



This message for children was prepared by Susan Deyell of LWML–Canada's Christian Growth Committee for LWML–Canada Sunday 2011.

A "Mite" is Small and Important

[To prepare for this message find pictures of Jesus as a child, Jesus blessing the children, the boy and the loaves, sheep and shepherd, the woman sweeping for the coin, the widow giving her mite, a real mustard seed, a mite box and coins like pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies and toonies to engage the younger children.]

When I say that something is **small** what do you think of?

[Let children list some ideas. They might say an ant, or a germ, or a child]

Who or what is **important** to you?

[Children may say having friends, their parents, a toy... it doesn't matter what they answer, the important thing is that they are engaged with thinking about what is important.]

Are **small things** important? Can you think of anything **small** that is important?

[If you are comfortable or if you have time you can show that even the small things the children identified are important in their own ways.]

The Bible is full of examples of small things that are important.

Jesus our Saviour, started life as a small baby, as did you. Kings came from the East to worship at His cradle because they knew he was a king. When he was twelve or thirteen he was in the temple teaching the religious teachers about his Father. When he grew to manhood he carried our sins to the cross, to set us free.

When parents wanted to bring their small children to Jesus, the disciples tried to stop them. Why do you think they would do that?

[Children's answers – Jesus was too busy. The disciples didn't think children were important]

But Jesus told them to let the children come to Him, because of such was his Kingdom made. He picked up one of the little ones and sat him on his knee and told the disciples that everyone needed to become like a little child if they wanted to enter the kingdom of Heaven.

Another time, Jesus had been teaching groups of people and they had become hungry. No one had any food. A small boy stepped forward and offered two small fish and some bread to Jesus.

[Ask a younger child to show on their fingers how many are two]

Jesus took the two small fish and the bread, blessed them, and there was enough fish and bread to feed thousands of people, men, women, and children with baskets of food left over.

In the parable of the lost sheep, a story that Jesus was telling, a shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep to search for one lost sheep.

[Ask a younger child to show on their fingers how many is one]

When he finds the one sheep, he is very happy.

There is the story of a lost coin, just one coin. It was so precious to a woman that she swept and swept until she found it and when she found it she rejoiced.

A similar coin meant a lot to another woman. It was her last "mite." When put into the offering box she would have no money left to buy food or clothing. Jesus saw her offering and told his disciples that although her offering was the smallest offering of all, it had the most value since it came from a heart overflowing with love to God.

The idea for the LWML–Canada Mite Box came from this story of the widow's mite.

When "mites" or coins are given out of an overflow of love to God, pennies, become nickels, nickels become dimes, dimes and nickels become quarters, quarters become loonies, loonies become toonies, toonies become five, ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred, one thousand and many thousands of dollars. What begins as a small "mite" grows into large amounts of money that help people all over the world know how much God loves them in Jesus.

Jesus told another story about something small. This time he showed his friends a mustard seed *[show children a mustard seed]* and told them that if they had faith the size of a mustard seed they could move mountains. It turns out that this very small seed grows into a very large tree. What starts small doesn't stay small.

You may only have a penny, but when you put your penny into the mite box with the prayer that God will bless what you give, your small coin becomes very important.