

Day 1: Consider your heart when giving.

Read Luke 21:1-4, and ask your children:

1. How do you think Jesus could tell that some people were wealthy?
2. How do you think Jesus could tell the widow was poor?
3. Did the rich people make a sacrifice to give?
4. Why was Jesus pleased with the widow's offering?

There is nothing wrong with being wealthy, but Jesus was concerned with the attitude of the wealthy givers. Other passages tell us that they were bringing attention to themselves. They were giving a lot of money and wanted everyone to know it. However, Jesus knew they were not making a sacrifice, but were merely giving out of their extra. Jesus was more impressed with the widow who gave little, but had little.

Day 2: Consider your heart when praying.

Read Luke 18:9-14, and ask your children:

1. Why was the Pharisee thanking God?
2. Why wouldn't the tax collector look to heaven?
3. Which prayer did Jesus say was heard?
4. What is the proper attitude when praying?

Even though the Pharisee was praying, his attitude wasn't right before God. Instead of being aware of his sin (and God's grace), he thought he'd tell God how much better he was than others. But Jesus says the tax collector's prayer was heard, because he prayed with humility, aware of his sin, and his need for God's mercy.

Day 3: Consider your heart when you fast.

Read Isaiah 58:3-9, and ask your children:

1. Why were the Israelites frustrated with God?
2. Why was God frustrated with their fasting?
3. What is God looking for in a fast?
4. How did God say He would respond to a fast with a proper heart?

The Israelites were going through the motions of fasting, but God was not recognizing their fasts. God told the prophet Isaiah to explain His reasons. The Israelites were fasting, but they were also abusing other people at the same time. Instead of caring for others, they were only thinking of themselves. Isaiah said if they would fast with the right attitude, God would respond to their fasts.

Day 4: Our actions should flow from a heart that loves God.

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and ask your children:

1. Who does God want to carry out this command?
2. What does God command of us?
3. How should we remember this command?
4. When should we remind each other of this command?

The most critical command of all is that we would love the Lord our God with all that we've got. We should remind each other of this command and speak about it in every opportunity. No matter what we do, it should be from a heart of love. 1 John reminds us we can only love God because He first loved us!



Matthew 6:1-23  
February 15-20