

## Lesson 6: Finding Jesus at the Lake – The Fish and The Coin

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Understand the story of the Fish and the Coin – Matthew 17
- 2) Find Jesus by obeying like Peter did
- 3) Do a Coin Transfer Activity
- 4) Have show-and-tell to remind them of how that Jesus is with us even at the beach or sea

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**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

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**Supplies:**

- Bible and Bibles for students
- Attendance Sheet with Stickers
- Fish Picture for Coin Activity – one per student
- Money Coins (one per student) – real coins for students to do activity
- Fishing for Coins Game – print one for class and cut out before.
- Pencil Crayons/ Pencils
- 3 Fish puppets
- Puppet Stage or Table with blanket will do
- Puppet show skit (3 copies one for each puppeteer)
- foam stickers (optional) to decorate fish picture

**Optional**

- a bag with a shell, sand dollar, sea sponge, small bag of beach sand, beach toy, toy boat and/or picture of a sea creature for show and tell activity

Snack: Gold Fish Crackers	handful per child
Napkins for crackers	one per child
Water and cup	one per child

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**Lesson:**

**1) Introduction to lesson and Puppet Show: 10 minutes**

Before class set up a stage and ensure you have three fish puppets or ocean animals. If you don't have a stage, set up a blanket over a table so older kids can be behind the blanket holding the puppets above.

Ask three older children (Grade 5-6) or teens to volunteer to be puppeteers and hand out the Puppet show skit in advance for them to read. Help them to determine who will play what role. Have them hide behind the blanket while other students come in.

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Say, **“Last week we learned about finding Jesus – can anyone raise their hand and tell me where you found Jesus last week?”** (Kids respond with either: Found Jesus in Bible or found Jesus when we hear and believe, river with Lydia, Finding Jesus in storm at sea with Paul)

**“Great, well today we are going to find Jesus in another place – we looked in the Bible, we looked at the river, today we are going to continue to look in the ocean.”**

**“We are going to learn about finding Jesus when we obey what He tells us. Jesus tells us not only to read the Bible but to do what it says. We have to be ready to help and obey even when it is hard.”**

**“Can everyone look over there?”** (Point to the puppet stage)

**“If you look and listen carefully you will hear a story about how to find Jesus.”** Cue the helpers to do the puppet show.

After the puppet show say, **“Just like Flippy and Peter, we need to obey Jesus. Now, God doesn’t speak to us directly today – but He talks to us through the Bible. So to know what God wants we have to read the Bible and obey what it says.”**

\*Note: Any questions about the fact that God no longer speaks to people today see

<http://ap.lanexdev.com/APContent.aspx?category=11&article=912>

See Jude 3 and 2 Peter 1:3 for two quick verses showing that all things pertaining to life and godliness have already been given to us through the Word, we don’t need to hear or receive anything else, nor will we.

**“Does anyone have any questions?”** (Answer questions if on track or appropriate, if not on track – tell them to ask you later.)

## **2) Story of Peter, the fish, and the coin**

**10 minutes**

**Do you remember the story you heard during the introduction with the puppets? This is the story we will read from the Bible, but this time instead of the story from the fish we’ll hear it from Jesus! Everyone take a Bible if you have one – or raise your hand if you need a Bible and turn to Matthew 17:24-27. (Help children find the account if needed)**

**Follow along as I read the story. If you have a question, feel free to raise your hand to ask. I will also be asking questions so make sure you follow along.**

(Read Matthew 17:24-27)

### **Matthew 17 - Peter and His Master Pay Their Taxes**

24 When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, “Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?”

25 He said, “Yes.”

And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?”

26 Peter said to Him, “From strangers.”

Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free. 27 Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.”

**Good listening everyone, now I’m going to ask you some questions, raise your hand if you can find or know the answer based on the account we just read.**

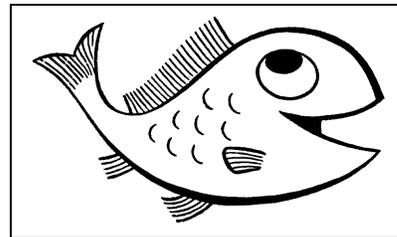
- 1) In Matthew chapter 17:24-26, did Jesus have to pay the temple tax?** (No, because He is the Son of God he was exempt – meaning He didn’t have to, but because He didn’t want to offend anyone, He was willing to pay it)  
Explain: **When a king rules a country, his children do not have to pay taxes. Since Jesus is the Son of God, He did not have to pay the taxes as He is Son to the King of Heaven and Earth!**
- 2) In verse 27 what did Jesus tell Peter to do?** (Go cast his fishing hook into the sea and take the first fish that comes up. Open its mouth take the money and give it to pay the temple tax.)

### 3) Did Peter obey? Yes!

#### 3) Coin transfer activity

10 minutes

To make coin rubbings, bring coins, picture of fish on white paper and pencil crayons to the table. The goal is to place the paper over the coins where the fish is and rub with the pencil – the coin should show through the fish as if the fish swallowed the coin.



**“Can everyone pick a pencil or pencil crayon and write their name on the top of your picture of the fish please?”**

**“I’m going to hand out a coin to each one of you, this is to use for this activity it is not to keep – I will need them back at the end so please be very careful with them ok?”**

**“Put the coin on the table, and then take your fish picture and put it over the coin so that the fish is on the coin. Then take your pencil crayon and rub where the coin is – and see what happens.”** (Take an extra coin and paper and show them what you mean, tell them they can continue to move the coin around and see how many coins their fish can eat!)

While students do the activity, read the information at the bottom of their page and re read the account from Matthew to help them remember.

When children are done, they can color the fish and the water around the fish, if you have foam stickers, you can hand them out so children can decorate their page with the stickers as well.

#### 4) Optional: Show and Tell

10-15 minutes

After everyone cleans up from the coin coloring activity, have the children sit back down at the table and talk to them about the sea. Make sure you have a bag full of sea treasures to lay out on the table when you are done talking.

**“We have been learning about finding Jesus in the Bible, in the river, in the lake and in the sea.**

**Did you know:**

- 1. The sea or ocean is a great expanse of salt water that covers a large part of the earth.**
- 2. There is more water than land on Earth.**
- 3. The sea is a unique world with special plants and animals.**
- 4. Fresh water plants and animals cannot live in the sea's salt water and people cannot drink it. Only sea animals can live in the sea.**
- 5. Can you name some creatures that only live in the sea?** (Let students answer)  
Some sea animals are the whale, shark, dolphin, crab, lobster, seahorse, sea turtle, sea otter, sea snail, oyster, jelly fish, seal, eel, squid and clam.
- 6. People use the sea in many ways, such as for transportation, recreation and food.**
- 7. God made the sea and everything in it, God is wonderful for giving us this special gift.**

Show & Tell – **“Now I’m going to place some items on the table that could come from the sea, or come from us if we were going to the beach to play. Look at these items and then raise your hand and tell me how this reminds you of what you have learned so far this summer about finding Jesus. We will go around the room, everyone can have a turn.”** If children have trouble coming up with ideas, help them by sharing some of your own ideas on how a shell or sand can remind them of remembering Lydia at the river, Paul in the storm, the fish and the coin, etc.

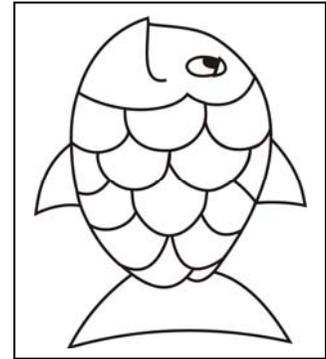
Some ideas to put on the table are a shell, sand dollar, sea sponge, small bag of beach sand, beach toy, toy boat or picture of a sea creature. Once you are done talking about how these remind you all of Jesus and what we have learned ask the kids to gather the items and put them away.

### 5) Coin Fish Game

10-15 minutes

Split the class into two teams – try to make them even. Hand each team a fish from the game pieces. Place the paper coins in the middle of the table where you can see them so that when teams win a coin, they can choose one of them to put with their fish.

Tell the students, **“To help us remember all we learned the past few weeks about finding Jesus at the sea with both the story of Paul and the shipwreck and Peter and the fish we are going to play a game. You are in teams – each team has a fish – the goal is to answer the questions I give you correctly so that you can win a coin for your fish. The team with the most coins for their fish wins.**



**When asked a question, your team can talk amongst yourselves before giving a final answer – if you are not correct you do not get a coin and the other team then gets a turn to answer another question, if you are correct you get a coin and then the other team gets to answer another question. So make sure you talk quietly so the other team does not hear you until you are ready to give an answer.**

**I’m going to start with \_\_\_\_\_ point to a team.** (Go through each question – if they answer correctly give a coin and go to the other team. Try to end when both teams are even so they both win if possible)

\*Note: if you have a younger group, pick the easier questions or change the questions to make them easier. Ex: instead of Question 1 you could ask Who was on a ship going to Rome that ended up getting shipwrecked? Paul.

### Questions

- 1) **In Acts Chapter 27:11 did Julius (the Centurion who was on the ship) listen to Paul?** (No, he listened to the helmsmen and the owner instead)
- 2) **How did Paul know they were going to be ok in Chapter 27:23?** (Angel of God told him)
- 3) **Did Paul believe God’s words in Acts 27:25?** (Yes.)
- 4) **Was anyone killed who was on the ship?** (No one was killed, they all were safe.)
- 5) **In Matthew 17:24-27 Did Jesus have to pay the temple tax?** (No because as the Son of God he was exempt)
- 6) **How many fish did Peter have to catch before he found the one with the coin?** (only the first one – as Jesus instructed)
- 7) **Turn to Ephesians 2:10 in your Bible – Does God have a special plan for you?** (Yes).
- 8) **In Ephesians 2:10 it says we are to do what kind of things?** (good works)
- 9) **What did Paul do that was right – How did He find Jesus?** (Through prayer and obeying)
- 10) **How did Peter do what was right – How did He find Jesus?** (Through believing/obeying)
- 11) **What are two ways we can find Jesus in our lives?** (any two answers, ex: read Bible, pray, obey, listen, follow, hear, believe, etc.)
- 12) **What are two other ways we can find Jesus in our lives?** (any other two answers, see examples from questions 11)

**6) Optional – Snack Gold Fish Crackers****5 minutes**

Gold Fish Crackers	handful for each child
Juice/Water	one glass per child
Cup and Napkin	one per child

**7) Close in prayer**

Thank God that He sent his Son Jesus and that we can learn about God and Jesus in the Bible. Thank God also for the story of Peter and the fish and pray that all of you in the room will also remember to obey Jesus and trust in Him like Peter did. Pray that we will remember to read our Bibles and pray as we grow. Thank God that if we believe and obey God will provide us with everything we need to serve and to do the good works, just as God wants us to. In Jesus name. Amen.

**8) Sing Songs: if time**

If time ask the students what songs they would like to sing, have assistants help you sing.

Examples could be:

**\*Who did make the fishy swim**

**\*My God is So Big**

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!