

Lesson 5

Lesson objective: What does the Bible teach about money?

Retell the story of the widow's mite and Jesus' teaching about it; respond to the challenge of commitment both in their own lives and within religious traditions, recognising how commitment to religion is shown in a variety of ways. What sacred texts and other sources say about God, the world and human life. Consider how religions respond to universal issues of human rights, fairness, social justice and the importance of the environment.

It's my money!

Dear 4 RN

Hi!!! Thanks for your advice about Tim— I messed up there, but Tim has forgiven me and Eunice has given me a second chance. Wow— I wonder why! Anyway, I haven't told you anything about Uganda yet, so here goes.



Kampala is so different to home— hot, busy and really noisy, with so much traffic. I am staying in the city for a couple of days before going back to Kira farm.

There were a few people begging on the street, but you get that everywhere. Anyway, I felt bad because I had a wallet full of cash— but it has to last me for a while. I want to get some nice souvenirs while I'm here, so I am keeping it tight to my chest. Sorry folks!



Hope you like the picture of Kampala I have enclosed.

I'll post something on a social network soon!

Later! Jim

Level 2 AT1: I can retell a religious story
Level 3 AT1 I can make links between religious teaching and moral choices; **AT2** I can compare my ideas about choices with other people's
Level 4 AT2 I can identify how following religious teaching might conflict with personal choices.

What does the Bible say about money?

What do you think?

Would you give money to someone who asked? Why?

Does Jim have the right attitude about money?

What problems might there be in giving people money?

Teaching suggestion Before you read the letter

Bring out a wad full of Monopoly money—what would you spend it on? Children work together to list the things they would do with it. Did anyone decide to give any away? How much? Why?

Give the following scenario:

People are donating money to (eg) Cancer Research. Which of the following people gave more money?

A. The rich men who dropped a lot of money into the collecting bucket

B. A poor person who only gives 50p but it's all she has in her purse.

Children discuss in small groups before sharing with class. Act out story of the widow's mite. What did Jesus say about her?

Read Jim's letter. At this point. Give children bible quotes to look at and then Show video from <http://request.org.uk/life/lifes-big-questions/2013/07/08/1302/> (Could use the questions above to generate discussion)

Make a note of key vocabulary

Main activity: Children write some advice to Jim about what to do with his money. Include one of the Bible quotes they think will be most useful, and some ideas they got from the video.

More able: Some children can write on the blog their response to Jim's comments using the quotes to back up their argument, but giving their own opinion too. Include questions about how he normally uses money. (if ICT an issue, could do letter or postcard)

Plenary: Read the message from Jim. How has he changed? (resource on full page- "Addition to lesson 5"). As class discuss answers from the interviews. Would it be easy or hard to live generously? Why? Discuss how we as a class could be generous and respond to the quotes about helping the poor. (*Do you have to be a Christian to respond to this? Why?*)

Resources: Monopoly money or similar
Access to: <http://request.org.uk/life/lifes-big-questions/2013/07/08/1302/>
Selection of quotes from the Bible about money and generosity (provided)