



# THE CHRISTIAN IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

This past Sunday Pastor John continued in our sermon series titled “The Christian in Today’s Society” by looking at what it means to be salt and light in America’s public square. In this week’s curriculum, we’ll be looking at what Jesus had to say about the difference between what belonged to the government and what belonged to God.

## SUNDAY SERVE TEAMS

Please encourage your folks to join in on what God’s doing in and through Epicentre by signing up for a Serve Team if they haven’t already. You can have people pull out their smartphones and sign up on the spot either through the Epicentre Church app or at [epicentre.church/serve](http://epicentre.church/serve). The more our people get involved, the more we believe God will be able to do in our communities.

## FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other’s prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

## BIBLE DISCUSSION: Matthew 22:15-22

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. <sup>16</sup>They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup>Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup>and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” <sup>21</sup>“Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

Introduction Question: Can you think of any ways that the government and God might disagree?

Key discussion questions:

- What do the disciples of the Pharisees say about Jesus?
- Why might the disciples of the Pharisees have asked Jesus about paying imperial taxes?
- Why does Jesus call the disciples of the Pharisees “hypocrites”?
- What is the difference between what is Caesar’s and what is God’s?
- What might be Jesus’ understanding of the difference between government and God?

Reflection Question: What might God be trying to tell me about the difference between government and God? And what does this mean for the way I live in America today?

Small Group: Break up into groups of 3-4 to share what we think God might be saying to us. Then take time to pray for each other especially in light of our fears. Encourage the small groups to support each other as we all step out to be the salt and the light that our world desperately needs.

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