

# SABBATH SCHOOL

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Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 2 • Unit 7 • Week 4

## COIN IN THE FISH

### **OBJECTIVE:**

To emphasize the importance of setting the right example by the story of the coin in the fish.

### **ATTENTION GETTER:**

Use one of the following activities to divide the students into three groups.

**Prepare:** Provide picture cutouts of fish, coins, and nets. You may draw these pictures or cut them out from magazines. Make sure that you have enough of each of the pictures as the children will be divided into groups according to the picture they have.

**Do:** As the children enter the classroom have each one of them pull one of the pictures out of a container. When everyone is seated tell the children that they should find others who have the same picture and form a group.

### **OR**

**Prepare:** Construct a simple fishing pole. Get a stick and attach a piece of yarn with a magnet on the other end (to construct a simple fishing pole). Have three different colored fishes with a paper clip taped near the mouth of each fish.

**Do:** Let each child fish and then join the group of children who caught that color fish.

Once groups have been formed, give each one of the following stories or scenarios to act out. The children must first discuss how they would handle each situation. Then they can act it out for the class. Be sure to discuss the importance of setting the right example.

### **Possible Scenarios:**

- You are with a group of friends who are laughing at a disabled person.

- Someone you have had an argument with drops his/her books and you are the only one around to help.
- You are on your way to church, and your elderly neighbor asks you to help her find the lost key to her house.

### **BIBLE LESSON:**

Say: The lesson this week is taken from Matthew 17:24-27. We'll see how Jesus set the right example by paying the temple taxes.

Jesus and His disciples were in a place called Capernaum, when the collectors of the temple tax came to Peter, one of Jesus' disciples. They said to Peter, "Doesn't your Teacher, Jesus, pay the temple tax?"

"Yes, He does," Peter replied.

Ask: What do you suppose is meant by "temple tax"?

Say: It is money that the people of that day had to pay to help keep the temple in good condition.

Peter went immediately to talk to Jesus about the matter of paying the temple taxes. However, Jesus knew exactly what Peter was going to say before he said anything. As Peter was about to speak to Jesus, Jesus asked him, "From whom do kings collect taxes and money to help run the country—from their own sons or from others?"

"From others," Peter answered.

"Then the sons are free," Jesus said to him. "However, we don't want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a coin. Take that coin and pay the tax collectors for you and for me."

Jesus wanted to set a right example by paying the temple taxes. He knew that He was the future King and as a member of the Royal Family He should not have to pay taxes. However, He realized that He could offend others if he did not pay. So he made sure that He and Peter set the right example for the tax collectors and others.

Just as Jesus set the right example, you can also set a good example for others. Even little children can choose to do the right thing in difficult situations or even go above what is required of you. You proved this when you acted out the situations given at the beginning of the lesson.

**LESSON APPLICATION:**

Unscramble the words on the left to find the answer to the quiz on the right.

THMATWE	You would find today's lesson in me. _____
REPET	I went to talk to Jesus about paying taxes. _____
SUEJS	I set the right example. _____
SIHF	A coin was found in my mouth. _____
CINO	I was used to pay the temple taxes. _____
MELPET EAXTS	Peter paid me to the tax collectors. _____

**MUSIC:**

Sing the following words to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

"Shine, Shine, Shine Your Light"

Shine, shine, shine your light,  
Everywhere you go.  
In what you say and what you do,  
Your light will always show.

Do, do, do what's right.  
All your friends will know  
To count on you to do what's right—  
So keep your light aglow!

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Proverbs 20:11 "Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right."

# *family activity*

## **THE POINT:**

To emphasize the importance of setting the right example, by the story of the coin in the fish.

## **ASK ME...**

- What did the tax collectors ask Peter?
- What did Jesus ask Peter to do?
- What is the temple tax?
- Why is it important to set the right example?

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Talk about ways your family (as a whole and individually) can set the right example. Think about simple everyday situations as well as the unusual. Encourage the children in their efforts to do the right thing.

Read about Daniel who set the right example and gained the respect of King Darius (Daniel 6).

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

Proverbs 20:10 "Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right."