.

Page 3 Copy and tape around box. See if you can tape the last page excess under the first page.

Page 4 Copy coins. On the large coins paste front coin to statement. On the smaller coins they can write their answers.

Page 6 Answers to questions...also in the manual

Page 7-10 Interesting Information for the teacher

Page 11-13 Black and White...color your own

Answers to questions

When should I pay my tithing? (We can pay tithing any time during the year, but it is best to pay as soon as we receive any income.)

To whom do I give our tithing and other offerings? (To the bishop or his counselors. The bishop sends tithing money to Church headquarters, where Church leaders determine how best to spend it to carry out the Lord's work. Fast offerings and missionary funds are used locally; excess funds are sent to Church headquarters.)

How are fast offerings used? (Fast offerings support the welfare program of the Church.)

What is tithing settlement? (A meeting we have once each year with the bishop. We review the records of the tithing and other contributions we have paid and tell him if we are a full-tithe payer. We can declare that we are full-tithe payers if we have paid one-tenth of all our income to the Lord.)

What is tithing used for? Building meetinghouses, temples, seminaries and institutes of religion, mission training centers, and family history centers.

Paying for ward and stake activities and teaching manuals and supplies.

Paying for meetinghouse maintenance and utilities.

Paying travel expenses and supplies for missionaries.

Paying travel and other expenses for General Authorities.

Providing computers for use in temple and family history work.

Helping publish Church magazines.

Paying for Church satellite broadcasts.

Paying for translation and publication of the scriptures.

Because the lepton (plural: lepta) and prutah (plural: prutot) were the lowest denomination coins that circulated in Jerusalem during Christ's lifetime, they are believed to be the coins referred to in the Biblical story of the poor widow. Although any type of Judean lepta or prutot could have been donated by the poor widow, when you buy a "widow's mite" you will most like receive a star and anchor type lepton struck by Alexander Jannaeus (Yehonatan), the Hasmonean King of Judaea from 103 to 76 B.C. The lepta of Alexander Jannaeus are the most common and lowest cost possible "widow's mite" type. Although these coins were minted long before Christ's lifetime, they were still in circulation in the first century A.D. The actual size of a prutah is less than 1/2 inch in diameter. A lepton is usually about the same diameter as a pencil eraser. Since the lepton is the very smallest denomination, it is more likely the true "widow's mite." Lepta were often carelessly and crudely struck, usually off center and on small flans. Because they circulated for a long period, they are most often very worn and legends are usually illegible.



Alexander Jannaeus Prutah

(Yehonatan)
N T N W H Y
י ח י ת ז ע

(King) (the)
K L M H
י ל מ ה



Shekel (Plural - Shkalim) is an ancient weight and type of currency used in ancient times, most notably in Judea. Before the currency, the weight was between 9-17 grams. The earliest shkalim were silver or gold ingots with their weights stamped on them. During the feast of Belshazzar, in the book of Daniel, an angel wrote on the wall 'Mene mene **tekel** uparsin', tekel, meaning a shekel in Aramaic. In the New Testament, Tyrian Shekels are hypothesized to be the infamous '30 pieces of silver' given by the Romans to Judas. Since 1980, Shkalim (Or more officially "Shequel", NIS or Shequel Hadash) have been the National currency of Israel, with the reverse side showing a modern interpretation of the Yehud coins.

Prutah

A prutah (plural - prutot) is a ancient copper coin used by the Jews and a weight, making it similar to the Shekel. One prutah was worth two lepta, which makes the prutah the second smallest value of coin used by the Judeans. Prutot were minted from the Hasmonean Dynasty up until the Roman Procuratorship.

This alms box, from the "Matir Assurim" synagogue in Florence, consists of a stone plaque embedded in the wall and divided into a row of individual compartments with wooden doors and a slot above each.

Designated charities appear on each section: maintenance of the synagogue, of an old age home, general charity, lighting (for candles), hospital (for the poor), Jerusalem, and Rabbi Meir Baal haNes (representing the poor of Tiberias).

Interestingly, the Jews of Florence distinguished between Jerusalem and Tiberias in collecting for the poor of the Land of Israel.



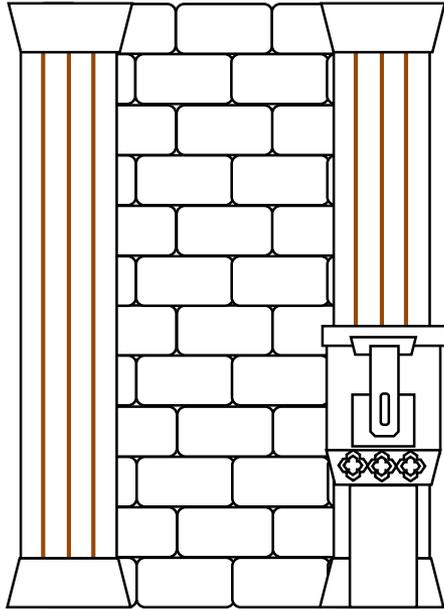
The term **mite box** (also **alms box** or **poor box**) refers to a box that is used to save coins for charitable purposes. Contemporary mite boxes are usually made of cardboard and given out to church congregations during the Lenten season. The mite boxes are collected by the church and donations are given to the poor. Mite boxes are popular with children because they can fill them with small change and it teaches them the principle of giving to the poor. The Mite box giving promotes the spirit of contributing based on the intent to help others and not on the monetary amount. The origin of the *mite box* is very old. In 2 Kings 12:9, the priest Jehoiada bored a hole in the lid of a chest and placed it near the first altar, however this was to fund maintenance rather than alms.

Pope Innocent III at the end of twelfth century allowed *some mite boxes* to be placed in temples so that the faithful people may at any time dispose their alms.

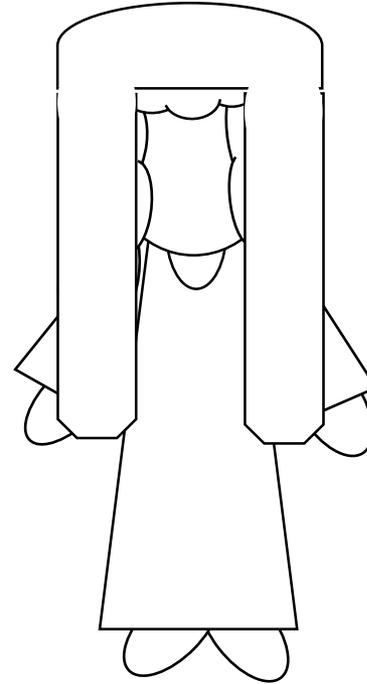
An alms box is a strong chest or box often fastened to the wall of a church to receive offerings for the poor.



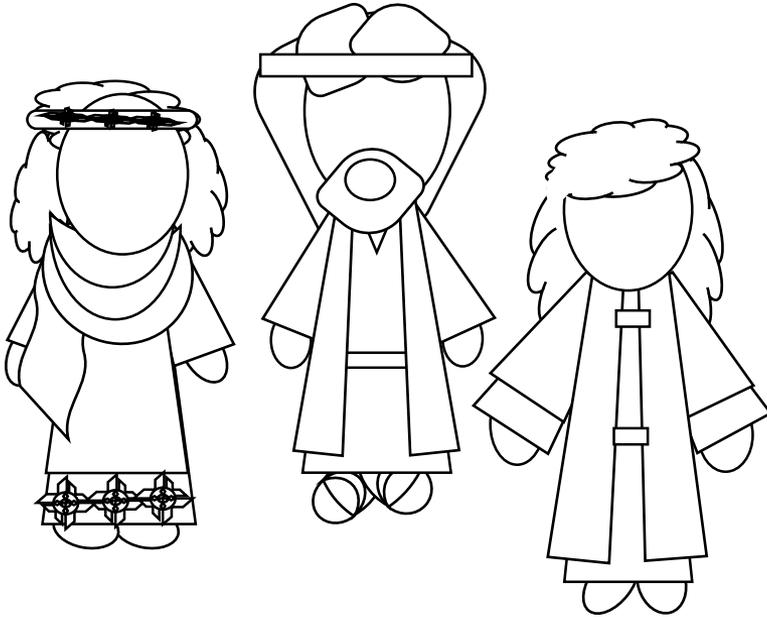




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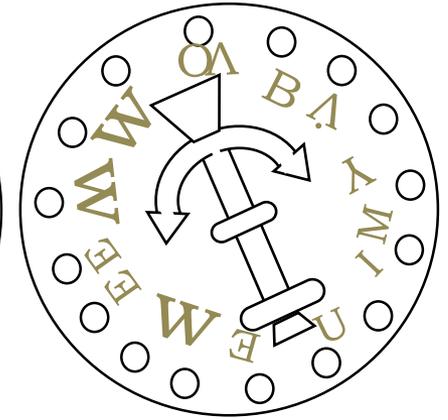
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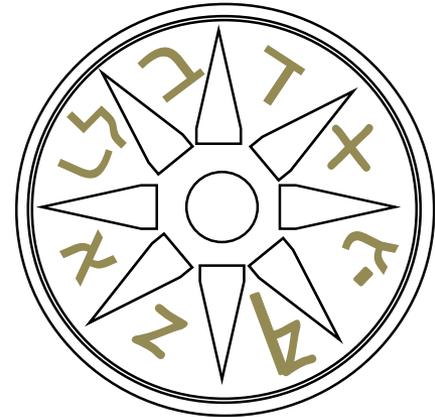


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