

## Render Unto Caesar

**All the content below is for you to make your own, please do read through it, pick what would work best for your children and would best engage them.**

**Rest assured of our prayers for your family and you this coming week!**

**This week in the gospel according to Matthew we learn Jesus' teaching about being citizens of both Heaven and Earth.**

### **MATTHEW 22:15-21**

**15**Then the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle him in his talk. **16**And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Hero'di-ans, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true, and teach the way of God truthfully, and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men. **17**Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" **18**But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? **19**Show me the money for the tax." And they brought him a coin. **20**And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" **21**They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

*Some conversation pointers, when talking at home about this –*

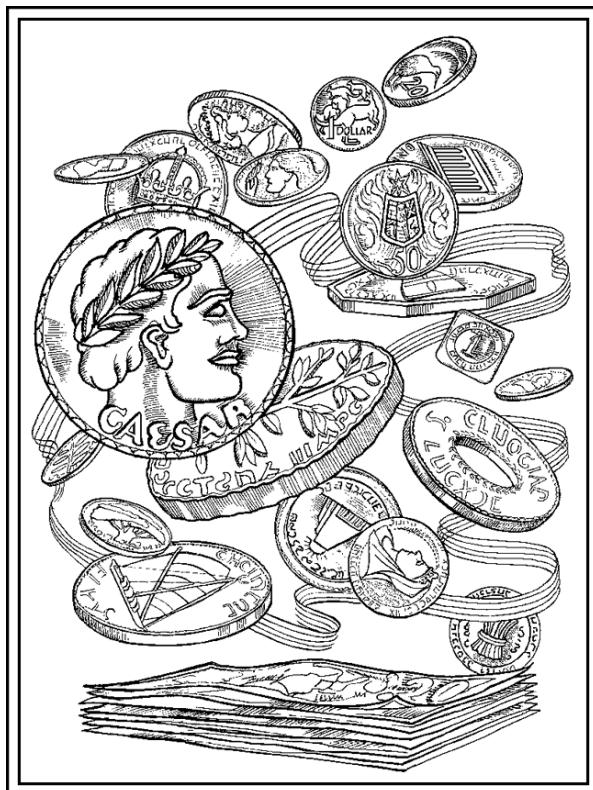
**Who do you think you are??** This question is a bit of a recurring theme in these recent readings of Jesus and His encounters with Pharisees. In this Gospel passage, the religious leaders try to trap Him by asking about paying taxes. The response reminds us that we can obey the law of government and still serve God first and foremost. The objective of this passage is to communicate that we are “dual citizens”, alive in the world, but made in God’s image and living to serve Him.

What belongs to God? Well, everything! We recognize that we can (and must) use some of our money on things like taxes, groceries, clothes, or whatever else we need to survive. But God is not just another budget line item. We give to Him with our charitable giving offerings, but we also honour Him by giving our whole lives to Him. We pray; we read our Bibles; and we take care of others. We recognize that He made us, so we belong to Him. Coins and money and taxes are necessary, but those things don’t last. Eventually, they fade away. Our lives are meant to serve God,



because He loves us. He has given us all that we have, and He wants us to have meaningful lives. He gave us His son, Jesus, covering us with His blood and with His love. We live through the practicalities of life on Earth, but we know something better awaits us, because God makes us part of His family and gives us the promise of Heaven. That's a wonderful thing to remember. Yes, we obey the law here and now...but we also have the good news of the Gospel, which is for eternity! Why don't we thank God for that?

#### Activities to remind us about this message from Jesus



Download and print the colouring page.

You could be even more creative and make a display on this passage on which you convey we are citizens of Heaven and Earth.

Finish your time together focusing on this piece of scripture with prayer