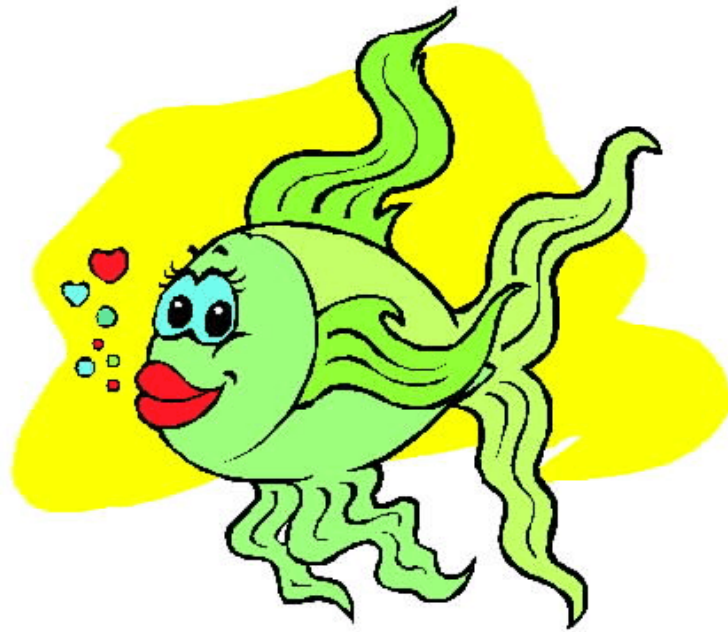


Pimi, the Pretty Little Fish

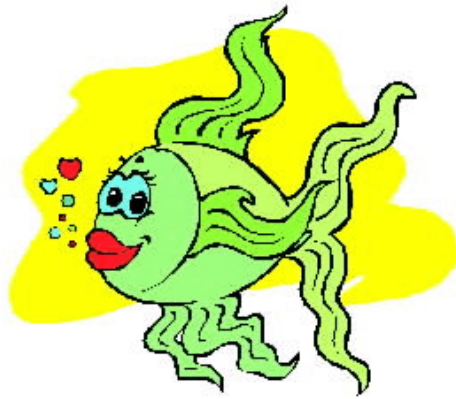


Lessons learned in Fish School

--by Grandma Sharon

Pimi, the Pretty Little Fish

- **Pimi, the Pompous Fish**
- **Pimi, the Puntual Fish**
- **Pimi, the Promising Fish**
- **Pimi, the Pondering Fish**
- **Pimi, the Pushy Fish**

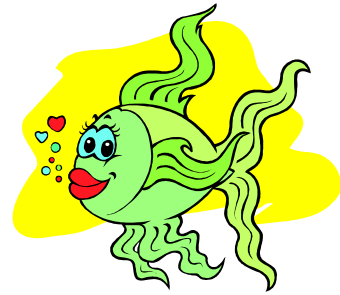


**Lessons learned by Pimi
in the School of Fishes**

--by Grandma Sharon

Pimi, the Pompous Fish

Pimi is a very pretty, colorful fish. She lives in an aquarium. She spends all day swimming from one side of the tank to the other. She likes to see her reflection in the glass. She looks at herself so much that the other fish gave her the name, Pimi the frivolous fish.



Pimi thinks that she is the prettiest fish in the aquarium. The other fish noticed it and started staying away from her.

One day Pimi noticed that the other fishes didn't come near her anymore. After two days, she became very sad. She stopped eating and looked so bad that a wise old fish went to her and asked her: "Why are you so sad, Pimi?" Pimi answered and said: "I am very sad because nobody likes me."

"Why do you think they don't like you, Pimi?" "I don't know," she answered sadly. "I am very pretty!" "Do you think that you are prettier than all the other fish?" asked the wise old fish. Pimi answered: "Well, I am the prettiest fish in the tank!"

"And how do you think this makes the other fish feel, Pimi?" "I never thought about it. I guess it makes them feel that I think they are not as pretty as I am." "And how do you think that makes them feel?"

Pimi dropped her head and said: "I make them feel bad, don't I?" "Yes, Pimi, when we think that we are better than others, they know it. It makes them feel bad and they don't want to be around us."

There is a verse in the Bible that talks about this. **Philippians 2:3 says: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."** What do you think this verse means?

Pimi lowered her head, feeling really bad for what she had done to the other fishes. "Thank you, good friend, for telling me the truth. In the future, I am not going to be so frivolous. I am going to treat others better than me!"

Little by little Pimi began to change and very soon she had lots of friends that really cared for her.

Pimi, the Punctual Fish

“Pimi, hurry up.” said her mother. “You are going to be late for school.” “I’m going, Mama,” she said while looking in the mirror. Pimi kept looking and admiring herself until she saw her brother swim by very fast.

“I’m going,” yelled Pimi. “I just have to find my books.” By the time she found her books and was swimming out of the house, she saw the school bus going by in the current.

“Oh, no, Mama!” yelled Pimi. “What can I do? ¿Will you take me to school and give me an excuse for being tardy?” “No, Pimi, I am not going to give you an excuse.”

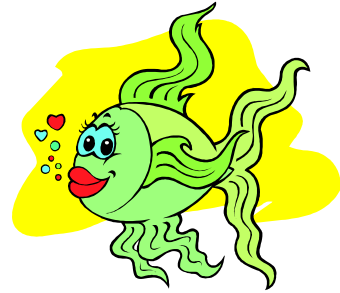
“Why, mama?” “Because I am not going to lie for you,” said her mother. “Why are you going to arrive late, Pimi?” “I don’t know; time just slipped up on me, I guess.” “Why did it slip up on you, Pimi?” “I guess because I took too much time fixing myself up and then I couldn’t find my books.” “Why did it take you so long to fix yourself up?” “I was.....I was looking at myself in the mirror.” “That’s right, Pimi. You were admiring yourself so much that time just slipped away.” “I’m sorry, Mama. I won’t do it again. Please forgive me.”

“And Pimi, why couldn’t you find your books?” “It’s because I didn’t pick up my things last night and they were under my other things.” “And how can you take care of this problem, Pimi?” asked her mother. “I could clean up my room every day.” said Pimi. “I think that is a good answer.” answered her mother.

Did you know that there are verses in the Bible that tell us how we should use our time? In the book of Ecclesiastes it tells us that **there is a time for everything**. Ephesians 5:16 says that we should **redeem the time**. And in 2 Timothy 4:2 Paul tells Timothy that he should **be instant in season and out of season**. What do you think these verses teach us? Do you think they teach us that we should use our time that God gives is well? I think so.

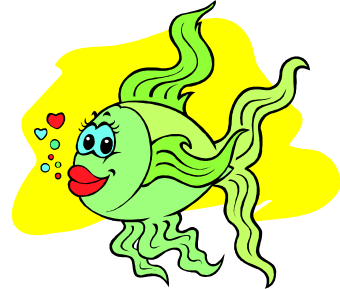
Pimi’s mother took her to school and they talked with the teacher. Pimi promised that she was going to use her time better and that she was going to do her best to get to school on time and not be tardy again. Even though she said she was sorry, they had to give her demerits. Punishments help us to remember what we have done that was wrong and help us not to do them again.

Pimi soon became a punctual fish, not only in the School of Fishes, but also in Sunday School. Do you arrive on time to Sunday School? I hope so! Are you punctual, as Pimi learned to be? You can be!



Pimi, the Promising Fish

“Pimi!” called her friend Suki. “Let’s go play in the sunken boat.” “O.K.” said Pimi, “Just let me finish my homework.” “When are you going to finish it?” asked Suki. “Soon. Let’s go about 4 o’clock this afternoon. O.K.?” “O.K., but don’t forget, Pimi.” “I promise I won’t forget. I’ll see you at 4:00!”



Pimi finished her homework and went out to swim around the rocks. She saw another friend and they began swimming among the water plants. Pimi noticed that it was 4 o’clock, but she just kept playing with her other friend.

“Didn’t you tell Suki that you were going with her to the sunken ship?” the friend asked. “Yes,” responded Pimi. “But I like what we are doing better.”

They kept swimming and playing until they realized that it was starting to get darker because the sun was setting. “Let’s go home.” said Pimi. “We don’t want to get caught here when it is dark.”

The next day, Suki went to Pimi’s house to ask her why she didn’t go with her to see the sunken ship. Pimi told her that she was occupied doing something else. Suki asked her if she wanted to go today. Pimi promised her that she would go today.

Suki went to Pimi’s house again at 4 o’clock, but Pimi wasn’t there. Pimi had found other things to do.

Monday, during recess in the School of Fishes, Pimi asked Suki: “When are we going to see the sunken ship?” Suki answered: “I’m not going to ask you to go with me any more. You promise, but you don’t keep your promises.” Pimi started begging Suki to go: “Come on, Suki, let’s go today. I’m really going today.” “I don’t believe you anymore, Pimi.”

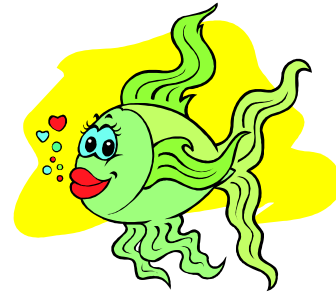
Their teacher overheard what they were saying and afterward called Pimi. “Is it true what I heard? Did you promise something and not fulfill your promise, Pimi?” “Yes,” answered Pimi. “And now I have lost a good friend. What can I do to make her believe me again?” “That is going to be really hard.” said the teacher. “You will have to gain her trust again. You can ask her forgiveness, but you will have to always keep your promises to her if she is going to believe you.”

The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 5:4,5: “Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin...” Do you know what that means?

Do you think Pimi learned the lesson? Have you learned from this lesson? I hope so. If you will memorize this verse, it will help you to always keep your word with you promise something.

Pimi, the Pondering Fish

In Sunday School, all the little fishes in the class were listening very well. They were learning the story of Doubting Thomas. They heard how he didn't believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. He told the other disciples that he wouldn't believe unless he saw the wounds in the hands and side of Jesus.



Pimi was really listening to the story and she had a lot of questions. "When did all this happen?" she asked. The teacher answered her, "A long, long time ago, after Jesus died and was buried....."

"Yes, Pimi," when she saw that she had raise her fin again. "Why didn't Thomas believe?" "Because he had a lot of doubts. Have you ever had doubts, Pimi?" "Yes," responded Pimi and also the other little fishes in the class.

"What doubts do you have, Pimi?" Pimi answered: "The other day when I was swimming among the plants over there by the big rocks, I saw something that looked like a question mark and I didn't know what it was. I had doubts about whether I should go near it or not." "Oh, Pimi", said the teacher; "I am so glad you asked that question! And I am so relieved that you didn't investigate closer to see what it was." "Why, teacher?"

"Who knows what it was?" Didi, one of the bravest fishes in the Sunday School raised his fin. "My Daddy told me never to go near one of those things!" "Why?" asked Pimi. "Because it is one of those things that fishermen use to catch fish. If you bite what looks like a question mark, they pull on it and you get hooked on it. Then they take you out of the water and you can't breath!"

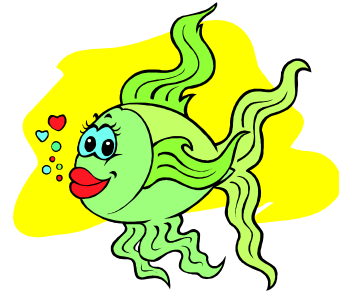
"Did you all learn a good lesson, little fishes?" asked the teacher. "Yes!" responded the fishes. "We should never touch anything that looks like a question mark!" "I am so glad you learned the lesson. If you ever have a question about anything, it is better to not touch it. It is better to ask than to investigate before knowing what it is or what it will do."

The Bible says in **Romanos 14:23**: "And he that doubteth is condemned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

Pimi, the Pushy Fish

Pimi was swimming among the rocks a little too far away from the School of Fish. She thought she heard the teacher's voice. She swam closer so she could hear what she was saying.

"Get in line, students; we're going out for an icee." "Oh, goody!" thought Pimi, "I love icees. I'm going to get in line." Pimi swam rapidly to where her class was already in line. Pimi never like to be the last in line, so she swam as fast as she could to the front of the line and stopped in front of the first fish in line.



All the rest of the little fish didn't like what Pimi did and they yelled: "To the end of the line, Pimi!" Pimi held her place and finally the teacher noticed that something was going on. "What is happening here?" she asked. "Pimi went to the front of the line." answered the fishes. "Is that true, Pimi?" asked the teacher. "Did you push your way in here?" "Yes, teacher. I was swimming over there by those rocks and I didn't get here in time to take my place in the line."

"Why didn't you take your place at the end of the line, Pimi?" asked the teacher. "I like to be the first one in line." answered Pimi. "Pimi, come with me." said the teacher. Pimi followed the teacher over to where the rest of the students couldn't hear them. "Pimi, don't you think you are being selfish and pushy?" "What do you mean, teacher?" asked Pimi. "Don't you think that you are thinking only of yourself and not of the others?" "I guess so." said Pimi. "Do you think it is good to be like this?" asked the teacher. "No." said Pimi.

"What do you think you should do?" "I think I should tell them I am sorry and go to the end of the line." said Pimi. "That's right, Pimi. You should do that, but there is someone else that you should ask for forgiveness from too. Do you know who that is?" "Yes," said Pimi, "and I am going to do it right now."

Pimi bowed her head and asked God to forgive her for being so selfish and pushy and then she went and apologized to the class and took her place at the end of the line.

Pimi did the right thing. Do you do the right thing? Do you act selfishly sometimes like Pimi? When you do, what should you do? I hope you learned the lesson that Pimi learned and that you will not be selfish like Pimi.

The Bible says: **"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." Philippians 2:4**