

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Paying Taxes



from Matthew 22:15-22.

The religious leaders tried to trick Jesus, but Jesus wouldn't fall for it. Instead, Jesus taught them to do the math: God made you + Jesus says "Give to God the things that are God's" = Give yourself to God.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Trick
- Emperor
- Test
- Image
- Taxes

The coin named in the Bible story, a denarius, was worth a day's wage for a common laborer in Jesus' time. Jesus had to ask for a denarius, because he did not have one in his possession.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 306-307

Spark Bible pages 1086-1076

Family Prayer

Dear God, Help us to find out what it means to give to God the things that are God's. When we help others, and read the Bible, and pray—we feel close to you God. Please help us to do more of those things. Give our family the focus and energy to follow your ways. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 Have you ever bought something? What did you buy? Act it out! Play store as you share stories of what you buy.
- 2 Why did the leaders want to trick Jesus? Have you ever tried to trick someone? How do we try to trick God?
- 3 Talk to kids about how you pay taxes in your family, and how you decide on what to pledge to your church.
- 4 If God looks like our family, what does God look like? Talk about this in both the literal and figurative sense.



Eye Spark

Find coins around the house. If you have time, hide them first, and then find them. Whose pictures are on the coins? Do we still have emperors?



Ear Spark

Drop a coin and guess whether the coin is a quarter, dime, penny, or nickel, based on the sound of it falling.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Demonstrate how your family gives itself to God. Huddle up and try to slide a pre-tied ribbon or piece of yarn (or duct tape) around your family. While you're bundled together, talk about the ways you serve God as one family unit!

For younger kids

Ask an adult or older sibling to read the story of Paying Taxes out loud. What words do you remember? The story tells us that we look like God. Play "I Spy with my little eye, someone who looks like God."

For older kids

Jesus said that all the things that God made are stamped with God's image. Really? Does that mean God looks like us? Use a computer photo-editing program to experiment with pictures of your family. No matter how you play with your family's looks, they still show God!