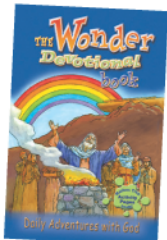




Offering projects requiring children to work together has benefits:



*Everyone is a winner.* Children enjoy competition but to be labeled a loser can be upsetting. Example: In an offering competition a team player may give generously but his team may still lose because they didn't have the highest total.



*Everyone can rejoice when the total rises or the goal is reached.* Goals can be specific: T-shirts for a missionary family or sheets and blankets for one bed in a homeless shelter. Goals can also be open-ended—Gideon Bibles for local or foreign distribution, *The Wonder*

*Devotional Books*, fuel to help a missionary travel on furlough. Provide a chart to show the progress.

*It may be easier for children to focus on attitude than on amount.* Removal of team pressure can free children to examine their giving motive to see if it pleases God. The widow in Mark 12:41-44 would have lost in an offering competition contest but she won God's commendation!

*Children can concentrate on giving their own money.* Like the widow who gave her all, encourage children that the best gift of all is their own money. Discuss ways to earn money, that it is a joy to give and that God can use their offerings to answer the prayers of a person who has a need.

—Barth and Sally Middleton