

# 3-5's | W2

## 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

*Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.*

### Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### Small Group (15 minutes)

#### Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Toss to the Fish

Fishy Find

Coin Hunt Surprise\*

### Large Group (20 minutes)

#### Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

#### Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

### Small Group (25 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

What's in the Fish?

Act It Out: The Coin in the Fish

Coin Drop Wonders

Silver Coin

Coin in the Fish's Mouth

Journal and Prayer

### Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

### \*Allergy Alert



### 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





15 min

# Social

5 min

## Toss to the Fish | Made to Move

### What You Need

	Butcher paper	1
	Permanent marker	1
	Painter's tape	1
	Silver paper plates	Several

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Draw a large fish with its mouth open wide on the butcher paper and tape to the floor to secure.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to toss their paper plate toward the fish and try to get it in the fish's mouth.

*After the Activity:* Introduce the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, look at this fun game I have for us to play. Do you know what animal this is? Yes, it's a fish! We have this really big fish on the floor, and look, it has a big open mouth. Can you open your mouth big like this fish? Great job! Let's pretend these plates are silver coins (give each child a plate) and we'll try to toss them into the fish's mouth."

*During the Activity:* "Let's see if we can get some of these coins in the fish's mouth. Ready?"







[Child's name], it's your turn. Can you toss your coin into the fish's mouth? Great job! Now, [child's name], it's your turn. Can you toss your coin into the fish's mouth? Wow, friends, you are doing great! Our coins are getting close to the fish's mouth. Let's keep playing! (*Collect and hand out all the "coins." Repeat as time or interest allows.*) Let's celebrate that we got some coins into the fish's mouth, hooray!"

*After the Activity:* "That was such a fun game! In our Bible Story today, we will hear about a fish and a coin and Jesus! Let's go hear what happens because Jesus can do amazing things!"

5 min

## Fishy Find | Made to Play

### What You Need

-  Small plastic tub or bin of water 1
-  Plastic toy fish Several
-  Circle dot stickers Several
-  Small nets, spoons, or tongs 1
-  Optional EveryChild Supplies: A shallow tray of blue rice or pom-poms in place of water for children who prefer dry sensory play Several
-  Optional EveryChild Supplies: Visual cue cards showing a fish and a coin, consider using <https://www.opensymbols.org/> to download images. 1



### EveryChild Tips

- Offer children a scoop, spoon, or small net to catch the fish instead of using their hands if fine motor skills are challenging
- Provide a dry option by filling a bin with blue rice, pom-poms, or paper fish for children who may not want to touch water.

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Fill a plastic tub or bin with water and place the toy fish inside. On a few fish, add a circle sticker to the bottom so children can look for the "special" fish. Place small nets, spoons, or tongs nearby. Keep a towel nearby for drying hands.

*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 circle sticker, 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."

5 min

## Coin Hunt Surprise\* | Made to Explore

### What You Need

	"Allergy Alert Poster"	1
	Cardstock	1
	Play-Doh®	1
	Large plastic coin	Several
	Plastic tray	1
	Optional EveryChild Supplies:- Rolling pin or craft stick	Several
	Optional EveryChild Supplies: Visual cue card showing a fish with a coin, consider using <a href="https://www.opensymbols.org/">https://www.opensymbols.org/</a> for images.	1



### EveryChild Tips

- Provide a rolling pin or craft stick for children who struggle with hand strength to press open the Play-Doh ball.

*Note: Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (in the Prelude folder) and post it at the door to your room.*

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy the "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Play-Doh, and post at the door. 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!"






30 min

# Groups

5 min

## What's in the Fish? | Made to Move

### What You Need

	"What's in the Fish?" Activity Page	Several
	Copy Paper	Several
	Crayons	Several
	Plastic or real coins	1
	Optional EveryChild Supplies: Tape	1



### EveryChild Tips

Tape the coin to the back of the page.

*Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.*

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy "What's in the Fish?" on copy paper, one per child and leader. 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!**"

5 min

## Act It Out: The Coin in the Fish | Made to Move

### What You Need

	"Act It Out" Activity Page	2
	Cardstock	1
	Yarn, string or ribbon	1
	Foam or toy fish	1
	Large toy coin	1
	Hole punch	1
	Scissors	Several
	Optional EveryChild Supplies: Story Images	1
	Optional EveryChild Supplies: Plush or lightweight stuffed fish for children who need softer props	1



### EveryChild 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.

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy "Act It Out" on cardstock and cut one set per Small Group. Cut yarn in 36-inch lengths, four per Small Group. Punch a hole at the top of each cutout and thread a length of yarn through each and knot the ends. 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!**"

5 min

## Coin Drop Wonders | Made to Think

### What You Need

	Silver half-dollar coins (or other large coins)	1
	Droppers or pipettes	1
	Small cups of water	1
	Paper towels	1

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Place a silver half-dollar (or other large coin) on a tray or paper towel for each child or Small Group. Give each child a cup of water and a dropper. Demonstrate how to gently squeeze the dropper to add one drop of water onto the coin.

*During the Activity:* Invite the children to take turns slowly adding water drops onto their coin, one at a time, and counting together as they go. Watch as the water piles up and makes a dome shape without spilling over. Celebrate as the children notice how many drops the coin can hold.

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

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, today we're going to do something really fun with coins and water. Let's use these droppers and see how many drops of water we can fit on this coin before it spills over! How many drops do you think will fit on the coin? *(Pause for responses.)* Those are some good guesses! Let's find out how many drops will fit on these coins."

*During the Activity:* "Drop! Drop! Drop! Wow, look how the water is staying on top of the coin! Let's keep counting together and see how many we can get! [Child's name], how many drops fit on your coin? *(Pause for response.)* Is that the number that you guessed? *(Pause for response.)* Great job, everyone!"




*After the Activity:* "That was so fun! Were you surprised at how many drops of water fit on your coin? In our Bible Story, Peter found something surprising too! He found a coin inside the mouth of a fish! Jesus can do things no one else can do because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"



5 min

## Silver Coin | Made to Move

### What You Need

-  Silver circle/round mylar balloon      Several
-  Plastic drinking straw      Several
-  Painter's tape      1



### EveryChild Tips

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

### 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!**"



5 min

## Coin in the Fish's Mouth | Made to Create

### What You Need

	"Coin in the Fish's Mouth Label" Activity	1
	Page	
	Avery Labels #5160 or equivalent	Several
	Blue pool noodles	Several
	Blue pipe cleaners	Several
	Large silver toy coins	1
	Googly eye stickers	Several
	Scissors	1
	Permanent marker	1

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy "Coin in the Fish's Mouth Label" on label paper, one per child. Cut pool noodles into 1 ½ - 2-inch slices, one per child and leader. Make a slit halfway through one side of each pool noodle. Write each child's name on their pool noodle slice.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to slide their coins into the slit of the pool noodle. Then have children poke the ends of their pipe cleaner on the opposite side of the pool noodle to create a tail. Ask children to add a googly eye sticker on one side, then flip it over and add their label.

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

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come to the table and let's create some fun story art to help you remember today's true story from the Bible!"




*During the Activity:* "Today we heard the story of the coin in the fish's mouth. That's what we are going to make today! Let's turn these pool noodle slices into a fish! There is a slit in the side of your slice. *(Help children find the slit.)* Slide the coin into the slit. *(Pause.)* Now poke your pipe cleaner into the other side of your pool noodle like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Now your fish has a tail! Add a googly eye sticker, then flip your fish over and add your label. *(Pause.)* Great job, this looks like the fish from our Bible Story! In our story, Peter knew that Jesus was the Son of God. One day, some men asked Peter if Jesus paid the temple tax. That's money that helps take care of the temple, the building where God's people worship. Peter went to Jesus, and Jesus told Peter exactly what to do. Jesus told Peter to go to the lake and catch a fish. Open the mouth of the first fish, and a large silver coin will be inside. Take that coin and pay the taxes for both of us. Peter did exactly what Jesus said."

*After the Activity:* "Everything happened just like Jesus said it would. Jesus is God's Son, and Jesus can do things that no one else can do because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**"

5 min

## Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

-  "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder 1
-  Journal 1
-  Fun-shaped pen 1

*Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.*

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Luke 5:26. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.* 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."

# Supplies

Toss to the Fish   Made to Move		Quantity
1.	Butcher paper	1
2.	Permanent marker	1
3.	Painter's tape	1
4.	Silver paper plates	Several

Fishy Find   Made to Play		Quantity
1.	Small plastic tub or bin of water	1
2.	Plastic toy fish	Several
3.	Circle dot stickers	Several
4.	Small nets, spoons, or tongs	1
5.	Optional EveryChild Supplies: A shallow tray of blue rice or pom-poms in place of water for children who prefer dry sensory play	Several
6.	Optional EveryChild Supplies: Visual cue cards showing a fish and a coin, consider using <a href="https://www.open-symbols.org/">https://www.open-symbols.org/</a> to download images.	1

Coin Drop Wonders   Made to Think		Quantity
1.	Silver half-dollar coins (or other large coins)	1
2.	Droppers or pipettes	1
3.	Small cups of water	1
4.	Paper towels	1

Silver Coin   Made to Move		Quantity
1.	Silver circle/round mylar balloon	Several
2.	Plastic drinking straw	Several
3.	Painter's tape	1

Coin in the Fish's Mouth   Made to Create		Quantity
1.	"Coin in the Fish's Mouth Label" Activity Page	1
2.	Avery Labels #5160 or equivalent	Several
3.	Blue pool noodles	Several
4.	Blue pipe cleaners	Several
5.	Large silver toy coins	1
6.	Googly eye stickers	Several
7.	Scissors	1
8.	Permanent marker	1

**Coin Hunt Surprise\* | Made to Explore****Quantity**

- |    |  |         |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | "Allergy Alert Poster"   | 1       |
| 2. | Cardstock  | 1       |
| 3. | Play-Doh®  | 1       |
| 4. | Large plastic coin   | Several |
| 5. | Plastic tray   | 1       |
| 6. | Optional EveryChild Supplies: Rolling pin or craft stick   | Several |
| 7. | Optional EveryChild Supplies: Visual cue card showing a fish with a coin, consider using <a href="https://www.open-symbols.org/">https://www.open-symbols.org/</a> for images. | 1       |

**What's in the Fish? | Made to Move****Quantity**

- |    |                                     |         |
|----|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | "What's in the Fish?" Activity Page | Several |
| 2. | Copy Paper                          | Several |
| 3. | Crayons                             | Several |
| 4. | Plastic or real coins               | 1       |
| 5. | Optional EveryChild Supplies: Tape  | 1       |

**Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect****Quantity**

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder | 1 |
| 2. | Journal                                  | 1 |
| 3. | Fun-shaped pen                           | 1 |

Act It Out: The Coin in the Fish   Made to Move		Quantity
1.	"Act It Out" Activity Page	2
2.	Cardstock	1
3.	Yarn, string or ribbon	1
4.	Foam or toy fish	1
5.	Large toy coin	1
6.	Hole punch	1
7.	Scissors	Several
8.	Optional EveryChild Supplies: Story Images	1
9.	Optional EveryChild Supplies: Plush or lightweight stuffed fish for children who need softer props	1