

Citizens of Heaven

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

OCT 13, 2024

True Faith

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/@browncroft> and locate the *True Faith Between Two Sermons* under the playlist "Browncroft Conversations" to watch before the group meeting (Available Sunday, 10/13, 2 pm)

Mark 12:13-17 is located in Mark 11:27-12:37 where the religious leaders question Jesus's authority six times. These instances occur in the temple area. The Pharisees and Herodians, who are political opponents, unite together to trap Jesus about the imperial tax. In the Citizens of Heaven series, we have seen how our allegiance to Jesus shapes our political and civil engagement. Jesus's brief response carries weighty implications to our whole lives and His call to follow Him.

- *What one word best describes how you feel about politics in this season?*

Read Mark 12:13-17.

- If Jesus had this conversation today, what groups would be approaching Him, and what questions would they ask?
- What are the key differences between the religious and political context of the time of Mark 12:13-17 versus today?
- Jesus responds to the initial question by asking for a coin (Mark 12:16). What are a few reasons why you think Jesus asked for a coin? What is the writer of Mark trying to reveal?
- Have you ever heard someone quote Mark 12:17, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." How have you interpreted the response? In engaging Mark 12:13-17, how has your understanding changed?
- Jesus boldly implies that humanity is created in His image. How does reflecting on God's image change how we engage in politics as individuals and how we see others? (Including neighbors, family, coworkers, classmates, candidates, political opponents, etc.)

- Caesar's kingdom would fall. The message of Jesus has carried on to us today. What does it look like to build His kingdom? What does it look like for you personally?
- Has following Jesus influenced your engagement with politics more, or has your engagement with politics influenced the way you follow Jesus more?

Praying together

Split into groups of two to three. Share your specific anxieties about the political climate with each other. Pray for each other. Close in prayer as a group for revival and healing of the polarization in our society.