

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 2

Today's Bible Story: Coin in the Fish's Mouth • Matthew 17:24-27
Jesus can do things no one else can do.

Key Question: Who is amazing?

Bottom Line: Jesus is amazing.

Memory Verse: *"We have seen amazing things today!"* (Luke 5:26 NLT)

Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags:

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Fishy Find

- Blue shredded paper
- Sensory tub

Coin Hunt Surprise*-ONLY FOR SF AND North

- playdoh

Lesson Activities

Memory Verse Activity- What's in the Fish?

- crayons

Bible Story Review- Act It Out: The Coin in the Fish

Application Activity- Silver Coin

- Insert the straw into the balloon and inflate it with air.

Journal and Prayer

Bible Story Summary

Coin in the Fish's Mouth

Some men ask Peter if Jesus pays the temple tax. Peter says "Yes!" and then he quickly goes to ask Jesus about paying the tax. But before Peter can even ask Jesus about it, Jesus tells him what to do. Jesus tells Peter to go fishing and he will find a silver coin inside the first fish he catches. So, Peter goes fishing. And when he catches a fish and looks inside its mouth, he sees a silver coin—just like Jesus said! Jesus did something no one else can do. Jesus is amazing!

Social - BEFORE Bible Story

1. Fishy Find

What You Need:

- Small plastic tub of blue shredded paper
- Plastic toy fish, some with dot drawn on them
- spoons

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Fill a plastic tub with blue shredded paper and place the toy fish inside. Place small nets, spoons, or tongs nearby.

During the Activity: Gather the children around the tub and explain that they will take turns “fishing” for the special fish. Each child can scoop, pick up, or grab a fish from the tub. When they find one with a dot drawn on it, celebrate and show the group. Continue until everyone has had a turn. Repeat as time and interest desired.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, today we get to go fishing! Look at all these fish! Some fish have a special circle on them. When it’s your turn, pick up a fish and see if you can find the one with the circle.”

During the Activity: “[Child’s name], pick a fish! *(Pause.)* Look on the back, does your fish have a circle? *(Pause for response.)* Wow, you found a fish with a circle! Amazing job! Let’s keep fishing! [Child’s name], it’s your turn to pick a fish! Keep fishing, friends! *(Continue until each child has a turn.)* That was so fun fishing with you today! If you found a fish with the circle, hold it up high in the air. *(Pause.)* Hooray! You found the special fish!”

After the Activity: “In our Bible Story today, we’ll hear about a special fish that Peter caught! Let’s go hear what was so special about this fish.”

2. Coin Hunt Surprise*- ONLY FOR SF AND North

What You Need:

- Play-Doh®
- Large plastic coin
- Plastic tray

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Prepare several small-to-medium balls of Play-Doh and hide a coin inside just one of them. Place all the Play-Doh balls together on a tray so children can choose.

During the Activity: Invite children to squish and open a Play-Doh ball to see what's inside. Encourage them to take turns and celebrate when they find the ball with the coin hidden inside. Continue until everyone has had a turn exploring the Play-Doh.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, today we are going to play a fun game with Play-Doh. Some of these balls are just squishy fun, but one of these Play-Doh balls has something very special hidden inside. We are going to squish them all until we find the one with something inside. I wonder who will find it!"

During the Activity: "You each have a Play-Doh ball! Is everyone ready to see what's inside! Ok, let's squish the Play-Doh! Is there anything inside? [Child's name], did you find anything inside your Play-Doh? (*Pause for response.*) [Child's name], did you find anything inside your Play-Doh? (*Pause for response.*) Let's keep looking. Wow! [Child's name], you found the one with something inside! Do you know what it is? (*Pause for response.*) Yes! It's a coin! You found a coin inside the Play-Doh, great job!"

After the Activity: "That was really fun! Now let's go hear our Bible Story today and find out where a man named Peter found a coin!"

Activities after Bible Story

1. Memory Verse Activity- What's in the Fish?



What You Need:

- "What's in the Fish?" Activity Page
- Crayons
- Plastic coins

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Review the Memory Verse with the Hand Motions.

During the Activity: Show children how to place the coin under the page and use the side of the crayon to rub over it so the coin design shows through. Then encourage children to rub the coins under their paper. Remind them they are "finding" coins just like Peter did in the Bible Story. As they work, practice saying the verse together.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, let's practice doing the motions as we say our Memory Verse. Everybody ready? Say it with me: 'We have seen (*point to self*) amazing things today! (*Hands like binoculars, open and shut.*) Luke 5:26 (*open hands like a book*). Nice job!"

During the Activity: "Today we're going to use our crayons to make something appear! Put a coin on the table and then place your paper on top. (*Pause.*) Now watch what happens to my picture when I rub this crayon over it. (*Demonstrate.*) Look! A coin shows up! It was inside the fish just like in our Bible Story! Now you try! (*Pause.*) Great job finding the coin! That was amazing, Jesus is amazing!"

After the Activity: "The Bible teaches us that Peter found a coin inside the mouth of a fish, just like Jesus said he would. Jesus can do things no one else can do. That's because Jesus is amazing! **Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- Tape the coin to the back of the page.

2. Bible Story Review Activity- Act It Out: The Coin in the Fish

What You Need:

- “Act It Out” Activity Page with yarn laced through each
- toy fish
- Large toy coin

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the toy fish and coin nearby, ready for use.

During the Activity: Invite four children at a time to wear the character pictures and act out the Bible Story. Assign roles: one child is Jesus, one is Peter, and two are tax collectors. The child who is Peter will pretend to go fishing with the foam fish, look inside its mouth, and pull out the coin. The child who is Jesus can say the words of Jesus, and the tax collectors can ask about the temple tax. Walk the children through the story step-by-step, guiding them with simple prompts and actions. Rotate groups so more children have a chance to participate.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, we’re going to pretend to be the people in our Bible Story today. I have pictures of Jesus, Peter, and the tax collectors we get to wear and this toy fish with a coin to help us act it out!”

During the Activity: “[Child’s name], you are going to be Jesus. Everyone say, ‘Hi, Jesus.’ (*With children.*) ‘Hi, Jesus’. [Child’s name], you are going to be Peter. Everyone say, ‘Hi, Peter.’ (*With children.*) ‘Hi, Peter’. [Child’s name] and [Child’s name], you are going to be tax collectors. Everyone say, ‘Hi, tax collectors.’ (*With children.*) ‘Hi, tax collectors.’ Now, here come the tax collectors. (*Have ‘tax collectors’ move to ‘Peter.’ Guide children’s dialogue as needed.*) ‘Does Jesus pay the temple tax?’ (*Peter.*) ‘Yes!’ (*Have ‘Peter’ walk to ‘Jesus’ and before ‘Peter’ even asks,*) Jesus tells Peter: ‘Go fishing. The first fish you catch, look in its mouth.’ (*Let ‘Peter’ pretend to fish, then look in the fish’s mouth and pull out the coin.*) What is inside the fish, Peter? A coin! Wow! Just like Jesus said. There is a coin inside the fish! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**” (*Repeat with other groups of children until every child has a turn.*)

After the Activity: “Great job acting out the story, friends! Peter found the coin inside the fish, just like Jesus said he would. Jesus is God’s Son, and He can do things no one else can do. That’s because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**”

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- Have children sit in chairs wearing the character necklaces if standing is challenging.
- Use lightweight, soft props for children who may not want to hold harder items like a plastic coin or fish.
- Show story images as visual cue cards to remind children what happens next in the story.

3. Application Activity- Silver Coin

What You Need:

- Silver circle/round mylar balloon
- Plastic drinking straw
- Painter's tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place a long, straight tape line on the floor in the middle of the room. Insert the straw into the balloon and inflate it with air.

During the Activity: Divide children into two groups and position them on either side of the tape line. Encourage children to bop the balloon back and forth over the line to each other.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, let's play a game with this silver balloon. Let's pretend it's a really big silver coin like in our story today."

During the Activity: "We need to make two teams, one team on this side of the tape, and the other team on that side. We are going to bop the coin back and forth like this. (*Bop the balloon to the other side and encourage a child to bop it back.*) Everybody ready? Great! Let's play! (*Pause.*) Wow! Super-duper! That was a really fun game!"

After the Activity: "In our Bible Story today, Jesus told Peter to go fishing. Jesus told Peter to open the mouth of the first fish he caught, and there would be a coin inside! Peter did what Jesus said and found the silver coin! Jesus can do things no one else can do because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- Have an adult partner with a child who may need extra support.

4. Journal and Prayer

What You Need:

- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Encourage the children to pretend they are fishing as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of amazing things.

After the Activity: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “It’s Small Group time! Today we’re going to pretend to go fishing. Hold your pretend fishing poles up and cast your line like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Now let’s fish and walk together to our Small Group spot. (*Pretend to cast your fishing line out into the water, then use the other hand to reel it in.*) Now cast your fishing line and follow me! (*Encourage the children to reel their line in and recast as desired as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) That was fun! Now let’s sit down so we can talk about today’s Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!”

During the Activity: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) “In our Bible Story, Jesus did something that only He can do. Do you remember what Jesus did? (*Pause.*) Yes! Jesus told Peter to go to the lake to catch a fish. The first fish he catches will have a large silver coin in its mouth. Jesus told Peter to take that coin and pay both the temple tax. Everything happened just like Jesus said it would. Jesus is amazing! That’s why when I ask you, ‘**Who is amazing?**’ you can say, **[Bottom Line] ‘Jesus is amazing!’** Ready? **Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**

“The Bible verse we’re learning says: ‘We have seen (*point to self*) amazing things today!’ (*Hands like binoculars, open and shut.*) Luke 5:26 (*open hands like a book*). Let’s say that together! Stand up and say what I say and do what I do! Ready? ‘We have seen (*point to self*) amazing things today!’ (*Hands like binoculars, open and shut.*) Luke 5:26 (*open hands like a book*).

“Way to go! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, we’ll make a list of things we think are amazing. It can be anything that makes you say, ‘WOW!’ Maybe it’s watching an airplane fly, or someone who runs super fast. Whatever you think is amazing, tell me when I say your name, and I’ll write it in our journal.” (*Say each child’s name and write down what they say beside their names in the journal. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

After the Activity: “Thanks for helping me make this list. (*Hold up the journal for the children to see.*) These are some pretty amazing things. Now I’ll write ‘Jesus’ really big over our list because Jesus is the MOST amazing! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our AMAZING friend forever. Jesus really is amazing! Our list is full of amazing things (*read the list you made with the children*), but Jesus is the most amazing of them all! We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”