

Children's Message:

Theme: Doing Christ's Work Together – Giving our Gifts

Object: An offering plate with bills and coins in various denominations.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:12 (ICB) Christ gave those gifts to prepare God's holy people for the work of

serving. He gave those gifts to make the body of Christ stronger.

Every Sunday we take an offering during the morning worship service. As you know, the ushers walk up and down the aisle and pass the offering plate down every row. People place their offerings to God in the plate. When they have finished passing the offering plate, it may look like this one that I have with me this morning. Here is a twenty-dollar bill, and a ten. Here is a five and there are several one dollar bills. Down in the bottom of the plate there are even some coins, Look, someone even put in some pennies.

Today (or this month, or whatever time frame offering is being collected), we are collecting an offering for the Mountain State Mission Offering. Each individual gives as they can, then added all together, these gifts will make an impact. Where does the Mountain State Mission Offering go?

The Mountain State Mission Offering helps fund the ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. For example, (take out some money), this will provide funding for Camp Cowen. (Take out more money) This will provide funding for Children's Rallies. As you grow older (take out more money) this will provide assistance with youth activities and Baptist Campus Ministries. As adults, this offering will assist with expenses for retreats and conferences at Parchment Valley.

We are asking the adults to give to the Mountain State Mission Offering as they give their gifts to God. As children, what gift can you give? Maybe it's a few cents from your allowance or maybe it is part of the money that you were given to buy a new toy?

If we all give our gifts as we can, we will be Doing Christ's Work Together.

Let's pray. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gifts that you have given each of us. We pray for the desire to give all that we have to you in your service. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

