

# GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

*Get Into The Word*



Week of Sunday May 25, 2025

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# **Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.**

## **Introduction**

In Mark 12:13-17, Jesus is confronted with a cunning question intended to trap him, yet his profound response shifts the focus from political obligations to spiritual allegiance. This discussion invites us to explore areas where we might prioritize worldly distractions over our devotion to God. Consider what truly bears God's image in your life and how you can honor that. Reflect on modern-day idolatries, and assess if your loyalties align with God's intentions. How can we ensure our lives reflect our divine image and commitment to Him?

## **Disciple Measure**

**Spirit-led Follow:** How does your identity in Christ shape the way you live your day-to-day life?

# Discussion Questions

## Whose Image are You Made Of?

### HIGHLIGHT

*Have someone read aloud...*

[Mark 12:13-17](#)

### EXPLAIN

*Discuss the following questions...*

**Opening Question:** Jesus faced a "trick question" about taxes. How do you handle situations where you feel trapped between two difficult choices?

1. What does it mean practically to "render to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's" in today's world?
2. Why do you think the different and often opposing sects of Judaism unify against Jesus?
3. How does the historical context of Roman taxation set the stage for this question to Jesus?

*Have someone read aloud [Genesis 1:27](#).*

4. How are we image bearers of God? What does it look like to be the image of God?
5. How does this concept of our image being disfigured because of sin relate to our need for Christ's redemptive work?
6. How has the history of the nation of Israel been impacted by idolatry? How does this mirror the effect of idolatry on the world today?

Notes:

# Questions for Families

*Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.*

## **Mark 12:13-17**

**What do you learn about Jesus from the story he tells about the coin and Caesar?**

*For younger children, explain that Jesus is wise and sees what people are really trying to do. For older children, discuss how Jesus is teaching us about where our true loyalties should lie.*

**How does this story show us who we belong to?**

*Help younger children understand that just like the coin belongs to the person on it, we belong to God because He made us. With older children, explore the concept that we bear God's image and are meant to reflect Him in our lives.*

**What do you think Jesus wants us to do after hearing this story about taxes and God?**

*Encourage younger children to think about simple ways they can show they belong to God, like being kind or saying prayers. For older children, dive deeper into discussing how they can prioritize God over the distractions and pressures of everyday life.*

# NT 260

## **WEEK: 22**

- Mark 15
- Mark 16
- Romans 1
- Romans 2
- Romans 3

**MEMORY VERSE:** Matthew 5:45-46

# Resources

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## Resources to Listen to

### The Bible Project Podcast: Image of God Series



Join Tim and Jon from the Bible Project on this 4 episode series unpacking what it means to be the [image of God](#).  
(50 min episode average)

## Resources to Watch

### Bible Project Guide - Image of God



The Bible Project gives an overview of what it means for humans to be made in [God's image](#).  
(6 min)

### Bible Project Guide - Romans



The Bible Project gives an in-depth guide through [Romans](#) with multiple resources and videos.  
(10 min)

## Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at [groups@longhollow.com](mailto:groups@longhollow.com).



[longhollow.com/lifegroups](https://longhollow.com/lifegroups)



[longhollow.com/dgroups](https://longhollow.com/dgroups)

## D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.

# Commentary

Notes:

## What's Going On?

In Mark 12:13-17, Jesus encounters a trap set by an unusual alliance of Pharisees and Herodians, two groups usually at odds. They see Jesus as a threat and pose a tricky question: "Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar?" This question aims to corner Him. If Jesus says yes, He could upset Jewish followers who dislike Roman rule; if He says no, He risks Roman backlash.

Aware of their intent, Jesus asks for a denarius, the tax coin, and inquires, "Whose image is this?" When they answer "Caesar's," Jesus replies, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." This response is clever and profound. By acknowledging the coin belongs to Caesar, Jesus addresses the legal obligation. He then elevates the discussion by implying that while the coin bears Caesar's image, humans bear God's image, and thus our ultimate devotion should be to God.

The brilliance of Jesus' answer leaves His challengers and the crowd in awe. He skillfully avoids the trap and turns it into a profound lesson on where true loyalty should lie, teaching that fulfilling earthly duties is important, but our heart and worship belong to God.

Biblical Timeline

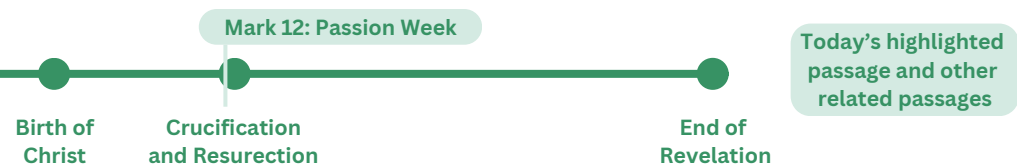




Notes:

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# Sermon Notes

**Mark 12:13-17 CSB**  
Then they sent some of the Pharisees and the Herodians to Jesus to trap him in his words. When they came, they said to him, “Teacher, we know you are truthful and don’t care what anyone thinks, nor do you show partiality but teach the way of God truthfully. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn’t we? ” But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius , to look at.” They brought a coin. “Whose image and inscription is this? ” he asked them. “Caesar’s,” they replied. Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at him.

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(Get digital notes on your mobile device at [notes.longhollow.com](https://notes.longhollow.com))

## Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

### *Spirit-Led Follower*

A disciple who walks with Jesus daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

### *Intentional Friend*

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

### *Humble Guide*

A disciple who is a humble guide takes every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

### *Force For Good*

When a disciple lives out their God-given calling, they naturally become a force for good where they live, work, and play. This type of person is looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.



**LONG HOLLOW**  
CHURCH