

## The Widow's Mite Service Ideas



*Calls will cost £1.50 and more than one pound will go directly to the Streetspace initiative!*

© Frontier Youth Trust 2010

You may use and copy these resources free of charge in order to promote the Frontier Youth Trust campaign to raise money for the StreetSpace National Youth Work Project for Young People.

[www.fyt.org.uk](http://www.fyt.org.uk)

## Contents

1. What is StreetSpace?	page 2
2. Key Text	3
3. Prayers	3
4. Song Suggestions	4
5. Further Readings	5
6. Liturgy	5
7. Icebreakers	6
8. Stories	8
9. Talks	9
10. Widows Monologue	10
11. Interviews	11
12. A Bit of Theology	11
13. Response Ideas	12
14. The Offering	12
15. Offering Response Prayer	13
16. Crafts	14
17. Wordsearch	16
18. Sermons and Bible Studies	17

**Jo Fitzsimmons and Nigel Pimlott**

### 1. What is StreetSpace?

StreetSpace is youth work that starts on the streets where young people are. It values and promotes quality voluntary relationships between adult youth workers (usually Christians) and young people that may take time to develop.

These kind of relationships go through a number of stages; for example, from 'cold contact' on the street to a mutually organised trip to a neighbouring town or city. Eventually StreetSpace would work with young people to take action on the things that concern them most in their area. An example of this is the way that in the south west we have worked alongside young people to get lights and improved ramps in their skate park area.

A longer term possibility is that young people might develop a meaningful expression of church alongside the adults: we call this 'church on the edge'.

To make StreetSpace happen nationally FYT is launching the 'widow's mite appeal'. Dave Wiles (CEO) says, "We recognise that money is tight for most people at the moment so we are simply asking for lots of people (actually 100,000 of them!) to contribute a small amount to make a huge difference". FYT is asking Christians everywhere to turn on their mobile phones (even if they are in church!) and to text their individual mite to help them help young people on the streets. So please turn on your phone and text the word MITE to 82540 calls will cost £1.50 and

over a pound will go directly to the StreetSpace initiative. Text with all your mite (excuse the pun).

For donations from outside the UK or for larger donations to the 'MITE' initiative, please go to: [www.widowsmite.org.uk](http://www.widowsmite.org.uk) You will then be able to make a donations to FYT and pay by paypal, credit or debit card.

## 2. Key Text

Luke 21:1–4

As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two, very small, copper coins. 'I tell you the truth', he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'

## 3. Prayers

### Prayer of Confession:

Life giving God,  
We thank you for the breath of life we have,  
The air we breathe,  
The homes we live in,  
The comfort of warm and food,  
Lord, we thank you.

Lord, we thank you for the  
Gift of forgiveness you offer us  
Moment by moment,  
Day by day.

Forgive us when we don't offer forgiveness and life to others.  
Forgive us when put our needs before those of others,  
Often we recognise our needs are material  
And without them we still have much.

Lord, teach us to live sacrificially.  
Lord, teach us to live as followers of the Sacrificed King.  
Amen

### **Prayer of Adoration:**

Creator God  
We recognise you have given us all we need:  
Lord Jesus Christ.

As we focus on the act of sacrifice this morning  
We recognise you chose to give your all to us – your life,  
Your breath, your love,  
Your forgiveness, your hopes,  
Your peace, your self.

We thank you, we are humbled by your example to us  
We thank you, we live in forgiveness  
We thank you, we live in the presence of Peace  
We thank you for life, life in it's fullness.

Jesus, we thank you that you chose to become a servant  
Jesus, we thank you that you chose to become human  
Jesus, we thank you that you chose death  
So we can have life.

Thank you.  
Amen.

### **4. Song Suggestions**

Servant King  
Amazing Grace  
Be Thou my vision  
Change my heart o God  
Do something new Lord  
From heaven you came  
Give thanks with a grateful heart  
He came to earth  
Here I am wholly available  
Here is love vast as the ocean  
I am not ashamed to belong to Jesus  
If I were a butterfly  
I give you now all I have  
Immortal Invincible God only wise  
I want to serve the purpose of God in my generation  
I will speak out for those who have no voices  
Jesus take me as I am  
Let God speak and I will listen  
Lord you are more precious than silver  
May my life declare the honour of your name  
Breathe on me breath of God  
Did you feel the mountains tremble  
Father you have given

Filled with compassion for all creation  
Give me heart of compassion  
I the Lord of sea and sky  
It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
I will offer up my life  
Show me the way of the cross  
Will you come and follow me?

Abba – Money, Money, Money  
Dirty Cash – Stevie V  
Money Talks – Dizzy Rascal

## 5. Further Readings

Old Testament Readings:

Genesis 22:1-19  
Exodus 20:1-17  
Leviticus 16:22  
Ruth 1:16  
Psalm 8  
Proverbs 19:4

New Testament readings:

Philippians 2:1-11  
Colossians 3:15-17  
Hebrews 10:24  
Acts 2:42-47  
John 19:28 – John 20.

## 6. Liturgy

The Lord's Prayer (a version):

**Our Father who is in Heaven and on Earth  
Your name is holy  
May we help your Kingdom come  
On Earth, as well as in (x – name your town)  
Thank you for the food we have,  
Help us to share all we have and  
Forgive us for the times when we do not.  
Lead us not into the temptation of ignoring others  
And their needs to live and love.  
For your glory,  
Forever and ever.  
Amen.  
We come to seek the Lord**

We seek the face of the Lord

**We come in response to His love**

We thank Jesus for his love

**We come in response to His Sacrifice**

We thank Jesus for His sacrifice

**We come in response to His forgiveness**

We thank you Jesus for your forgiveness of our sins

**We come in response to endless grace**

We thank you that your grace is for all your creation

**We come to seek the Lord**

**We come in response to Him**

**We come with thankful hearts.**

**Amen.**

## **Liturgy 2**

(from Philipians 2)

Our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

**Who being in the very nature of God,**

**Did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,**

**But made himself nothing,**

**Taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**

**Jesus, you became obedient - even to death of a Cross,**

**We ask, as your people, that we might become obedient to you,**

**That in your strength we will become the servants for your creation**

**For your glory**

**Amen.**

## **7. Icebreakers**

**What costs £1.50 today?**

Collect items that cost £1.50 (or almost that amount) (Either via powerpoint or visually have the objects present). The congregation have to guess the cost of the objects, they should all be the same!

Explain that Widows Mite Sunday is asking for £1.50 via text that is the equivalent cost to these objects.

**Please text 'mite' to 82540 to enable FYT to launch 36 StreetSpace projects working with young people on the streets over the next 3 years, your text will cost £1.50 plus one standard message and FYT will receive at least £1 of this - thank you**

### **A variation of 'Play your cards right'.**

Split the Church into two teams and have a range of items on display that cost from £1 - £5 the object of the game is for the teams to guess if the objects are 'higher' or 'lower' than £1.50. The winning team is the one that gets the prices correct!

Explain that Widows Mite Sunday is asking for £1.50 via text that is the equivalent cost to these objects.

**Please text 'mite' to 82540 to enable FYT to launch 36 StreetSpace projects working with young people on the streets over the next 3 years, your text will cost £1.50 plus one standard message and FYT will receive at least £1 of this - thank you**

### **Name that tune**

Using the link here (or any others you know) :

<http://www.businesspundit.com/30-best-songs-about-money/>

Ask the congregation to guess the song/year/artist – and the common link between them all, which is money.

### **All things small and beautiful**

You need an egg timer, a flipchart and a congregation!

In 90 seconds ask them to come up with as many prefixes to small eg small change, small chance, small time, small minded, small holding etc. The winning team is the one that gets the most words in the allotted time – they win a penny!

### **Word scramble**

You'll need a few post it notes for each on the congregation or a flipchart pad and a timer.

Give the congregation 60 seconds to make as many words out of MITE as possible. The winner receives a penny!

### **% Quiz**

This quiz is just for fun. The sources of the information have been omitted in order to keep things simple. As far as we have been able to determine, all the answers are correct. For the purposes of this quiz, the answers given are the final answers and no correspondence will be entered into!

1. What percentage of food bought do households throw away in the UK - 33%
2. What percentage of a jelly fish is water – 95%
3. What percentage of all global carbon dioxide emissions are from cars – 18%
4. In the developing world, what percentage of the population owns a car – 1%
5. What percentage of American men say they would marry the same woman if they had it to do all over again – 80%
6. What percentage of American women say they would marry the same man - 50
7. What percentage of their income do evangelical Christians give away – 12.5%
8. What percentage of 5-15 year olds have a diagnosable mental health problem - 10%

9. According to FYT research, Adults overestimate the amount of crime committed by young people by a factor of what percentage - 100%.
10. According to FYT research, adults overestimate the level of teenage pregnancy rates by what % - 500%
11. What percentage of her wealth did Jesus say the widow had put into the collection – 100%

## **8. Stories**

### **Story 1**

StreetSpace volunteers were hanging around in the youth shelter chatting as usual to the young people. They listened and the young people talked about sweets, grandparents, the importance of family and getting a job with a steady wage. They spoke about needing to be motivated, the lack of a summer, finishing their job training (even though they weren't getting much money), death, joining the army as a way out, celebrating someone leaving for a job, the need to be prepared for the things they were going to do and the weather some more!

As the volunteers wandered back to their car they reflected on the fact that if they were to look back at the group of young people hanging out and laughing loudly they would likely think them a bunch of wasters. But, this group of young people, with the help and support of StreetSpace workers, had fundraised over £31,000 to improve their local area. This group now meets monthly in the local Indian restaurant to plan future events, chat about life, God, the world and to collate feedback on local government plans and ideas.

As well as working directly in the community StreetSpace seeks to explore what it is to grow church from scratch with young people. One group, who meet regularly in the local Indian restaurant, is one expression of this.

### **Story 2**

Recently there has been an elderly adult hanging around a large group of young people in a park. Much to their horror, he was even circling round them. It was clearly intimidating for the young people and when the StreetSpace workers arrived, the young people had already produced many rumours about him.

The young people asked the workers to talk with him. Once the man was engaged in polite conversation he eventually became uncomfortable and left the park area. The workers remained with the group for the rest of the evening. This experience, although scary, allowed the young people to see that the StreetSpace workers were there for them. They have since opened up, allowing the workers to engage with them for prolonged periods, thereby developing deeper relationships with them.

## 9. Talks

### Out4Good?

Charlie is one of the young men who is part of FYT's Out for Good Project, which seeks to rehabilitate young offenders back into their families and a local community. This is part of his story, told by the Project Worker:

'We first met Charlie a few years ago and recently began working with him. When we met him Charlie's life possessions were contained in two black bin liners and of course his treasured football boots which were pristine.

We agreed to put Charlie on a powerboat level 1 & 2 course which he passed with flying colours, then we took a group of lads out on a Thames sailing barge for a weekend residential. Charlie excelled, impressing the skipper so much he offered to take him on as a volunteer providing a CRB was completed. We discussed this and there wasn't anything serious enough to prevent him being accepted as a volunteer.

Summer came round and , for many reasons beyond Charlie's control, things went wrong. Eventually I caught up with him in town one day and we sat down to a breakfast. His past problems with alcohol had returned, the bad company he was in had been encouraging him to drink and also to buy them drinks. He started to fall into arrears with the Hostel.

However a little while after our meeting Charlie's benefits were fully stopped pending an investigation. He had been doing some voluntary work in a local shop, he didn't get paid, but someone reported that he was doing paid work. It was a fishing tackle shop and the owner had taken him on to teach him about the business, the hostel had agreed it as work experience, but nobody advised Charlie that he should have cleared it with the benefits agency.

There was nowhere for him to go, all the local nightshelters were full up.

BUT that is where Charlie amazes me, during all this chaos he took himself off to the local RNLI station and put his name down to volunteer, he enrolled with a local uniformed young persons group, they go on regular sailing activities, Charlie wanted to use the skills he had acquired in the summer and asked to be involved further.

As I finish writing this Charlie's time in the B&B has come to an end. Over the last few days we have exhausted all the options and so far nothing has materialized, he wants to settle down, desperate to join a community that genuinely cares for him and that can support him within realistic boundaries –

But what's Charlie's attitude? He is arranging to play for the church team on Saturday, and come to DNA church on Sunday, and carry on with the connections he has made and that we have helped him with. Homeless or not, the Charlie that I deal with seems a long way from the character we first met.

Here is a young man who has so very little but yet was willing to give what he did have for others – offering up the thing he could – his life – to the Lifeboat Crew to help others.

We all have much to learn from his example.'

## God's Measurements!

Have a bag of (seemingly!) heavy objects (which should be lighter) and one (seemingly) of lighter objects (that are in fact heavier!). You could make a big deal of heaving one up and pretend the other is easier to carry. Ask which bag will weigh more – the one in your left or right hand? HOPEFULLY THEY'LL GUESS THE ONE YOU MADE OUT TO BE HEAVIER! Put them both on a large pair of scales at the front of church to show it is the 'heavier' one that weigh less.

Talk about how God's way of measuring is very different to ours – God sees beyond the human things, such as 'two coins isn't much' and knows that that is everything the widow has to offer other than her very life.

As a widow this lady didn't have a family to go back to, a piggy bank for her savings – that was all she had. Often we find that hard to understand given that we may have money in our bank or we might be able to borrow some from somewhere! But that was her everything, her first and last.

Was that a daft thing to do?

She had no other way of expressing her gratitude to God, what do we have use to express ours?

**Please text 'mite' to 82540 to enable FYT to launch 36 StreetSpace projects working with young people on the streets over the next 3 years, your text will cost £1.50 plus one standard message and FYT will receive at least £1 of this - thank you**

## 10. The Widow's Monologue

It had been a warm day. A slight breeze meant the dust had been getting in my eyes a lot, which is one of the reasons I went to the Temple that day.

I'd often gone to the Temple to pray when my husband was alive. I usually prayed for the gift of children but Yahweh had not delivered me any so, when my husband departed this life, I was left alone. A fearful situation for any woman in Israel, what with the Romans around, it didn't feel very safe. I managed like many of the widows did, by asking. There were many who looked upon me with scorn, there were others who looked upon me with pity – either way it meant that I got a few lepta here and there so I was able to eat.

So that day I went to the Temple as usual. I'd been sitting near to the Temple downcast awaiting for those who pity me to pass their wealth to me. Groups of wealthy men passed me without any acknowledgment before a young man kindly knelt down, and looking into my eyes, he pressed two coins gently into my hand and whispered a word of blessing to me.

Just to be looked at and gently approached made the tears rise in my throat mixing with the dust, I began to cough. When I looked up the dark brown gentle eyes had gone but I no longer felt lonely but hopeful, as if something were going to happen, as if Yahweh had heard my prayers and knew of my fears.

I decided to go to the Temple and make any offering to Yahweh, I was hopeful for the first time in years. I wanted to thank Yahweh for all that life had given me, it may not

have been what I wanted, but I was grateful for what it had been; on the whole uneventful, peaceful, with much to give thanks for.

It was cool in the Temple and I was able to give thanks without interruption. I sat quietly, remembering the stories of my childhood and those my husband recounted to me on our Holy Days. That day I recounted the many blessings I had been given in my life; my health, my family, that I had lived for many years, by husbands love and companionship that had accompanied me for 21 years. I might not have much now, but I had been given a lot and I still had health, I had a few friends, I had food most days, I had shelter where I could find it. I was safe. I had hope. I had Yahweh.

I rose to leave my thoughts and tell my friends of my blessings. As I did I decidedly put the two coins into the offertory. 'Yahweh gives and Yahweh will give again', I remember thinking.

At that moment, from the corner of my eye I saw the kind man again. The gently brown eyes caught mine as he whispered to his friends. How strange I had not noticed him when he was the reason I had come to the Temple today.

He didn't acknowledge me again, nor I him.

Not until a few days later, as we stood watching each other at the foot of the hill.  
**Please text 'mite' to 82540 to enable FYT to launch 36 StreetSpace projects working with young people on the streets over the next 3 years, your text will cost £1.50 plus one standard message and FYT will receive at least £1 of this - thank you**

## 11. Interviews

Consider the needs of local young people and have a panel of people prepared to talk for a couple of minutes about the needs of local young people – this could involve a Local Authority Youth Worker, a local MP, a Church youth worker and a few young people. The focus is to ask them all what the needs of young people are and how the Church might choose to respond.

## 12. A Bit of Theology - Two Sides of the Coins

There has been much discussion over the years about the story of the widow's mite and the different interpretations. There is an alternative interpretation of the story which is offered to you here:

In giving all that she had the widow did give sacrificially . However, consider again Jesus' response in verse 3 'I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put in more than all the others... (v 4) but she out of her poverty gave all she had to live on'. (NIV).

We can sense here Jesus' frustration that the wealthy did not give sacrificially. Place this alongside the account that immediately continues on from the act of the widow giving her gift in verses 5 -36.

Here, Jesus talks of the Temple not withstanding the impending judgement of God against it (verses 6, 20,24). Therefore, it is argued that, whilst the widow gave without knowledge of the future and the destruction of the Temple, Jesus in his prophetic words outlined that the Kingdom of God would overthrow all the current structures, systems, relationships.

This, however, does not render her gift meaningless nor futile, but it does make her more of a victim than a hero. She gave to something that was about to be destroyed!

The monetary value of her gift becomes insignificant as we consider her sacrificial act of faith in her giving all she materially had.

### **13. Response ideas**

The story of the Widows Mite teaches us to give to God all that we have, without holding anything, without consideration for our needs but purely as an act of worship. We are asking you now to get out your phone in response to what you have heard of the needs of StreetSpace and of young people locally and:

**Please text 'mite' to 82540 to enable FYT to launch 36 StreetSpace projects working with young people on the streets over the next 3 years, your text will cost £1.50 plus one standard message and FYT will receive at least £1 of this - thank you**

### **14. The 'Offering'**

#### **Giving**

Give everyone 10p before the offering, up to them what they do with it! Do we give God our all? Some? None? What do we hold back on and why?

#### **Create a 'giving board'**

Give everyone a pen and 2 pieces of paper. On one piece of paper ask them to write the charity they financially support the most, the other ask them write how they give to others most (e.g. hospitality, cleaning the church, Sunday school teacher, caring for elderly neighbours.)

Have two Boards at the front of church – ask people to put financial giving on one board and 'life-giving' on the other – you have created a 'giving board' for the church.

#### **Consider**

Are there many people giving to them same things – money/time/energy? If so, what effect does this have on other parts of the church body i.e. loneliness, burnout... Are there noticeable areas missing? (e.g. homeless projects, teenage mums being supported, elderly care, mental health). Consider as a Church how you give and how you might be able to give better to some areas. Look at strengths and weaknesses and sees what might be possible as a Church – how can we move forward.

### **Swop shop:**

Before the service, put post-it notes under each chair with a pen. At a point in the service, ask everyone to find them and write on it a skill/talent/service they are able to offer to the congregation (they'll need to put their name on it!)

Give many examples: lawn moving, cleaning, cooking a lasagne, babysitting, a music lesson, a first aid talk, a pair of curtains, a good book to read, do the shopping, help with homework, sewing, ironing etc.

Ask the young people to collect these in and stick them around the room. Ask the congregation to walk around and choose one they would like to have – they will need to link up with the person offering that service at coffee time to arrange it!

Consider:

How do we use the skills God has given us? How do we help people sacrificially? Do we know the needs of our friends at church and those outside of Church? How might we respond to those needs?

### **15. Offering Response Prayer**

Lord we recognise that we often don't give  
Because we are busy, because our finances won't stretch,  
Because we don't know how best to give.  
Forgive us for the choices we make that  
Mean others go without.  
Forgive us the times we choose not to respond.

Thank you for all we have,  
Thank you the privileges we enjoy  
Of living where we are do, of the health care we have,  
For the provision of clean water and food.

Lord help us to act for the best for each other,  
For those we love  
And those we don't.  
Those we know  
And those we don't.  
Those we see often  
And those we have never met.

Lord give us an imagination  
To re-imagine giving.  
Lord give us energy to consider  
How we use our time.  
Lord give us wisdom in how to share  
Our lives.

Amen.

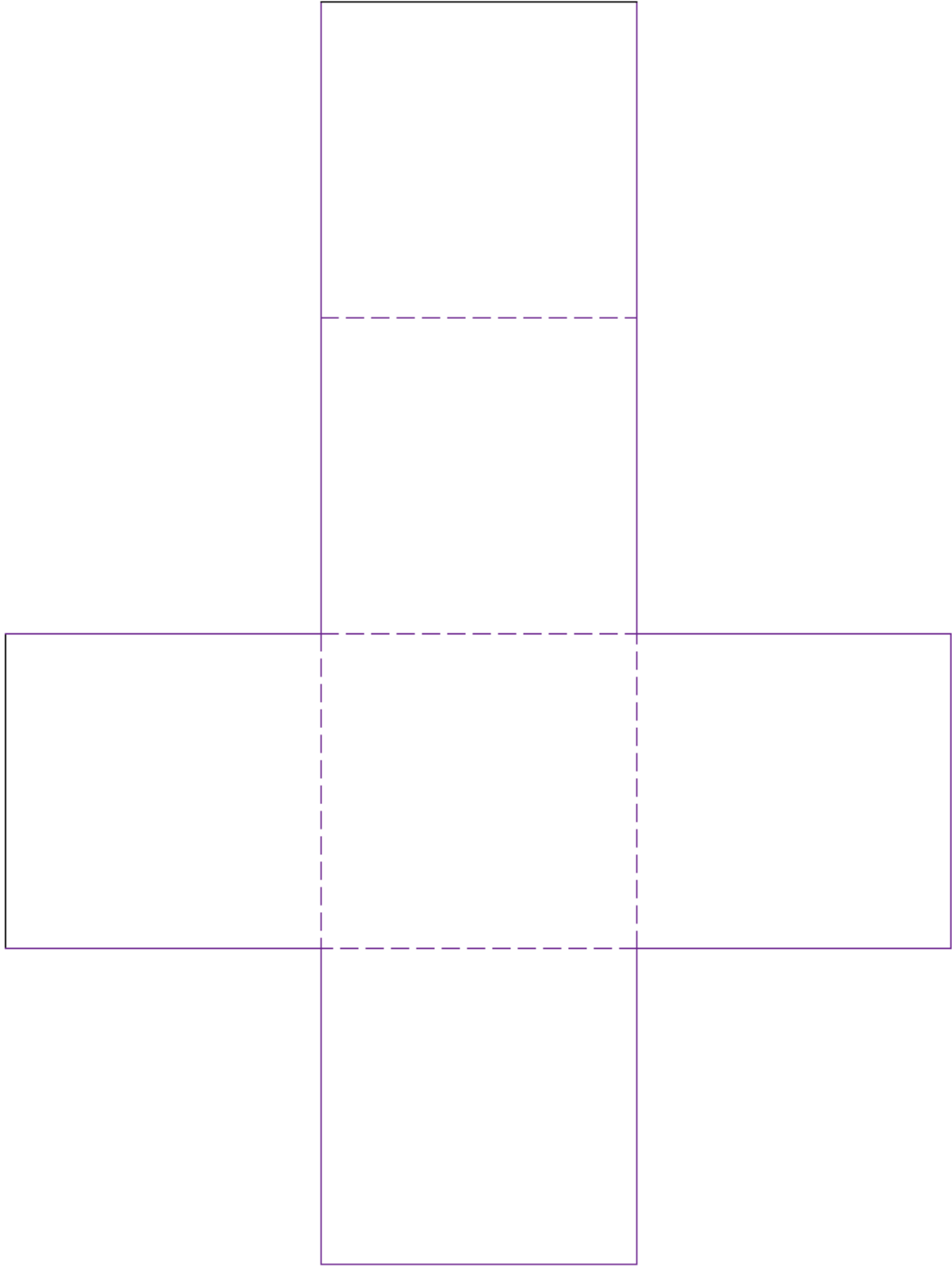
## 16. Crafts

### Net of a cube and how to make the cube

How about recycling packaging such as breakfast cereal packs? Draw out the design (if you haven't printed it) and cut it out carefully, using scissors that aren't blunt or covered with glue. Before gluing, it is important to fold the design, and it's easier to do this if you score the lines first. Use a ball-point pen to go over all lines in the design, including the tabs. The ball-point pen will make a mark so if you can find a ball point pen that doesn't work, that will be perfect. Press quite heavily with the point of the pen, but don't tear the paper. Now fold the paper to make right angles, and you will see the cube start to appear. It doesn't matter which way you fold the design. Once you have scored the edges with the ball-point pen, you will find it easy to fold it either way. Use small dabs of glue to stick it, or it will end up very messy. Use the Widow's Mite logo below to print out labels to stick onto the Cubes.



Calls will cost £1.50 and more than one pound will go directly to the Streetspace initiative!



### Collage: What's it like being a teenager?

Have a large number of craft materials ready – magazines, scissors, glue, large sheets of paper.

Separate the congregation into appropriate decades of birth (e.g. all those born in the 50's/60's/70's/80's/90's/00's)

Each group has a set time to make a collage of what their teenage years were like – what the fashion was, music, global influences etc and they will then present it to the Church.

The Group born in the 90's and 00's will talk about what it is like for them growing up currently – focus on the issues they face and interview them about the struggles and concerns they have. Pray for the young people.

### 17. Wordsearch

You can either print off the wordsearch onto individual pieces of paper for a Sunday School group or copy it onto a large flipchart at the front of Church and play it as a congregation.

Mite  
Widow  
Giving  
Money  
StreetSpace  
Thanks  
Worship  
Jesus

<u>s</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>t</u>	<u>g</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>v</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>g</u>	<u>m</u>	<u>i</u>
<u>n</u>	<u>t</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>y</u>	<u>j</u>	<u>u</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>w</u>	<u>e</u>
<u>a</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>w</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>k</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>h</u>	<u>t</u>
<u>p</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>h</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>w</u>	<u>p</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>v</u>	<u>m</u>
<u>k</u>	<u>m</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>y</u>	<u>h</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>u</u>	<u>i</u>
<u>f</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>y</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>t</u>	<u>g</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>c</u>
<u>a</u>	<u>p</u>	<u>w</u>	<u>w</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>h</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>p</u>	<u>e</u>
<u>c</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>h</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>j</u>	<u>k</u>	<u>u</u>	<u>p</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>m</u>
<u>w</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>w</u>	<u>o</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>y</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>i</u>
<u>z</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>t</u>	<u>u</u>	<u>m</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>c</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>t</u>	<u>c</u>	<u>t</u>
<u>o</u>	<u>p</u>	<u>w</u>	<u>j</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>u</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>r</u>	<u>p</u>	<u>e</u>

## 18. Sermons and Bible Studies: Things to ponder!

The story for the widow giving her mite highlights a number of factors that we all should consider as followers of Jesus.

So rather than write a sermon or Bible Study for you, without knowing who you're talking to, what the Church is like and what response God is asking you to make locally, we thought we'd provide a set of questions that you might like to consider as you prepare your own sermon or Bible Study on this theme.

- How do you picture this story? Do you have a strong picture or scene that it brings alive?
- What is your understanding when you initially read the text? And is this the same once you have read it a few times in the context of the chapters around it? In considering this story in the other Gospels, do you have any further reflections?
- What is Jesus saying about sacrifice? Obedience? How did this relate to the culture of their time?
- How did the widows' action affect those around?
- There are many many ways, other than money, of living sacrificially – (i.e. time, hospitality, skills, talents). How do you and your Church live this out?
- Are there any underlying principles of the story that apply to the people listening to this story now? Consider the context you are in.
- What are the big questions you are left with? Are they answerable elsewhere in the Bible? How does this hold with the characteristics of God?
- What actions and reflections could God be asking of you/of the Church?
- How creatively can you help the Church address this?