



DATE(S)

July 2-3, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

All In – Week 5

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

**God wants our hearts to be
ALL IN!**

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

**Matthew 6:21
Mark 12:38-44**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Say What You See

A fun word-picture game! Look at the two images side-by-side on the screen and determine what word it makes. Play in groups/teams or individually as one big group!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

I'm sure you've heard this question asked recently...but, are there more wheels or doors in the world? Defend your answer!

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

"All In" – Week 5 (Widow's Offering)

July 2-3, 2022

Hey everyone! Welcome to Week 5 of our series called "All In." We're going to start today with a little health lesson (sorry...I know it's summer vacation...). The heart is one of the most incredible parts of the human body. The heart beats 100,000 times a day. It pumps 1.5 gallons of blood PER MINUTE! It's also been shown that a woman's heart beats 8 more times a minute than a man's heart. One side of the heart pumps blood to our lungs and the other side pumps blood to the rest of our body. It's pretty incredible that something the size of our two hands clasped together (**Leaders Note: Show this visually**) is absolutely essential to our daily well-being.

However, the heart is also talked about in other ways. Isn't it kind of funny that sometimes when we refer to our heart, we act as if it controls our thoughts and actions? Let me give you an example – I'm sure many of you have heard the phrase "My heart is leading me to do _____" or "My heart just isn't in it" or "That guy/girl gives 100% all the time. He/She is all heart." Another phrase is doing something "half-heartedly." Let's pause here for a second on that last one, half-heartedly. Have you ever done something half-heartedly before?

(Teacher's Note: Share an example from your life, past or present, where you did or pursued something half-heartedly and later regretted it.)

The Bible does the best job of explaining why our heart is connected to our deepest passions and desires. The Bible shows us we can think with our hearts or even make decisions based on what our heart is feeling. Our heart shows us what we love, trust, or hope in the most! In fact, Jesus says in the New Testament in Matthew 6:21 – "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" Jesus is saying whatever it is you treasure is what your heart is focusing on the most. The focus of our heart tends to be an extension of what we worship.

Before we jump into our next event from the New Testament, I want us to look at the **THP (Take Home Point)** because it will show us why this particular event is so important. Here it is!

God wants our hearts to be ALL IN!

THE MESSAGE

“As he taught, Jesus said, ‘Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.’ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.’”

Jesus is really calling out the religious leaders in the temple for not following God’s commands for the right reasons. They wear fancy clothes, they want to get special treatment, they want to sit in easily visible seats at worship just so everyone can see they are there...but at the same time, they are taking advantage of widows and cheating them out of their money. They pray extra-long prayers just so everyone will think, “Wow, they must be really devout.” Look at how Jesus responds to these kinds of people: “These men will be punished most severely.” Wow! Jesus knew their hearts were only for the attention and they were trying to almost impress God with how holy they were.

Jesus then sits down and watches people put money in the treasury (which was where the church offerings or donations in the temple were kept). You placed your money in a metal tube, like a long trumpet-shaped object, and it would fall into a chest. Since the tube was metal, you could actually tell how much money people were giving just based on the sound of the coins clanking on the metal on the way down. Jesus says a lot of rich people put huge amounts of money in, but then this little woman puts in two copper coins. Hardly any noise at all.

But look at what he says: “Truly I say to you: This woman put in more than the rest!” We obviously know that two cents are worth less than two hundred dollars. I mean, did Jesus fail math class?! How is that more?! Here is what Jesus is teaching us: the rich gave what they would never miss, and the widow gave what she couldn’t afford. The rich were just throwing in their loose change; this lady was giving ALL OF HER CHANGE!

THE MESSAGE

Let me ask you a question...do you think this situation was just about money? I think Jesus is getting to something deeper. I think He is using this situation to teach us about our hearts. The religious leaders and the rich people just gave some; the widow gave everything. She was ALL IN, and you know what, we should be the same and follow her example.

(Teacher's Note: Share a story, past or present, where you feel that you have gone ALL IN with God. Talk about the difficulty of that, but also the reward).

As our THP (Take Home Point) says: **God wants our hearts to be ALL IN.** So where is your heart at today? What does your heart treasure the most? Would you say you are ALL IN with God? I'm sure there are some areas of our life where that's true. If we were honest, though, I'm sure there are some areas of our heart/life where we aren't. This situation with the widow, the religious leaders, and Jesus shows us we can be pretty selfish and that we can do things for the wrong reason. God wants our heart; our whole heart! This woman's story has been recorded in the Bible and millions of people around the world have heard about her and her two coins. That's pretty incredible.

Remember how I shared my story about being half-hearted at the beginning? Don't be half-hearted with God. Let's do what our THP says: **God wants our hearts to be ALL IN.** Let's make sure we're ALL IN with Him. Let's pray!



CLOSING GROUP TIME

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

***Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP (Take Home Point) today and why was that important during the message?

Who can give us a short recap of the story of the widow and her offering? What was Jesus's response when He watched her put in her offering?

Today, _____ (insert person's name who taught) talked about doing something "half-heartedly" in their life and later regretting it. Have you ever done that before? What happened?

What area(s) of your life are you ALL IN? Is there an area where you struggle to do this? What about your faith?

There's an awesome Bible verse in the New Testament about our hearts being focused on God. It's in Colossians 3:17 – let's read it together!

"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

ACTIVITIES

After your group is finished with your discussion, close in prayer together!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

Stupid Video of the Week
Message script
Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

Pro Presenter or Playlister

