

Look up Mark 14:1-11 in the Bible. Remember to help the child find the book first by asking if it is old or new testament and reminding them to look at the table of contents if they need help. Then they want to find the chapter (remind them it is the big number) 14 and the small number 1-11. Read the story of when the woman gave her very best for Jesus. Then do the following object lesson with a banana or if you don't have a banana you can use, a candy bar or a popsicle where only the wrapper is left.

1. Tell your child that you are going to talk about putting God first in your life—with your money, your time, everything.
 - What does it mean to put God first? (Make time for Him, make sure that you give your time or offering before doing other things, etc.)
2. Then tell the kids you are focusing on time but that you will demonstrate it with money. Pretend that you get \$10 of allowance. That \$10 is the same as a whole banana.
 - What is the first thing you should do if you want to put God first? (take out your offering for money or spend time with God if it is time)
3. Now, let's pretend you don't do that because you get allowance on Monday and you don't have church until Sunday.
4. On Tuesday, your school is having a book fair, so you go buy something. It's not all your money, but it is some. You still have enough for offering (take a bite of the banana).
5. On Wednesday you really, really need a candy bar. So you buy that. You still have money for offering. (Take another bite)
6. On Thursday, you give a dollar to a friend. Now, that is a good thing to do so you think it is a good decision. You still have some money left for the offering. (take a bite)
7. On Friday, you want to dress down (or something else if your kids don't wear uniforms). So you pay \$1. There's still a little bit of money left for God... (take a bite)

8. On Saturday, you really, really want to hang out with your friends who are going to get ice cream. So you buy your ice cream (eat the rest of the banana).

9. Now it is Sunday, and look! There's only the peel (or wrapper) left. Is that good enough for God? The scraps?

10. We don't want to give God the scraps! He deserves to be put first! The banana peel is like the pennies left in your wallet at the end of the week or the last few minutes left in the day.

11. If you had started out by putting your offering by itself, then you would have made different decisions. You wouldn't have decided to spend all of your money, because some of it was already destined to go to God.

12. How can we put God first in this story? (By setting our offering or time aside even when it seems like it might be a busy week or hard to give up that money.

Talk about how the woman in the story gave her very best to Jesus and why the others thought she was wasting her valuable time.

Talk about ways that you child can realistically put God first.

- Praying before starting homework
- Reading a part of their Bible right when they wake up before they go to school
- Any other idea you can come up with

Memory Verse: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." ~Matthew 6:33