

The Power of Pennies

By Jolene Roehlkepartain

Help others by saving pennies. Measure your progress along the way.

For

Young Family

Season

Summer

Needed

Bible, pennies, paper bag, plastic container with lid, tape measure, Penny by Penny worksheet (see last page), calendar, pen or pencil



Prepare in Advance

Mark your Bible at Luke 6:38 and 2 Thessalonians 3:13. Get several rolls of pennies from a bank or credit union. Print a copy of Penny by Penny worksheet (see last page).

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

God, guide us as we save pennies to help spread your love to others. Amen.

2. Ask someone to read aloud the two Bible verses. Talk together about their meaning.

Luke 6:38: “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

2 Thessalonians 3:13: “As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.”

3. Have children help you open the rolls of pennies and put them in a paper bag. Show them the empty plastic container. Talk about ways your children can earn pennies to put into the container. For example, every time a family member throws *dirty* clothes down the chute or into the laundry basket, he or she is given a penny to put into the container. As a family, decide on other activities for which pennies might be given, such as tooth brushing, feeding pets, doing an extra cleaning chore, or 15 minutes of vigorous outdoor exercise.
4. Together, discuss why it's good to save money to give to help others. Decide together if your church or another charitable organization will receive your money at the end of the summer. Knowing who will be helped may motivate family members to participate. Display your Penny by Penny worksheet prominently. Plan ways for family members to put pennies into the penny container every day, if possible.
5. On your family calendar, mark four check-in dates to meet and complete the Penny by Penny worksheet (see last page). Each time you meet to check-in, thank family members for being such great savers and helpers.
6. On the fourth check-in date, celebrate what your family has accomplished. Arrange to deliver the money you've gathered to your church or other organization you chose. In our family, our children sat in the front of the church and placed all the pennies in the offering plate. They loved hearing people's comments as the heavy plate moved through the church and answering their questions after worship.

Penny by Penny

Measure your progress as you save pennies to help spread God's love to others.

Check-in #1

Date: _____

Count the pennies. Number of pennies saved: _____

Lay pennies in a straight line and measure its length with a tape measure. Length of line of pennies: _____

Check-in #2

Date: _____

Count all the pennies. Number of pennies saved: _____

Lay pennies in a straight line and measure its length with a tape measure. Length of line of pennies: _____

Check-in #3

Date: _____

Count all the pennies. Number of pennies saved: _____

Lay pennies in a straight line and measure its length with a tape measure. Length of line of pennies: _____

Check-in #4

Date: _____

Count all the pennies. Number of pennies saved: _____

Lay pennies in a straight line and measure its length with a tape measure. Length of line of pennies: _____

