

PETER goes fishing for money

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When Jesus and Peter arrived at the town of Capernaum it was the usual custom in those days that strangers to the city pay a tax.



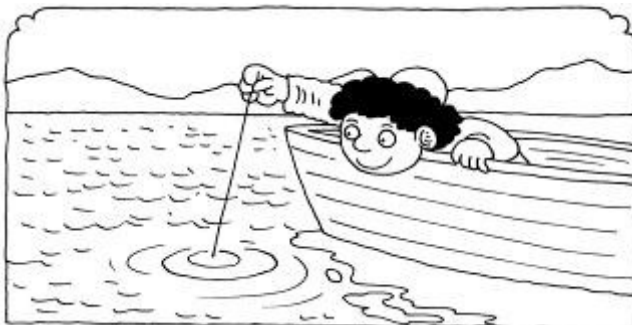
The tax collector asked Peter if Jesus needed to pay the visitor's tax. Peter said "Yes," but he knew that neither he, nor Jesus, had any money to pay the man.



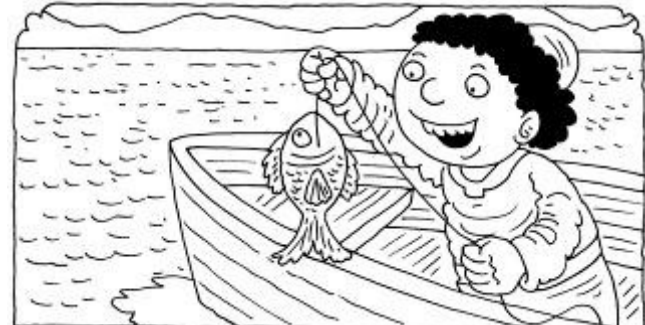
Jesus saw that Peter was worried and asked him, "In every country who usually pays taxes to the king; a country's own citizens, or do visitors pay?" Peter answered that it was visitors who paid.



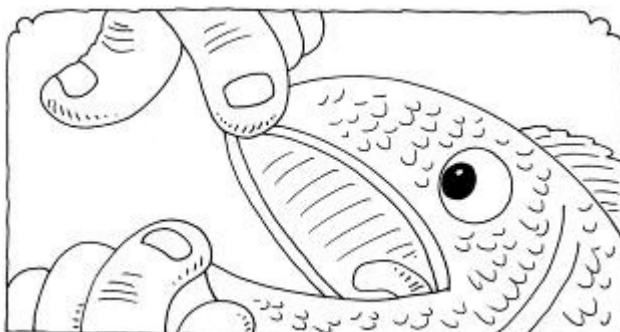
Jesus replied, "Then the citizens of that country are free. But we don't want to upset anyone. It is the right thing to do that we pay. Row out into the sea."



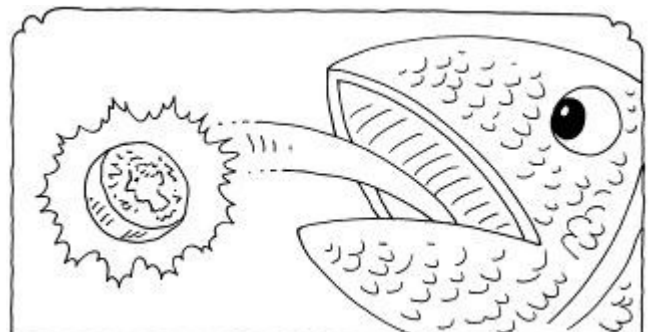
"Cast out your fishing line and hook and pull up the very first fish that you catch. Open its mouth and you will find a coin. Take it and pay the tax," he told Peter.



Peter had been fishing all his life and he had never caught a fish with money in its mouth! But, he did exactly as Jesus had told him and caught a fish straight away!



He prized open the mouth of the VERY FIRST fish he caught and looked inside. Of ALL the fish - in ALL the ocean - on the VERY DAY he needed the money, what did Peter find?



The coin was in the mouth of the fish, just as Jesus had said. It was a miracle! Peter was able to pay the tax man. God provides for us in unexpected ways.