

## Getting Started

### Introductions

*Set up circle and pocket chart.*

*Introduce Circlekeepers (names and church affiliation), class (state its purpose), and theme of current story series; review last week's story.*

*Pass out bags with nametag materials; participants make nametags.*

### Attendance

*Take attendance, greet participants, distribute bonus items as appropriate: folders and brochures to first-timers, certificate...four times, book...six times.*

### Opening: The Story

*Light candle, sing "Listen to the Word," tell story, pray.*

*Teach and sing "Greet Your Neighbor"*

### Explain the Talking Piece

**We'll do different activities to learn this story; sometimes we'll use a talking piece. The talking piece creates a space in which everyone can speak and listen in peace. Each person in the circle gets a chance to speak without being interrupted, and to listen without needing to respond.**

**When we are using a talking piece, here is how it works:**

- 1. The talking piece is passed around the circle from person to person.**
- 2. Only the person holding the talking piece may speak.**
- 3. It is always okay to pass; just say, "I pass."**

### Check-In Round

**Today our talking piece is: miniature treasure chest**

**We will use it for a check-in round; when the talking piece comes to you please...**

- 1. Say your name**
- 2. How familiar you are with this story (new, heard before, could tell)**
- 3. A word or more about how you are feeling today**

**I'll go first...**

### Agreements Round

**These are the four agreements we make for our time together:**

- 1. Honor the talking piece—when it is being used, speak only when you are holding it**
- 2. Speak from the heart—tell your truth as you are comfortable to share**
- 3. Listen from the heart—be attentive, with a positive spirit; avoid side conversations, comments or questions.**
- 4. Protect personal privacy—Tell about God, Jesus, this class and the story we learn, but keep confidential personal information that is shared**

**Now let us see if we can all accept these agreements: I accept these agreements ...**

## Engaging the Story

### ☐ Word I Heard

Listen again to the story of **The Generous Widow**

This time close your eyes or focus on the candle.

As you listen, notice if any word or phrase gets your attention... *Read or tell story*

Before you open your eyes, think of a word or phrase from the story that got your attention, or another word or phrase that comes to mind...

*Ring chime...* Now open your eyes.

For this round, name a word or phrase that you heard in the story, or that came to mind in response to hearing the story.

### ☐ About Your Word

In this round you can comment on the word/phrase you chose, or you can comment on any other word/phrase in our collection.

### ☐ Repeat-After-Me

### ☐ Remove-a-Word

### ☐ Storyboard

### ☐ Tell to a Partner

*Instruct participants to pair up with a partner and take turns telling the story to their partner using their storyboard to help remember (no peeking at other side).*

*When both have told what they remember of the story, they check the script and evaluate what they remembered, left out, and/or added in extra.*

### ☐ Storyboard Favorites

Was there anything in your partner's storyboard you particularly liked?

### ☐ Tell to a Small Group

*Get in groups of 4 to tell*

### ☐ Connections Round

*Each person has an opportunity to respond to possible connections between the story and their life experience.*

*Connection topics are named by the Circlekeeper.*

- **The widow was very poor, but she was also very generous. Can you remember a time when you experienced generosity?**
- **This widow didn't have very much, but what she had she gave to the Temple treasury for God. I wonder if each of us has something to give for God?**

## Winding Up: Prayer Cards, Collection, Closing