



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: **Authority** - Mark 12:13-17

GETTING STARTED

- Share about a time when you felt like people were trying to trap you; into saying something or buying something. How did you respond?

QUESTIONS FROM THE PASSAGE (Mark 12:13-17)

- Why did the Pharisees and Herodians ask him this question? (vs. 13)
- What does Jesus give as His reasoning for paying taxes to Caesar? (vs. 15)
- Knowing that they are seeking to trap Him, what does Jesus request of the Pharisees? Whose image appeared on a denarius coin? (vs. 15-16)
- How did the people respond to Jesus' answer (vs.17)?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

- Who are the Pharisees and the Herodians? What's surprising about the fact that they're partnering together?
- What question do they ask of Jesus? What makes it a challenging question to try and answer?
- In light of Jesus' teaching and the rest of Scripture, what does it mean exactly to "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's"?
- What makes Jesus' teaching in verse 17 so revolutionary?
- In what way is God's image on every human being? In what way is God's image specifically on genuine Christians?
- What questions do you have about how a Christian is called by God to engage with human governments? As you work through your questions, here are some passages you might find it helpful to consider: (Romans 13:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, 1 Peter 2:13-17)

APPLICATION

- Make a list of the things that belong to God in your lives. From the list, are there any things that you are struggling to give to God? Why?
- What would be a healthy and godly way to engage in politics?
- Take time to pray for one another.