LIFE GROUP LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

What Jesus Sees in Giving

Mark 12:41–44 • Oct 4, 2026 • 35 minutes

Aim Notice how Jesus evaluates the widow's gift and examine how trust, generosity, and care for others shape our use of money.

Before you lead

Read Mark 12:38-44. Jesus has just warned about leaders who exploit widows. He now draws attention to a widow's costly offering. Keep that context visible. Do not use her example to pressure someone to neglect basic needs or promise financial rewards for giving.

Ask the main questions first. Use the follow-ups when the group needs help going deeper; the leader notes are for your preparation. Give people time to answer, and ask them to point to the verses behind their observations.

Suggested timing Welcome, prayer, and reading 4 min • Head 7 min • Heart 12 min • Hands 9 min • Closing prayer 3 min

HEAD

Understand the passage

Read Mark 12:41–44 aloud from the ESV. Keep the passage open throughout the discussion.

1. What does Jesus observe at the offering box in verses 41-42?

Follow-up: How might an onlooker compare the gifts?

Leader note: Begin with what can be seen: large gifts from wealthy people and two small coins from a poor widow.

2. Why does Jesus say the widow has given more in verses 43-44?

Follow-up: What does he know that the amount alone cannot show?

Leader note: He compares what each gift costs the giver, not merely its monetary size.

3. How does Jesus' warning in verses 38-40 shape the way we understand the widow's gift?

Follow-up: What should it make us careful about when teaching generosity?

Leader note: The context keeps concern for vulnerable people in view. Jesus' observation is not a command to exploit their sacrifice.

HEART

Examine our motives

Choose a follow-up when it helps someone explain an answer. Allow people to share honestly without pressing them to disclose more than they are ready to share.

4. What usually makes a gift feel significant to you?

Follow-up: How does Jesus' attention to the widow challenge the way you judge a gift's value?

Leader note: Consider size, recognition, convenience, and personal cost without asking people to disclose amounts.

5. What fears come up when you consider giving more freely?

Follow-up: Which concerns reflect real responsibilities, and which reveal a desire for control?

Leader note: Let people distinguish wise provision from fear without shaming those with limited resources.

6. When have you felt that your contribution was too small to matter?

Follow-up: How does Jesus' attention to this woman affect the way you see your own contribution?

Leader note: Include gifts of time and care as applications, while acknowledging that the passage concerns money.

HANDS

Put the passage into practice

7. What would a thoughtful and generous use of your resources look like this week?

Follow-up: What responsibility or need should you take into account?

Leader note: Choose a willing, practical response. Avoid public comparisons or promises of repayment from God.

8. Whose need might be easy for our group to overlook?

Follow-up: How could we help in a way that respects that person's dignity?

Leader note: Move from noticing costly giving to caring for people who may have little left.

Close in prayer

Thank God that he sees what others overlook. Ask for freedom from comparison, wisdom in giving, and compassion for people carrying financial burdens.