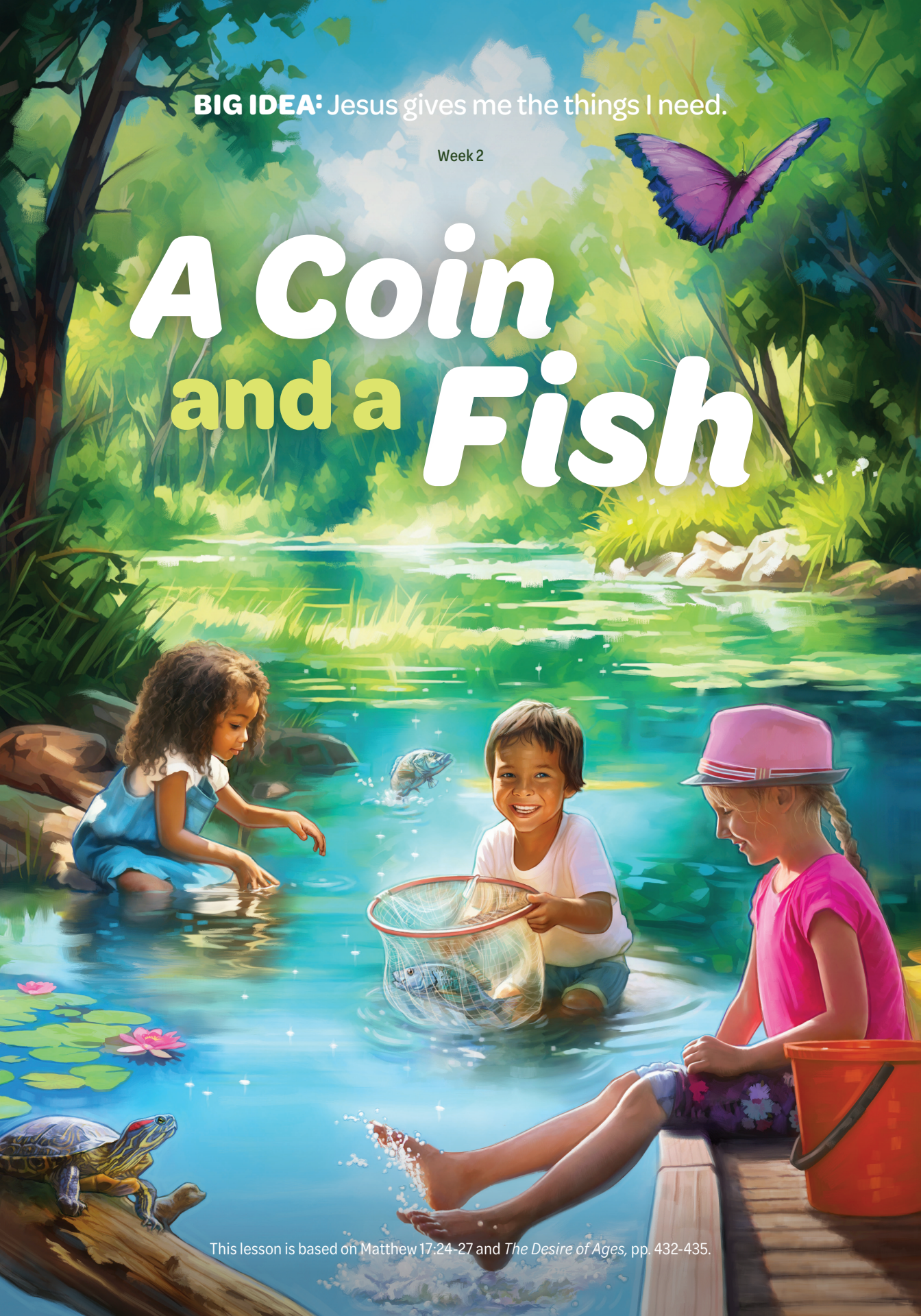
BIG IDEA: Jesus gives me the things I need.

Week 2

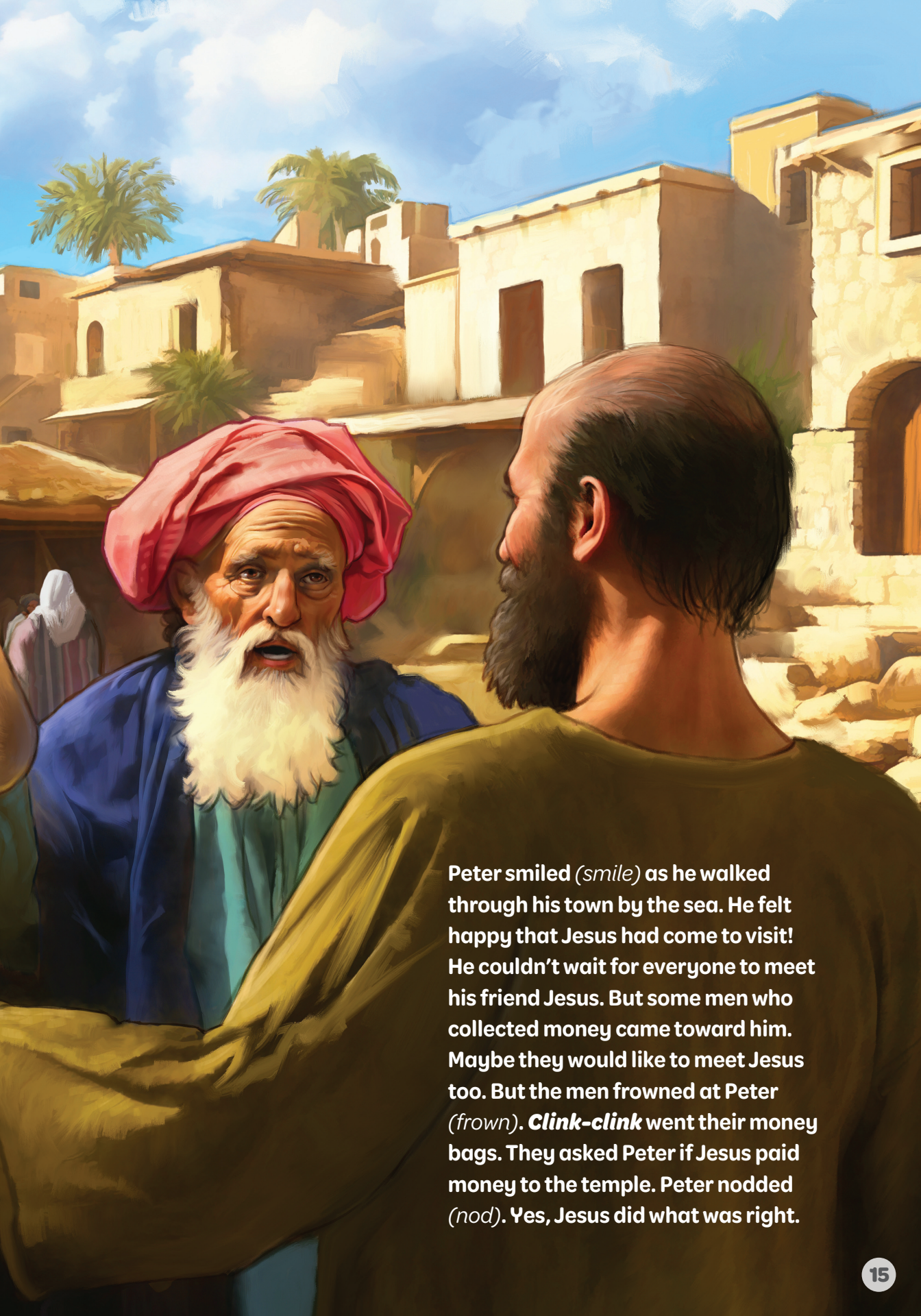
A Coin and a Fish



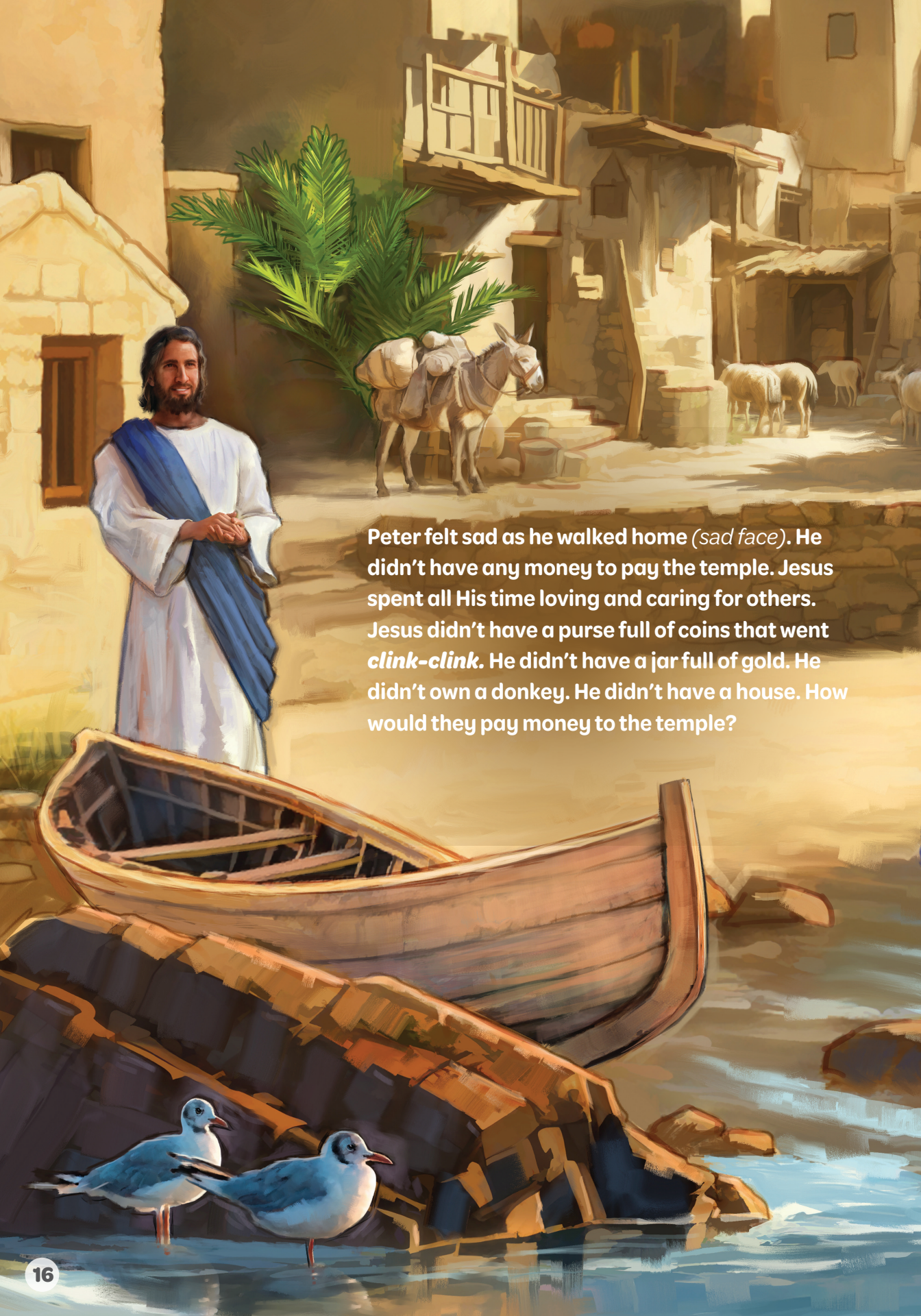
This lesson is based on Matthew 17:24-27 and *The Desire of Ages,* pp. 432-435.



Splish-splash went the water on the sparkling Sea of Galilee. All was still. Then ***splish-splash*** went the water again. What made the water splish and splash? It was a fish! A fish jumped through the water. What fun! This fish would be Jesus' special helper today.



Peter smiled *(smile)* **as he walked through his town by the sea. He felt happy that Jesus had come to visit! He couldn't wait for everyone to meet his friend Jesus. But some men who collected money came toward him. Maybe they would like to meet Jesus too. But the men frowned at Peter** *(frown)*. ***Clink-clink*** **went their money bags. They asked Peter if Jesus paid money to the temple. Peter nodded** *(nod)*. **Yes, Jesus did what was right.**



Peter felt sad as he walked home *(sad face)*. He didn't have any money to pay the temple. Jesus spent all His time loving and caring for others. Jesus didn't have a purse full of coins that went ***clink-clink.*** He didn't have a jar full of gold. He didn't own a donkey. He didn't have a house. How would they pay money to the temple?



Jesus smiled at Peter. He knew just where to find the money. It wasn't in a purse. It wasn't in a jar. Peter's eyes opened wide in surprise as Jesus told him what to do. Then Peter obeyed. He went fishing!

He threw the fishing line into the water. ***Plop!*** Down, down, down it went. Peter quietly waited for a fish. ***Tug, tug, tug . . .*** Oh, he'd caught one! He pulled the fish up out of the water and opened its mouth. There it was—a bright, shiny coin! Peter found the money exactly where Jesus said he would—in the mouth of a fish!



Jesus is amazing! He put the bright shiny coin in the fish's mouth. He knew where Peter would find the money to pay the temple. Jesus' friends saw that even the fish obey Him! Jesus cared for Peter.

Jesus cares for me too. He gives me all I need.

(Say together) **Thank You, Jesus, for giving me the things I need.**

play throughout the Day

Create

Create a collage using colorful paper or crepe paper to make a fish. Glue scales on to the shape of a fish. Cut out a coin and place it in the fish's mouth. Place it where your child can see it throughout the week.

Play

Use your fishing magnets from last week (paper clips attached to fish; a magnet on a string) to play a fishing game. Hide a little coin behind one of the fish's heads and mix them all up. Take turns trying to catch the fish with the hidden coin.

Learn

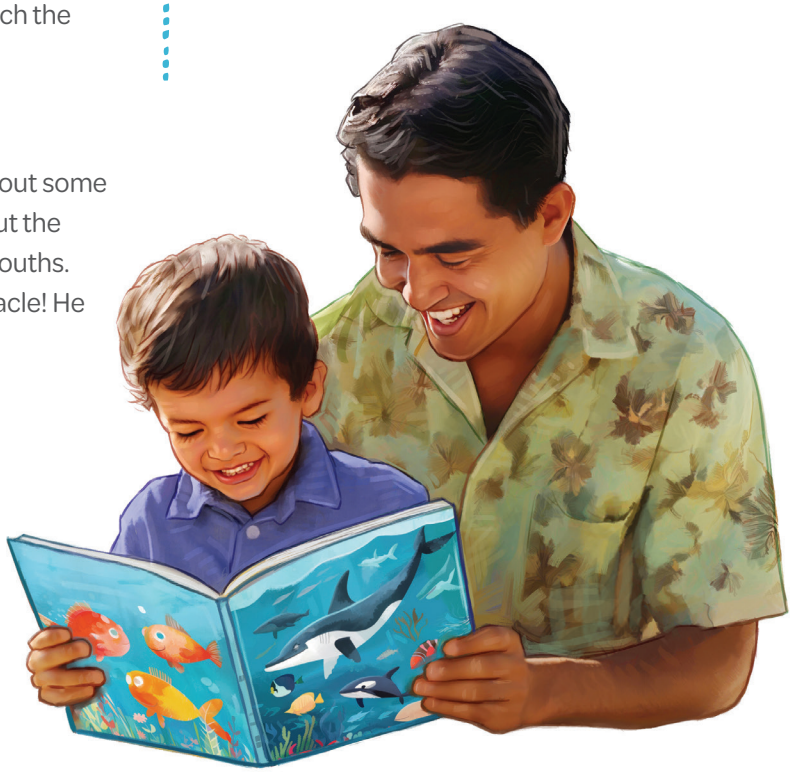
Take a trip to the library and check out some ocean and sea-life books. Talk about the chances of finding coins in fish's mouths. Jesus really did do an amazing miracle! He will certainly look after you too!

Explore

Draw simple pictures of some of the things God has provided for you (for example, food, water, home, caring family, friends, etc.). Make two copies of each picture and play a game of memory with older toddlers. At the end of the game, thank God for each of the pictures and for caring for your family.

Pray

Talk about some of the pictures you drew of things God has given you. Ask your child to choose one of the pictures, then pray a "Thank You" prayer to God. Have others in the family choose one too, each thanking God for giving us what we need.



Extension weekly memory verse: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

Worry. Oh, how it can consume, and drain, and steal. It has a habit of making the present look bleak and stormy. How much of our lives do we spend at the mercy of worry? Finances, schooling, technology, homes, mortgages, work, the future, the current world climate, and of course, are we being good enough parents who are giving our children what they need?

The thing about worry though, is that it is based on our own self-reliance. When we try to control things, we realize the sum of our failings. Anxiety sets in, and suddenly the worries multiply and grow like weeds. "Worry is blind and cannot discern the future. But Jesus sees the end from the beginning, and He has prepared His way to bring relief. 'So much to do!' Yes; but who is the chief worker? Jesus Christ your Lord. He offers to lighten the loads we carry by putting Himself under the loads. Abiding in Christ, and Christ abiding in us, we can do all things through Him, who strengthens us" (Ellen G. White, *Christian Leadership*, p. 77).

Jesus is so wonderfully able to take our worries away and provide the things we need in amazing ways (even a coin in a fish!). He desires for you to live a free life, and He wants to take the load of your burdens from you. Prayerfully give your worries to Him this week and watch the miraculous ways He will provide.

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. . . . Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?" (Matthew 6:25-27).

