

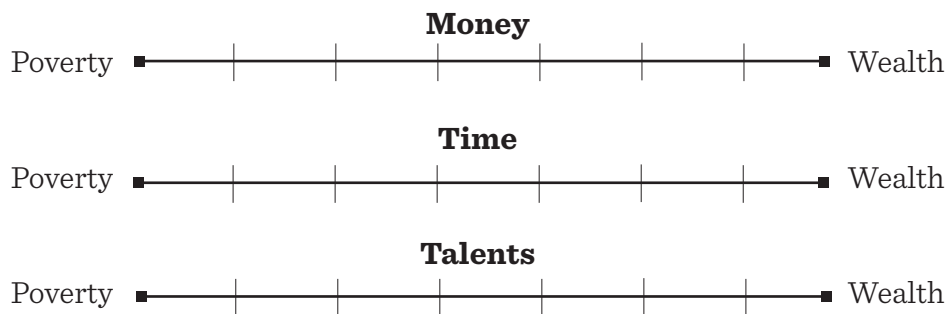
# ONE DOLLAR

# AT A TIME

[LEADER PREP GUIDE ]

## GETTING STARTED

Poverty is defined as the state or condition of having little or no money, goods, or means of support, while the general definition of wealth is an abundance or profusion of anything, a plentiful amount. Using the graph below, identify if you're giving out of your poverty (lack) or wealth (abundance) in the following areas: money, time, and talents.



**Leader Note:** If you are in a large group, consider using a marker board to draw this chart. Have people use sticky notes to place their mark. Ask a few people to talk through how they answered. Then, take some time to pray: *Lord, thank You for what You have given us. As we come to Your Word, lead us to treasure You, that we might be faithful stewards of every good gift.*

## OVERVIEW

In this lesson, we're looking at the concept of giving and the difference of giving out of wealth versus giving out of poverty. Sacrificial giving is a prevalent theme in the teachings of Jesus and applies to much more than just our money. We're going to reference a simple story that demonstrates a profound difference between what Jesus taught about how we use our gifts and the common cultural perspective.

**Open up and read Luke 21:1-4**

**Leader Note:** Use the following questions to make sure everyone understands the passage. Then, read the "One Dollar at Time" summary before moving on to the application questions.

## UNPACKING THE VERSES

1. Before Jesus spoke, what did He do? What does that tell us about Him?



**Leader Note :** Jesus saw both the wealthy and the poor. He knew how much each gave, and later told us why.

2. Who are the characters in this story? How are they described or portrayed?

**Leader Note:** Jesus: seeing, aware, caring. The rich: giving out of their abundance, sacrificing less than the poor widow. Poor widow: impoverished, socially outcast in her widowhood, giving out of poverty, sacrificing more than the rich.

3. What does this story convey about God's economy? What does Jesus value?

**Leader Note:** Though the rich definitely gave a greater sum of gifts to the Lord, the poor widow put in "all she had." Jesus wants wholehearted devotion, all we have to offer.

4. Who does this story suggest as our example to follow?

**Leader Note:** The poor widow. Even though she would have been financially and socially below the cultural norm, her treasure is stored in eternity.

## ONE DOLLAR AT A TIME

In this passage, Jesus taught His followers that what He prioritizes and what the world prioritizes are not the same. In a moment of great reversal, He explained how a socially and financially impoverished giver is held with greater esteem in the Kingdom of God than those who affluently and prominently give out of their abundance.

Sacrificial giving is expected of the follower of Christ—not as a way to earn God's love, but as proof that He has our whole hearts. As we consider and adore Jesus, who gave His all for us, we are driven to imitate the poor widow who gave her all for Him. What does this wholehearted devotion look like?

## LIVING IT OUT

1. "Gifts" are more than monetary giving to God. What are some other realms in which we're called to give to the Lord?

2. Based on what you've learned from Scripture and identified in your own life, how do you need to change your perspective and commitment in regard to sacrificially giving your money, time, and talents?

## PRAYER

*Holy God, we are grateful to You for both our areas of abundance and our areas of lack. In Your grace, please equip us in the areas where we feel like we are living out of poverty. Give us Your perspective and show us Your provision. And where we feel like we're serving out of wealth, please show us what sacrificial giving looks like. We desire to make a greater contribution to Your Kingdom work. Thank You for Jesus, who shows us Your true heart for our gifts. In His name we pray. Amen.*

