

Stowmarket Baptist Church

THURSDAY BIBLE CLUB

18 JUNE 2020

We hope that you enjoy this week's Bible story.

We are praying that you are all kept safe that that we can all meet up again on a Thursday soon.

Hello...

I've been walking along some of the footpaths in the countryside and the other day I saw some baby lambs. They have now grown quite a lot, but they still look cute.



Our story today has another animal in it...I hope you enjoy reading it and learning more about Jesus.

Love Liz

We have been looking at lots of the miracles that the Bible tells us Jesus did, whilst He was here on earth. How many can you remember? Can you join the right words together?

Jesus turned water into

was made alive

Blind Bartimaeus

who Jesus healed

Widow of Nain's son, who died,

the storm

Peter's sick mother in law,

centurion's servant

Stilling

healed and walked home

Paralysed man was

could see again

The healing of the

wine at the wedding

And The lady who touched the hem of Jesus' cloak and was healed

Jesus did lots of miracles and today's story is about Peter, a fish and a coin! It is found in Matthew 17 verses 24-27, which says:

²⁴ After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?"

²⁵ "Yes, he does," he replied.

When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth

collect duty and taxes—from their own children or from others?"

²⁶ "From others," Peter answered.

"Then the children are exempt," Jesus said to him. ²⁷ "But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

Peter was one of Jesus' disciples and a good fisherman. He often took his boat out on the big lake, called the Sea of Galilee. He caught lots of fish in his nets and he and his brother Andrew would be fishing at night, come back to land and sell the fish before going home for a rest. But they always had to clean and sometimes mend their nets before going out again the next night.

In Jesus' day there were official people whose job it was to collect the temple tax. The temple was like our church and a place where people went to meet with God and worship Him. They asked everyone to pay some money so that they could look after the building and keep it looking pleasant and clean.

The officials asked Peter, "Does Jesus pay the temple tax?"

Now, Peter should have let Jesus answer that question, but Peter quickly said "Yes, He will."

Peter hadn't really thought about the matter.

The temple was God's house and Jesus, as God's Son, didn't have to pay for His Father's house.

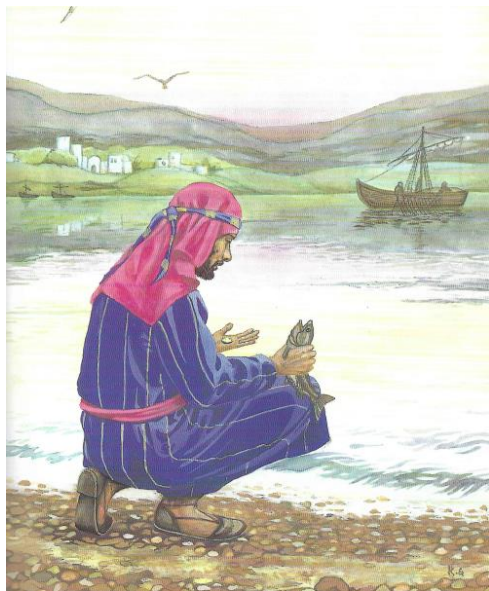
Shortly afterwards, Peter joined Jesus in a house and Jesus asked him a question. "Peter, do the earthly kings take tax from their sons or from the people who live in the country?"

Peter knew the answer to this question "It's from the people who live in the country." Kings would never collect money from their own sons and therefore Jesus told Peter that the sons are free!

Oh...Peter realised that Jesus was God's son and didn't have to pay the tax, but the officials would be cross and Peter felt sad.

But Jesus is always kind. Jesus knew Peter and worried and troubled about paying this money.

Jesus told Peter to take his fishing hook, to go to the Sea of Galilee and start fishing. The first fish that comes up, take it and look in its mouth.



Peter was a good fisherman, he often caught lots of fish, but he never spent time looking in their mouths! What would be there?

But Peter obeyed Jesus. He went to the lake and threw in the hook. Remember it is important that we listen to Jesus and obey Him, too.

Peter quickly caught a fish, he did what Jesus said and in its mouth was a coin! It was the exact amount that was needed to pay the temple tax for Jesus and Peter.

Peter was really happy. I'm sure he ran really quickly to the official's house and paid him the money.

There are some difficult things to understand in this story,

- How did the coin get into the fish?
- Did the fish swallow the coin?

We don't know, but Jesus knew and He knows all about us, everything about us all!!

Do you remember the big fish that swallowed Jonah, the lions who had their mouths closed so Daniel was safe and the ravens that brought meat to Elijah, so he could eat?

Jesus knew the money was there and Jesus knows all our needs and the Bible reminds us that:

God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4v19).

That tells us about the greatest need we have, which is to have our sin forgiven, so we can be a friend of Jesus. Jesus died on the cross, so we can be forgiven, don't forget to say thank you!

Dear Lord

Thank you for the way you know all our needs and you sent Jesus to die, so that we can be forgiven and become your friend.

Please help me to listen to you and obey you, just like Peter did. Amen.