

Here are some activities you could do together as a family. Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



## Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together a story where Jesus answers a "tricky" question.

You can find it in your Bible in:

### Matthew 22:15-22

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.

## A prayer to say together

Today's prayer is a call and response. Take turns reading the leader lines and let everyone respond by saying, "Hear our prayer" (All).

*Leader:* Dear God, we thank you for all the good things you give us.

*All:* Hear our prayer.

*Leader:* We pray for all Christians that in these difficult times, we may live our lives in a way that reflects God's image to the world.

*All:* Hear our prayer.

*Leader:* We pray for the leaders of all countries, that they may use taxes to do good works.

*All:* Hear our prayer.

*Leader:* Lord, help us to stand up for what is right and show Jesus' love to all.

*All:* Hear our prayer.

*All:* Amen

## Discussion

### Questions for adults to ask children

*What do the Pharisees ask Jesus? Why? Why does Jesus show them a coin? Whose image is on the coin? What does Jesus tell the Pharisees?*

The Pharisees try to trap Jesus by asking him whether it is lawful to pay tax to the emperor. Jesus asks for a coin because it has an image of the ruler, Caesar on it. Jesus says, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's."

Jesus' response is to give back to Caesar his coin, but to give God everything.

### Questions for children to ask adults

*What things are God's? The book of Genesis says that people are made in God's image. If we are to "Give to God what belongs to God," how do we "give" ourselves to God?*

## Family Activity 1

*You will need: large plain craft paper--at least one sheet per person and markers/crayons/colored pencils OR colored chalk to do the activity outside.*

**Indoors:** provide each person with a piece of paper and trace each other's upper body (or entire body depending on paper size).

**Outside:** trace bodies on concrete or asphalt pad/sidewalk/driveway.

Color in each person's clothes, hair, and facial features. On the shirt, write "I Belong to God."

Alternatively: trace and decorate each person's hands. Write "I Belong to God" across the top or bottom of the paper.





## A verse to remember

### Genesis 1:27

So God created human being in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.

Take a look at yourself in the mirror. Even though we're all very different, one thing we have in common is that we are all made by God and we all know the truth that we are not only all made in God's image, but also are made to reflect God in the way we live.

To learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

### Active Thanks

One way we can give back to God is to praise God and give thanks for the things God gives us. Why not try some of these active "thank you" together.

#### Alphabet Thanks

Can you think of something to say thank you to God for which begins with each letter of the alphabet?

#### Rainbow Thanks

Can you think of 7 things to say thank you to God for – one for each colour of the rainbow?



#### Bedtime Thanks

Before you go to bed why not list all the good things that have happened during the day which you can say thank you to God for.

#### A Message of Thanks

Who are some of the people who bless and encourage your family? Why not send them a message of thanks to let them feel appreciated and valued this week.

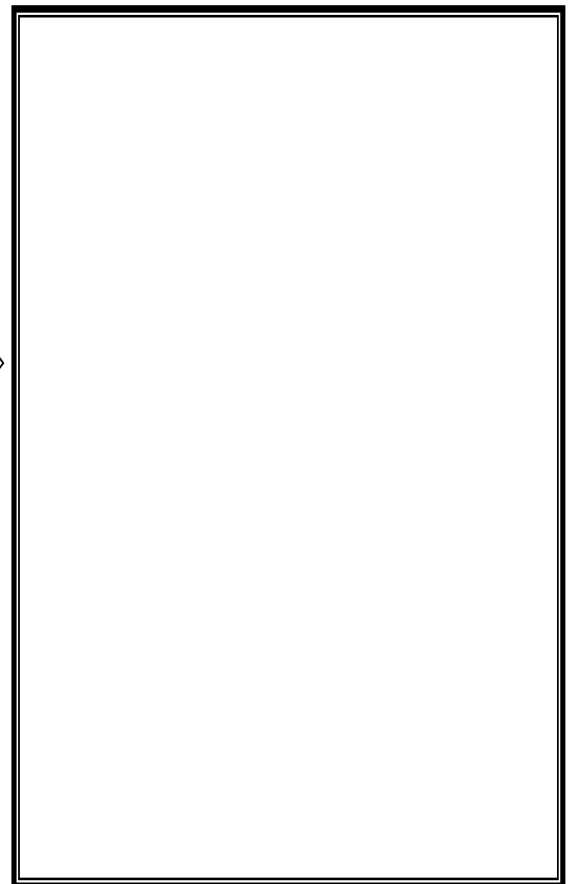


Jesus, should we pay taxes to Caesar?

Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's. Give God what belongs to God.



Write words or draw pictures to show things you can give to God.



# TAXES FOR CAESAR

Luke 20:25

He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."



# Word Search Puzzle

U Q J P F L K C Z Q T A X E S  
 Y N W N L O V Q P J H N J Z D  
 Z A H R H A P C K B W K S E K  
 D P K E F T N I L Q E O Z H G  
 A H R P A R T S N P S A R A C  
 D A Y L Q A E K I I M A F D N  
 D R Y I A P A C N A O N A Y S  
 W I P E B O C A T S U N A L Z  
 F S S D L N H E E U U W V D V  
 Z E I C S G E S G O L E N B E  
 F E W W I L R A R S Z B T G L  
 U S T N B P T R I U Y G B I O  
 V F L Y H G L I T Z U O F V G  
 K T R U T H O E Y P U T K E H  
 V M V K Q X K D S O Z A D K G

GOD	WORDS	DISCIPLES	OPINION
CAESAR	TAXES	AMAZED	REPLIED
WAY	PLANS	GIVE	TRAP
PHARISEES	TEACHER	INTEGRITY	TRUTH

*In today's Gospel reading, some men  
 asked Jesus if it was right to pay tax.  
 What did Jesus ask them to show Him?  
 Connect the dots to find out!*

