

## Our Heavenly King (5/1/22)

**Main Verses:** Luke 20:19-26

**Key Verse:** Luke 20:25

**'Takeaway':** God doesn't want us to confuse the similar but different roles of human kings and our heavenly King.

**Getting Started:** Whose likeness do you see on different types of coins and bills?



**READ** the main verses (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What does verse 19 tell us about why the religious leaders asked Jesus questions about paying taxes?
- What does Jesus mean when he says to render (or give) to Caesar the things that are Caesar's? What specifically is Jesus referring to?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "and to God the things that are God's?"

Elementary:

- Why did the religious leaders ask the question, "Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" (see verse 19 for the motive)
- What point does Jesus make regarding the appropriate role of human government in God's plan?
- What does give "to God the things that are God's" mean?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- God plans and cares for every aspect of our lives, including those in charge of our community and country.
- When Jesus said to give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's he shows us the proper recognition of the appropriate role of human government in God's plan.
- Human kings (rulers) have a place in God's plan, but they never take the place of God in our lives.
- In saying, giving "to God the things that are God's" Jesus tells us that all things that bear His image and likeness belong to God. We should honor God in how we live.

Elementary:

- Jesus makes it clear that God does not divide life into the secular (worldly) and sacred. God is not indifferent about some aspects of our lives, but rather every aspect of life has reference to Him. God is Sovereign, always. Nothing ever catches Him by surprise.
- In verse 23, Jesus affirms that giving "to Caesar the things that are Caesar's" is a proper recognition of the appropriate role of human government in God's plan. While they have a place in God's plan, they should never be confused with the role of God in our lives, and we should not look to them for what only God can give. God is our ultimate authority.
- More importantly is the statement give "to God the things that our God's." As image bearers of God, we—every part of us—belong to God, and we should surrender to him and seek to honor him in how we live.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking him for his amazing care for you, for every part of your life. Thank Him (and say a prayer) for human leaders who serve under him as part of his plan to make our society function, but who can never take the place of God in our lives. Ask Him to help you to learn more about him and how he wants you to live for him each day.

(Elementary) Talk to God, thanking him for his provision for every part of our lives, including governments and other leaders. Thank God for helping us to remember that while we should honor our human leaders, he is our true King and as his image bearers, our entire lives should be dedicated to following him in joyful obedience. Thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross and rise again to be seated with God in the heavenly places so that we can surrender our lives to him and live for him. Ask God to help you to remember his greatest provision and to help you to live in a manner that brings honor to your King every day.