

Sunday, October 19, 2008
23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation:

Read the Gospel for the day over – [Matthew 22: 15-22](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out at you.

Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yeara/propera24.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/kids-pay-taxes.html>

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/a-or29sxse.php> - scroll down to find the children's time story

http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children/classmat/render_unto_caesar.htm

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pent21mles.htm>

Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

White candle

Bible & Bookmark

Green cloth (optional)

Newsprint and markers

Newspaper or magazine, wooden spoon, calculator, pen or pencil, dictionary and any other ordinary objects that might be useful

Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. If you have the green cloth put it down and place the candle on it and put the Bible near the candle (you may want to let the children help with this). Write the prayer up on the newsprint so that everyone can see it. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

**Loving God be with us today,
Loving Jesus be with us today,
Loving Spirit be with us today,
Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Lay out all the different objects that you brought with you. Ask the children who they think the objects might belong to or who would use them. As they answer the question ask them to tell you how they knew who the object belonged to or who might use it. (*Some possible answers might be that they have seen someone use the object or they know someone who works with the object in question.*) In today's story the children are going to hear how some of the leaders in the temple tried to trick Jesus with an everyday object.

Story Time:

Materials needed: variety of coins – quarters, dollars, etc.

Have the children sit together in a circle – either around a table or comfortably on the floor. Ask the children the following series of questions – do not worry about right or wrong answers.

1. Where is God?
2. How many Christians are there in the world?
3. Do we know how many people are in the world?
4. Name all the people who love you.

When Jesus was in the temple teaching the people one of the ways that he taught the people was by asking and answering questions about all kinds of things. Here is a question that some of the leaders asked Jesus.

The Pharisees were a group of religious leaders in the temple. They decided that they needed to find a way to trap Jesus. So they sent some of their followers over to him.

One of them said, “Teacher, we know that you tell the truth. We know that you share God’s way with everyone. We know that you treat everyone the same. We would like to know what you think. Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to the emperor or not?”

Jesus, who was aware that they were trying to trick him, replied, “Why are you trying to trick me? Show me a coin.”

They gave Jesus a coin that was used by everybody. *(Pass a coin or coins around to the children.)* Jesus looked carefully at the coin. He said to them, “Whose image is on the coin? Whose head is this? Whose name is on here?”

They had no choice but to give a true answer. They said, “The emperor’s image.” *(Have the children tell you whose image is on the coin they have been looking at.)*

“Well”, said Jesus, “then give to the emperor’s what is the emperor’s and give to God what is God’s.”

When the Pharisees and their followers heard this, they were amazed. They left Jesus and went their own way.

Ask the children the following question before moving on to the response time.

When Jesus told the people in the temple to give to God what is God’s what do you think we should be giving to God?

Response:

Idea #1: Coins for God

This will be a great way to start a mission project with the children. Outreach is an important way that Christians demonstrate their faith to others.

Materials needed: coin box shape at end of lesson, card stock, scissors, sharp knife, strong tape, stickers and markers

Instructions: Choose a mission project you want to support with the children or use one that your parish is already supporting. Copy the coin box shape onto the card stock. For younger children cut the box shape out on the solid lines. You may want to let older children to do this themselves. In order to show the children how to make a box, you will probably want to make one up ahead of time. Fold the box on the dotted lines. Using the flaps, on the four outside squares of the box, attach them to each other with the strong tape. Using the sharp knife cut a slit into the top of the box. Have the children decorate their boxes with the stickers and the markers. Invite the children to take their boxes home and invite their families to join them in putting their loose change in the boxes over the next few weeks. Remind the children that this fits with giving to God what is God's. Mark on your calendar Sunday, November 23 (the last Sunday of the church year) as the Sunday to bring the boxes back to church for collection.

Idea #2: Coin Mural

This will be a way for the children to share with the congregation the learnings they have made about what is God's in the world.

Material needed: poster board, scissors, magazines, glue, and markers

Instructions: Cut the largest circle possible out of the poster board. Write in the middle of it **GIVE TO GOD WHAT IS GOD'S**. Spread the magazines out where the children can see them. Invite them to look for pictures that show what we should be giving to God – it might help to suggest to the children that giving to God is by sharing our wealth with those who are in need, so looking for pictures of food, clothing and other items that can be shared would be good. Work with the children to create the mural and then decide where it should be placed to share with others in the congregation.

Idea #3: Question Box

In today's story the children heard a variety of questions – questions that were asked of Jesus, questions that Jesus asked, questions that were directed at them. With this idea they can submit questions that they would like answered.

Materials needed: shoebox with lid, wrapping paper, markers, stickers, glue, scissors, pencils or pens and white paper

Instructions: With the children cover the shoebox with the wrapping paper. Decorate it with the stickers. Print on the top of the box **OUR QUESTIONS**. Give the children paper and a pencil or pen. Talk with the children about what questions about God, Jesus, their church or others that they would like to have answers to. Help those that need it to write their questions on the paper. Invite the children to place them in the box. Let them know that you will try to find the answers to their questions. You may want to keep the box around for a while and encourage the children to add to it over time.

Closing:

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Thank you God for our time together,
Thank you Jesus for being our friend,
Thank you Spirit for showing us the way,
Amen.**

Coin Box Shape

