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**Title: The Widow's Offering**

**Beliefs: Christianity**

**Themes: Generosity, sharing, arrogance**

Look at this special box. This box looks like a present.

It has the present of a story inside it.

Stories are very precious.

They have been given to people, as presents, to explain some of the wonders of life.

This story has been given to us.

Let's look inside and see what story is there.

This story is important to Christians because it teaches them something.

### **Open the box**

Take out the luxurious fabric and ask an 'I wonder question':

'I wonder what this makes you think of?' (Give time for thinking.)

(Children respond.)

In our story it represents where the temple will stand because this is a special place of worship.

Take out the characters and explain who they are:

Jesus, the lady, a bowl of money and the rich people.

We are now going to listen to a Christian story.

One day Jesus was watching a crowd of people, in the temple, throw their coins into offering boxes. The money in the offering boxes were used to look after the temple, to clean and repair it.

There were lots of rich people throwing large amounts of money into the offering boxes. They looked so pleased with their offerings and they felt that God would be delighted with their gifts. Many people walked away from the temple feeling very proud for being able to give so much money.

Jesus could not believe that the rich people were showing off about how rich they were and how much money they had put into the offering boxes.

As Jesus watched these rich people, he noticed a lady come into the temple. She looked a very poor widow. The rich people in the temple walked away from her and ignored her.

The poor widow carried on walking into the temple. The rich people were shocked!

The poor widow came up to the offering boxes. She put just two very small, copper coins into the boxes. They were worth much less than a penny!

Jesus asked his disciples to come to him. He said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has just put more into the offering boxes than all the rich people."

The disciples looked very confused. They didn't believe that Jesus was telling the truth, but carried on listening to his words.

Jesus said, "All the rich people gave a lot of money because they are rich.

Yet this poor widow gave all that she had to live on. The rich people would go home to lovely houses, more money and lots of food. The widow would now go to her home with nothing. She wouldn't be able to eat and she wouldn't have any money because she had given her two very small, copper coins which were everything that she owned."

The disciples now realised that Jesus was telling the truth. The poor widow trusted God with everything she had when she gave so generously to the temple.

Ask 'I wonder'... questions. You might want to choose from the list below:

- I wonder how the woman felt when she gave away everything she owned.
- I wonder if you would be willing to give away everything you owned.
- I wonder what being generous looks like.
- I wonder how generous you are.
- I wonder if the poor woman wanted to gain something from her generosity.
- I wonder if you expect something back when you are generous.
- I wonder how pleased Jesus thought God was with the rich people's gifts.
- I wonder who knows how generous you are.

## **Creativity**

You are now going to create a picture, a model or a poem about this story:  
you can choose.

(Children choose to paint, draw, glue, write etc with the resources prepared round the room.)

After 15-20 minutes come together to share what has been made. and place in the centre of the circle.

Or, make a suggestion box and ask children to write on a coin template suggestions of gifts to give to people in need. They then deposit their 'coins' in the suggestion box.