

## Sunday Teacher's Lesson for

# Life of Christ

## Jesus keeps a promise

## Matt. 17:24-27

### Younger Verse

Call to me and I will answer you. Jeremiah 33:3

### Older Verse

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3

### Welcome Time

Have you ever promised your mom that you would do something like clean up your room, wash the dishes or take out the trash? Did you do it? Today we are going to meet some people who kept their promises.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

When Jesus and His friends came to a town called Capernaum (Ca-per-ne-um), a collector of taxes asked Peter if Jesus was going to pay the temple tax. People collected taxes for the king to have money to build buildings or make roads.

Peter told the man that Jesus would pay the tax. He knew that he must tell Jesus that the tax was due.

When Peter came into the room, Jesus already knew what was on his mind. Jesus asked Peter a question, "Do kings get tax money from their sons, or from others?"

Peter answered, "From others." He knew that a king would make sure his own family did not have to pay taxes.

Jesus said, "You're right. The king's family would never have to pay taxes."

Jesus said this because He was trying to help Peter see that He was God's son. He was the King's Son. He should not have had to pay taxes because of who He was.

Jesus did a strange thing—He told Peter to pay the tax anyway. Why? So that they would not be upset and also to keep a promise.

Jesus knew that some people did not understand who He was. They would be upset if He didn't pay the tax—especially because He always talked about following God and doing what He said. This act helped them see that He kept His promise and He cared for them.

Well, Jesus did not have any money. So what would they do?

This is what Jesus told Peter to do. He told Peter to go to the lake and throw out a line to catch fish. When he caught the first fish, he was to open its mouth. There would be a surprise inside. It would be a coin that would pay all the tax—both Peter's

### Lesson Goals

Understand what it means to keep your promises

Explain how God kept His word and sent Jesus to help us go to Heaven

and Jesus' tax.

Peter did what Jesus said. Sure enough, there was a coin in the fish. It was enough to pay for both of their taxes. Jesus cared about Peter too!

There are several things in this short story that help us learn more about Jesus. First, Jesus was not rich. In fact, He probably didn't even have the money for the tax. Peter had to fish for it. Second, He kept His word (promise) and paid His tax. Third, Jesus helped Peter learn a lesson on faith and trust—He had to believe Jesus and fish for the coin. Fourth, Jesus told Peter that He was the King's Son. He helped His friends see that He was God's son.

Jesus kept another promise too. God told us long ago that He would make a way for all people to go to Heaven. God planned a special way that would not be easy. He knew that the only way for people to come to Heaven would be if someone took their punishment for them, cleaning all the dirt from their lives. Jesus did that! He died for all the bad things we have done. Bad things are not just killing someone or doing another bad crime. Bad things are ANY thing bad/wrong that we do or even think! That means that every person in the whole world has done wrong.

Is there any hope for all of us? Yes! Jesus didn't just stay dead. He came back to life. This means that if we believe in Him, our bad things are buried/gone, and now we want to live a new life with Jesus. We don't want to do wrong things again (and if we do, He will forgive us.)

If you want to know how you can go to Heaven, please talk to me.

#### Learning Activities

Try activities to help the kids see how Jesus cares for us.

#### Memory Verse Activities

Try putting hand motions to the verse to help the kids learn it!

#### Prayer Time

Pray that each person can keep his promise this week. Pray that they will live like Jesus and like others the way He wants us too.

#### Snack Time/CleanUp

You may want to serve "goldfish" snacks, gummy fish, or chocolate coins. This would be a fun way to help the kids remember the lesson. Another idea is to serve "fish food" (your snacks with a new name).

Planning for August 31st  
A story about a lost sheep  
Matthew 18:10-14

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Jesus gets money

Jesus and His friends walked along many sandy roads to help people know who God really was. They told many people how much God loved them.

One day, it was time to pay the country tax. That means that the people had to pay a coin to the king so that he could build beautiful buildings and roads for the city.

Jesus told Peter to go to the lake and throw out a line to catch fish. When he caught the first fish, he was to open its mouth. There was a surprise inside! There were 2 coins to pay for Jesus' and Peter's taxes!

Jesus knew it was important to obey the laws. He promised to pay His tax and He kept His promise.

When we promise to do things, we need to keep our promises too!

Sing this song to the tune of "Oh my Darling."

Keep a promise, keep a promise, keep a promise to your friends.

Keep a promise to your parents it will help you in the end.

Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you, yes He does.

He kept His promise because He loves us. We must keep our promises too.

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## Hands-On Activities For Jesus pays Taxes

You may want to pretend that each person is Peter. Take turns throwing a fishing line over a blanket (held up by two people). Have one of the blanket holders attach a fish and coin to the line. Signal the person to reel his fish in. Surprise! There is a coin inside.

Bring clothes pins for each person. Cut out fish shapes and glue to both sides of the clothes pin (have the fish's mouth be positioned where the clothes pin opens). Open the clothes pin and place a paper "coin" in the fish's mouth!

Cut out fish shapes with the words of the verse on them. Let the kids "fish" for the verse in the correct order.

Make coin rubbings. Bring coins, paper and pencils. Place the paper over the coins and rub with the pencil.