

**THEME FOR UNIT 11:** We Love God  
**UNIT BIBLE MEMORY VERSE:** Matthew 22:37

# 8

## OFFERINGS FOR THE TEMPLE

### BIBLE BASIS

Joash and the people  
bring offerings  
(2 Chronicles 24:1-14).

### BIBLE TRUTH

We can give to God.

### BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

“Love the Lord your  
God with all your  
heart.” Matthew 22:37

### LESSON AIM

That your students  
will want to give what  
they can for God’s  
work.

# 1

### LIFE NEED (3-5 MINUTES)

- Children will talk about giving



**Materials:** “Woolly Lamb” Teaching Aid 3; *Optional*—white sweater or picture of a sweater

# 2

### BIBLE LEARNING (10-15 MINUTES)

- Teach with pictures about Joash and the people giving for God’s work
- Review with questions



**Materials:** Bible, “Offerings for the Temple” Teaching Aid 11; *Optional*—a large box, offering basket or plate, coins

# 3

### BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Practice the Bible memory verse with a poem
- Make and color offering envelopes

**Materials:** *Preschool Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 8, crayons, tape

# 4

### LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Read a story about children giving
- Children plan to give to God



**Materials:** *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 8, paper squares about 2 inches by 2 inches—one for each child; *Optional*—pennies, one for each child



**This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.**



## Understanding the Bible

The first three kings of Israel's united kingdom were: (1) Saul, (2) David, then his son (3) Solomon. In 931 B.C., this one nation of Israel split into two kingdoms: northern kingdom, or Israel, made up of ten tribes; and southern kingdom, or Judah, made up of two tribes. Joash was the eighth king over Judah. He ruled from 835–796 B.C.

Many of the stories of the kings are found in both the books of Kings and Chronicles, so the account of Joash is found in both 2 Kings 11 and 12, as well as 2 Chronicles 22–24.

Sometimes family situations become abusive and dangerous. We find an example in today's Bible story. Joash's first six years were spent hiding in the temple precincts from his wicked grandmother, Athaliah [ath-uh-LIE-uh]. Athaliah had killed all the family members so she could be the ruler of Judah (2 Chron. 22:10-12). She killed her own grandchildren so she could be queen for six years.

Thank God for those caring adults, like Jehosheba [je-HOSH-uh-ba] and her husband Jehoiada [je-HOY-uh-duh], who protect children from abuse. We may be prone to think of priests as unmarried, but Old Testament priests married (see 2 Chron. 22:11; Exod. 6:25).

Jehoiada, the high priest, hid Joash and protected him until Joash was seven years old. Then Jehoiada made him king of the southern kingdom of Judah. While young, Joash was still under the good influence of Jehoiada. Joash honored God by upholding the necessary sacrifices and care of the temple.

King Joash ordered the Levites to collect the half-shekel temple tax as required by the law of Moses (Exod. 30:13-15; 38:25-26). Even though the temple needed immediate repair, the Levites were slow to act. Joash held the high priest accountable for the delay.

In his twenty-third year as king (2 Kings 12:6), Joash asked Jehoiada for an explanation and changed the method of collecting the funds. A large chest was placed beside the altar for burnt offerings in the courtyard outside the temple. It was there for all who came to worship. The people were then urged to place their temple tax and special donations in the chest.

"All the officials and all the people brought their contributions gladly, dropping them into the chest until it was full" (2 Chron. 24:10). The money chest was filled and emptied many times until all the repairs were made. There was even money left over.

After the temple was restored, the generous offerings of the people also made it possible to provide the gold, silver, and brass utensils used in temple worship.

## Understanding Your Students

Preschoolers may have trouble understanding the concept of giving to God. They bring money to church and put it in a special container, but usually it's not their money. They may be too young to thoroughly understand the value of money. But they're teachable. As you and Christian parents tell children that we can show love to God by giving our offerings (talents and time), they'll begin to understand until finally it will become clear—I bring an offering because I love God!

## CLASSROOM TIPS

Here are some ways you can help your class realize that giving is another way to express love to God.

- Say a prayer for the offering and what it can buy. This will help your children see giving as an expression of love to God rather than as admission to Sunday school.
- Explain that the money is for God's work—for Sunday school materials, for people who need clothes, etc.
- Invite a missionary to show pictures and bring in objects your students can touch. Talk about mission offerings.
- As your children give offerings, thank them. Be sure to thank those without offerings as they show love for God in other ways.

## WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Play music from the DisKit CD to gather your children for worship. Choose a song to sing.
- Provide an opportunity for children with offerings to give them. Pray a prayer of thanks.  
**Dear God, thank You for all You give us. We give You these offerings to show our love to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**
- Pray with your children. **Dear God, we can show love to You in many ways. Show us how we can work together for You by being good helpers. In Jesus' name. Amen.**



## BEFORE CLASS

Greet all of your students by name as they arrive. Have children mark their attendance on the attendance chart. Then have the children with offerings place them in the offering container. **We will learn today that we can give to God. Your offering money helps us buy the crayons, pencils, and paper that we use every week.**

## GETTING STARTED

The following activities will prepare the children for the lesson that teaches we can give to God.



**Moving and Doing:** Before class, hide several pennies throughout the room. If you have a class with younger children, tape each coin to cards or paper squares. This will discourage children from putting the coins in their mouths. Let the children find the pennies. Have a child hide the pennies again if they are all found quickly. **We bring money to give as an offering to God each week.**



**Home Living:** Let the children give food and bottles to the dolls in the home living area. This dramatic play activity helps children understand the concept of giving. **We are giving food to our dolls. We can give to God.**



**Table Play:** Tape several coins onto the top of the table with clear tape. Have children make rubbings of the coins by placing thin paper over the coins and rubbing with the side of a crayon. This quiet project introduces children to different coins. **We will learn about King Joash and the people who gave coins in today's Bible story.**

# 1

## Life Need

5 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will talk about giving.

This activity will prepare your students for the Bible story about people giving money to God.

Bring out the "Wooly Lamb" Teaching Aid and pat his head. **Have you ever had a haircut?** (Allow for responses.)

**Well, I know someone else who had a haircut recently. Can you guess who it is?** (Allow for responses. You might hint by pointing to Wooly Lamb.) **Yes, Wooly Lamb, that's who. Isn't that right, Wooly?** (*Wooly nods.*)

**Wooly, can you tell the children why you had a haircut?** (*Wooly whispers to you.*) **Wooly says that he wanted to give a birthday gift to his shepherd's little girl.** (*Wooly whispers to you.*) **Wooly says he thought and thought, and he decided to give his wool.** (*Wooly whispers.*) **Oh, that's nice, Wooly. The little girl liked the wool so much that she had it made into a beautiful sweater to keep her warm on a cold day.**

*Optional*—bring in a wool sweater to show the children. Turn Wooly so it appears that you're talking to him. **Wooly, it was very nice of you to give your wool for the girl's sweater.** (*Wooly nods.*)

(*Put Wooly away.*) **Let's talk about giving. What kinds of things do people give you?** (Children will talk about things they have gotten as presents such as clothes or toys. Guide children to talk about things like time, hugs, smiles, etc.)

**What do you give to others?** (Preschoolers often like to give to other people. They might talk about pictures, a present for a birthday, and so forth. Help children to talk about more than money and objects.)

**Why do you give?** (Children may have difficulty with this question as they may have never thought about it before. They may talk about wanting to, it makes them happy, they can show love, or "I don't know." Be accepting of all their answers.)

**People give to us, and we give to others. Today we're going to learn that we can give to God.**

**Our Bible story today tells about a king named Joash. As you hear the story, listen to find out how he and his people gave to God.**



Wooly Lamb  
Teaching Aid 3



# Bible Learning

10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will learn how the people gave money for God's work.

Show the "Offerings for the Temple" Teaching Aid 11 as indicated below. Open your Bible to 2 Chronicles 24 to begin.

## Bible Story

**Our story today comes from the Bible. It is in the book of the Bible called Second Chronicles.** (Show the children where 2 Chronicles is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to 2 Chronicles 24 as you tell the story.)

**As I tell you the story, listen carefully for the name of the king. When you hear the name King Joash, cross your arms like King Joash is doing in the picture.** (Show the teaching aid. Point to King Joash's folded arms. Have the children practice folding their arms.)



"Offerings for the Temple"  
Teaching Aid 11

**The Bible tells us about King Joash** (Cross arms.). **He ruled the country called Judah. King Joash** (Cross arms.) **loved God. He lived in the city of Jerusalem.**

**In Jerusalem was a big building like a church building. It was called the temple. The temple was supposed to be beautiful. But it was falling apart. People who didn't love God used to use the temple for other things besides worshiping God. Now King Joash** (Cross arms.) **wanted to fix the temple to show he loved God. There wasn't any money to pay for the supplies to fix the temple or money to pay the workers.** (Shake your head no.)

**King Joash** (Cross arms.) **had an idea. He told the leaders of the temple, "God told Moses that we are to give an offering to God. This offering could be used to fix the temple. Make a big box with a hole in the top of it. Put this box in front of the temple. Then the people can come and**

**put their offering money into the box."**

**The leaders sent messengers to the people. "Come to the temple!" they cried. "Come and put your offering into the big box. King Joash** (Cross arms.) **will use the money to fix the temple."**

(Point to the teaching aid.) **All of the leaders and people gladly brought their money. They dropped it into the box until it was full. When the leaders saw the box was full, some of King Joash's** (Cross arms.) **officials emptied it. Then they put it back in its place.**

**Soon King Joash** (Cross arms.) **had enough money to begin fixing the temple. He hired people who could lay the stones and work with wood. He hired all the people needed to fix the temple.**

**The men who worked did their best. Soon the temple looked just the way it used to look. King Joash** (Cross arms.) **used the rest of the money to pay for the things to use in the temple. The temple was a wonderful place to worship God.**

**King Joash** (Cross arms.) **and the people gave to God so the temple could be fixed. We can give to God too.**

## Bible Story Review

You may want to place an offering container in front of the teaching aid. Have children put coins in as they answer the questions.

- 1. What did King Joash need money for?** (To fix the temple.)
- 2. Where did the people put the money they gave to God?** (In a big box.)
- 3. Why did the people give the money to God?** (Help the children see that by giving the money to fix the temple, they were giving the money to God. They may answer that people gave the money because the king told them to. They may also say that the people loved God.)
- 4. Who can we give to?** (We can give to God.)

# 3

## Bible Application

10 minutes

**Objective:** Students will learn they show love for God when they give their offerings.

### Bible Memory Verse

Let the children in your class say the action rhyme without your help, or hesitate when you come to key words and let the children say them.

**Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart.**

*(Clap, clap.)*

**Listen and obey.**

*(Cup hands around ears.)*

**Thank Him every day.**

*(Fold hands in prayer.)*

**Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart.**

*(Clap, clap.)*

**I heard our Bible verse in our action rhyme. Can you say it? "Love the Lord your God with all your heart" Matthew 22:37. We can show love for God when we give our offerings.**

Have the class sit in a circle. **One way we show our love to God is to give to Him. Let's pass our offering container around the circle while we say our Bible verse.**

Say the first word of the verse with the children, then pass the container to the child sitting on

your right. Continue saying the verse while passing the container. **"Love (Pass container.) the (Pass container.) Lord (Pass container.) your (Pass container.) God (Pass container.) with (Pass container.) all (Pass container.) your (Pass container.) heart"** (Pass container.) **Matthew 22:37.** (Pass container.) Repeat the verse faster and faster while passing the container.

### Handcraft

**Today we're going to make offering envelopes. You can use these to put your offering money in each week.**

Distribute the Make-It/Take-It project for Lesson 8.

Before class, remove Lesson 8 from each Make-It/Take-It and pull off the margins. Punch out the three coin stickers for this lesson from the center of the book. It will make it easier for your students if you fold the project on the broken lines, then unfold the sheet so they can use your crease lines as guides.

Have the children color the picture. Help them fold back on Line A and then on Line B. Show how to attach the coin stickers to the X marks on the envelopes.

**When King Joash and the people gave money, they helped to do God's work. We help to do God's work when we give offerings too. We show God we love Him when we give to Him.**

Young children don't often have money to give unless their parents give it to them. Explain to your students that they can give to God by helping at home, at church, and at school.



**Make-It/Take-It  
for Lesson 8**



# Life Response

10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will plan to give to God to show their love for Him.

Read aloud to your students "A Gift for God" from *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 8, back.

## Present-Day Story

Pastor Johnson came to visit the Sunday school class.

He had a surprise for the children. Pastor Johnson read a letter from Africa! It was from Kwame. He said he loved them and missed them. They were busy doing God's work in Africa.

Pastor Johnson said, "I have an idea. Let us make a gift box for Kwame!"

The children liked that idea. All week the children collected things for the box going to Africa.

When they went to Sunday school the next week, they put crayons, paper, and Bible books in the big box. This was for the children who lived in Africa who did not have books or crayons or paper.

"It is so good to give gifts for God's work," Pastor Johnson said. "Sharing with others is the best gift of all!"

"I think the children in Africa will like what we sent them," said Tiana.

"We show love to God by giving gifts to Him," Pastor Johnson said. "This box full of things for the children in Africa is one way to give to God."

## Closing Activities

Show children the Bible picture story on *My Sunday Pictures*. In our Bible story today, King Joash and the people gave to God. The money they gave was used to fix the temple. We learned that we can give too. Who can we give to? (We can give to God.)



*My Sunday Pictures*  
Lesson 8 (back)



*My Sunday Pictures*  
Lesson 8 (front)

**We can give to God. We don't have to give just money. What are other things we learned that we can give to God?** (Some answers may be things that are mentioned in the *My Sunday Pictures* story about giving to children in Africa. Other answers might be loving others with hugs, helping someone, sharing a toy, letting someone go first, and smiling.)

**There are many ways that we can show love to God through giving. Choose one way you can give to God this week.**

Set the offering container in the middle of the circle. Give each child a paper square or penny. **Let's tell each other how we are going to give to God during the week. When it is your turn, put your square (or penny) in the box and tell how you are going to give to God this week.** You may want to go first to show the children what to do.

Close with prayer. **Dear God, we love You. Help us to show our love by giving to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Make sure that each child has a *My Sunday Pictures* lesson card and Make-It/Take-It offering envelope project.

Say a personal goodbye to each student. **We show love to God when we give to Him.**

