

Kids Pay Taxes, Too

Theme

What do we owe to God? We owe Him our all!

Object

A dollar bill or a coin with the image of a president or ruler imprinted on it.

Scripture

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21 (NIV)

Have you ever heard your parents or other adults complaining about having to pay taxes? You probably have. Most people are not too fond of having to pay taxes. Do any of you pay taxes? Well, it might surprise you to learn that kids pay taxes, too!

How many of you receive an allowance from your parents? Have any of you ever received some money as a birthday gift from your grandparents? How many of you have ever earned some money for doing some chores around the house? How many of you have ever bought anything with your very own money?

If you answered, "Yes" to any of these questions, you have probably paid some taxes. Did you know that every time you buy something, you pay a sales tax? In our state, that tax is about eight cents for every dollar you spend. I wonder what Jesus would say if we asked him whether kids should pay taxes? That is a tough question. If he answered, "Yes," all the kids would probably get mad at him. If he answered, "No," the politicians who make our laws would probably get mad at him because the state needs that money to operate. It seems that someone would get mad at him no matter which way he answered! It looks like a no-win situation, doesn't it?

Did you know that something like that actually happened? In Jesus' day, the people were required to pay a poll tax. It was not a very popular tax with the people. One day some religious

leaders came to Jesus and asked him if he thought the people should pay the poll tax. They were actually trying to trick Jesus, because they knew if he said, "Yes," the people would be angry. But if he said, "No," he would get into trouble with the authorities.

Jesus saw right through their plan and he did a very wise thing. He asked them for a coin, then he said, "Whose picture is on this coin?"

They answered, "It is Caesar." Caesar was the Roman ruler and all taxes had to be paid to him.

Jesus then said to them, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God."

Look at this dollar. Whose picture is on it? It is a picture of George Washington, our first president. What does it say right above his picture? It says, "The United States of America." Well, I guess that means that this dollar belongs to "George" and we will have to pay our taxes.

But what about God? Jesus also said "Give to God what belongs to God." The Bible says that we were created by God and that we were created in the image of God. If we are created by God, and we were created in His image, we must belong to Him. That means we must give ourselves to Him!

Dear Father, you created us in your image and we belong to you. Because of that, we give our hearts and lives to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Group Activities

Sermon Title: "Kids Pay Taxes Too"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:21

MONEY SCRAMBLE:

Scatter real or play money around a designated area. Have the children scramble to get as many coins as they can in the time allotted. Then the children will scramble to form groups with children who have similar coins. For example, all children with dimes will be in one group, those with nickels in another group, and those with pennies in another group. The group that assembles the quickest will be the winners.

BLINDFOLD MONEY GAME:

Blindfold 2 children at a time and have some coins in front of each player in a bowl or box. Tell children to quickly find a quarter and see who finds it first; then tell children to find a penny and see who finds it first, etc. Let all the children in the class have an opportunity to find coins while blindfolded.

GOD & CAESAR HUNT: Before class, the teacher will draw coins on card stock and write either GOD or CAESAR on the coins. These coins will then be cut out and placed around the room. Let the children go on a HUNT to find coins and bring them back to the tape onto a poster board with GOD written on one side and CAESAR on the other side. If desired the teacher can have CAESAR or GOD ideas for children to give to, such as our heart to GOD, or taxes to CAESAR.

MONEY TALKS:

Divide the children into two groups and give each child the same amount of play money to use to buy some items from the CHILDRENS' STORE. (Inexpensive items such as stickers, pencils, small toys, etc.) This will require two leaders for the children to give their money to and to keep track of what they spend. Let the children DECORATE A PAPER BAG for their new purchases with today's Bible verse and theme written on the bag.

CHILD TRACING:

Provide each child with a long sheet of craft paper or butcher paper so that the children can trace each others bodies on the paper. If time allows, children can cut out their body tracing or just hang the body pictures around the room and let children color the clothes, hair, and facial features on their traced body. Children will write on the shirt, I BELONG TO GOD. The child can then write their first and last names on each shoe of their tracing.

HEART BANNER:

Let each child cut out many hearts from construction paper and tape them on a piece of ribbon to hang as a banner. Write today's Bible verse on the various hearts, starting at the top, as well as today's Bible verse number.

HEART TO JESUS:

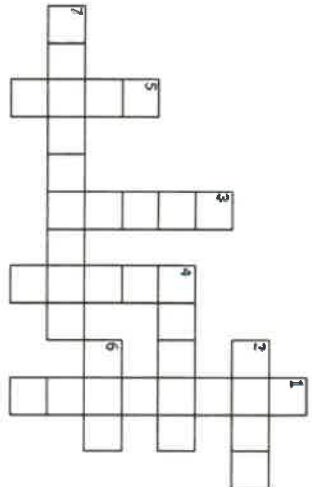
Provide the children with a piece of construction paper or a large heart cut out of construction paper to decorate with stickers, glitter, and markers. Have the children write I GIVE MY HEART TO JESUS on the heart. Hole punch the top and add a ribbon to the heart to create a doorknob hanger for the child's bedroom!

SING A SONG:
TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

Song: "Take My Life and Let It Be"
Words and Music (pdf)

MP3 Piano accompaniment Track (right click to save to your computer)

Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
 - A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
 - To give someone money in return for something.
 - A religious group who were strict followers of the law.
- DOWN**
- A picture of a person -- usually showing the face.
 - The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
 - Money paid to the government.
 - A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.

TAXES	TRAP	PORTRAIT	PLANS
TRUTH	PAY	PHARISEES	COIN

Children's Worship Bulletin

Paying Taxes to Caesar

Matthew 22:15-22

Word Search Puzzle

U Q J P F L K C Z Q T A X E S
 Y N W N L O V Q P J H N J Z D
 Z A H R H A P C K B W K S E K
 D P K E F T N I L Q E O Z H G
 A H R P A R T S N P S A R A C
 D A Y L Q A E K I I M A F D N
 D R Y I A P A C N A O N A Y S
 W I P E B O C A T S U N A L Z
 F S S D L N H E E U W V D V
 Z E I C S G E S G O L E N B E
 F E W W I L R A R S Z B T G L
 U S T N B P T R I U Y G B I O
 V F L L Y H G L I T Z U O F V G
 K T R U T H O E Y P U T K E H
 V M V K Q X K D S O Z A D K G

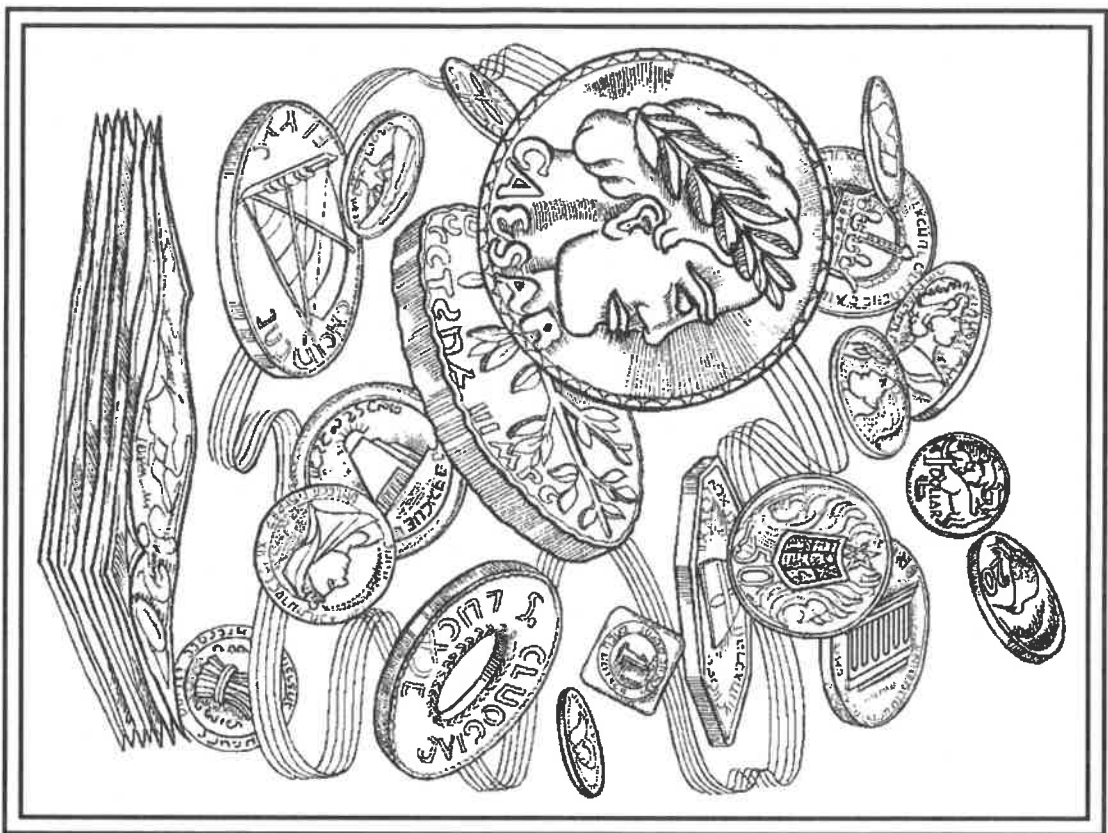
GOD	WORDS	DISCIPLES	OPINION
CAESAR	TAXES	AMAZED	REPLIED
WAY	PLANS	GIVE	TRAP
PHARISEES	TEACHER	INTEGRITY	TRUTH



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**“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s”
Matthew 22:21.**

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Multiple Choice Quiz

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

1. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.
A. pharisees B. republicans C. hypocrites D. democrats
2. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
A. taxes B. plans C. trap D. words
3. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.
A. trap B. plans C. truth D. coin
4. Something that we speak or write.
A. taxes B. amazed C. words D. trap
5. Someone who gives instructions to students.
A. teacher B. pharisees C. portrait D. Caesar
6. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
A. plans B. words C. truth D. trap
7. To give someone money in return for something.
A. trap B. pay C. plans D. truth
8. Money paid to the government.
A. trap B. portrait C. Caesar D. taxes
9. What a person thinks about something.
A. trap B. opinion C. truth D. plans
10. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
A. coin B. taxes C. words D. pay

