



project.org

STUDENT HANDOUT

GREEN LEVEL
MORE SUPPORT

Coin Detectives

Grades 3-4 · Real or Replica?

ADMIT ONE

NAME

DATE

CLASS

The coins in *In Their Hands* were spent and held in the years of the Gospels. Eight are genuine. Three are museum-quality replicas, honest copies labeled as copies. But how does an expert know an ancient coin is real? Today you are a coin detective.

PART 1

OI

Spot the difference

One of these is a real widow's mite, the tiny coin of Mark 12:41-44. The other is a modern fake. Look at both, then check every clue you can see.

REAL OR REPLICA? · WIDOW'S MITE · LEPTON



COIN A



COIN B

CLUE

COIN A

COIN B

Rough, uneven and off-center

Clean, neat and perfect

Worn and old-looking

Sharp, even letters and shapes

The fake is Coin ☐ A or Coin ☐ B (circle one)

Expert clue: a real lepton was a cheap, everyday coin, made fast and crude. The fake is *too* good. “If a lepton looks perfect, be suspicious.”

PART 2

02 Which clue helped you most?

Finish the sentence: **I know the fake is a fake because...**

PART 3

03 A coin that is evidence



CASE 7 • GENUINE

The coin of Pontius Pilate

Pilate was the Roman governor who put Jesus on trial. He had this coin made in 29/30 AD, the year of the Passion. Some people once wondered if Pilate was real. In 1961 a stone with his name was found — but his coins had been evidence all along.

Who had this coin made? In what year? What does it help show about the Gospel?

PART 4

04 Put the coins in order

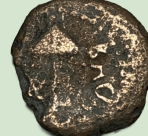
These four coins go with four Gospel stories. Write **1, 2, 3, 4** in the boxes, from the first story to the last.



Porcius Festus
59–62 AD
Paul appeals to Caesar
Acts 25:12



Augustus Caesar
5–4 BC
Jesus is born in Bethlehem
Luke 2:1



Herod Agrippa I
41–44 AD
Peter is seized
Acts 12:3



Pontius Pilate
29/30 AD
Jesus is put on trial
Matthew 27:24

SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY

Look at a coin from home with a magnifying glass. Is it worn on its highest points? Then tell your family about Pilate's coin, and why it is evidence that the Gospel really happened.