



Nosh @ Home

*Proper 20, Year A*  
**18.10.20**

## West Dartmoor Mission Community

### Welcome to Nosh@Home

Dear friends,  
Welcome to ***Nosh@Home*** for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October. The Nosh team have been getting together via Zoom and thinking of ways we could safely come back together again. At the moment (though things do change quickly) we are proposing a Sunday Nosh Service in December. So please keep an eye out for emails advising of this. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this month's Nosh@Home.

Thank you to *rootsontheweb* for the use of this material.

## Introduction



**Prepare the space:** Find a selection of small-denomination coins. Take a coin and look closely at the detail of the images stamped onto it. Ponder what thoughts this stirs up for you.

**This week's theme:** *The things that are God's*

**Today's story: Matthew 22.15 - 22**

- Jewish leaders seek to entrap Jesus with a question about allegiance to the emperor and to God.
- Jesus counters with a carefully worded answer: give to each what they are due.
- The leaders are amazed at his teaching and leave him alone – for now.

**This week's resources explore:**

being stamped with God's image; attitudes to power; the significance of place.

## **Gathering prayer**     *Based on Psalm 96.11-13*

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it:  
**for the Lord is coming.**

Let the field exult, and everything in it:  
**for the Lord is coming.**

The trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord:  
**for the Lord is coming.**

In his name we gather;  
in his name we sing our praises.  
**Amen**



***For those who have a  
birthday in October...***

*♪ Happy birthday to you,  
♪ To Jesus be true,  
♪ May God's richest blessings  
♪ Pour down upon you.*



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNCDAvLxy\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNCDAvLxy_Y)

*Time to say we are sorry:*

We are sorry, God,  
when we don't give you  
the things that belong to you:  
when we forget to thank you for all the things we have,  
when we forget to make time to pray,  
when we don't make time to listen,  
and we take our talents for granted.  
Forgive us and help us to learn  
how best to use all that you have given us.  
**Amen.**



Open the Bible at **Matthew 22: 15-22**

Some Pharisees try to trick Jesus with a question about paying taxes.

His answer amazes them and makes them think.

*You could choose from either of these two ways of telling the story:*



## **1. Bag of coins**

Pass a bag of coins round the group and explain what taxes are and why we pay them. At the appropriate point in the story, give each child a coin. Look closely at the coins and ask them to identify whose head is stamped on it. Can they read the Latin title (see below) and do they know what it means? Explain that the emperor was the Roman equivalent of the Queen.

The abbreviation on British coins is D.G.REG.F.D. which stands for the Latin '*Dei Gratia Regina Fidei Defensor*' and means '*By the grace of God, Queen, Defender of the Faith*'.

## **2. Facial reactions**

Divide the children into two groups, one to be the Pharisees and the other to be a listening crowd. Stop at each \* in the story and ask everyone to pull a face, depending on how their character might be feeling at that moment.



The **Pharisees** wanted to trick Jesus into saying something that would get him into trouble. \*

So together with the **Herodians** they sent their followers to Jesus to ask him a question. ‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘we know that you are honest and teach the way of God to everyone equally and fairly. Tell us, is it right to pay our taxes to the Roman emperor?’ \*

It was a trick question, because at that time, the land had been conquered and ruled by the Romans and the people hated paying taxes to this foreign power. If Jesus told them not to pay their taxes he would be in trouble with the Romans, but if he told them to pay tax, he would be very unpopular with the people.

Jesus was not fooled. He said, ‘Why are you trying to trick me? Show me one of the coins that is used to pay the tax.’ \*

They gave him a coin called a **denarius**. He said to them, ‘Look, whose head do you see on the coin?’ ‘The emperor’s,’ they said. \*

So Jesus replied, ‘Well then, give to the emperor what belongs to the emperor...and give to God what belongs to God.’ When they heard this they were stunned into silence by his wise words and they went away, shaking their heads. \*

### **Glossary**

**denarius**: a small silver Roman coin. One denarius was a worker’s daily wage;

**Herodians**: a political party who supported King Herod and his descendants;

**Pharisee**: a group of people who tried to keep every part of the Jewish Law very strictly. Most of them felt that Jesus was not strict enough.

# ***A time for quiet reflection***

## **Talk together**

- Has anyone ever tried to catch you out with a trick question? How did it feel?
- Why is Jesus' answer so clever?
- Who do you think has power in this story?



## **Picture pointers: 'Do you publicly display any signs of your faith?'**

Reflection questions on this week's picture:



- Do you publicly display any signs of your faith?
- How can you tell that people are stamped with God's image?
- What would other people see of God in you?



## ***A few Active Worship Ideas*** (visit [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) for more ideas)



**Fingerprint fun**     *Use fingers to reflect on being made in God's image*

**You will need:** *a magnifying glass, slips of paper, washable ink pads, felt tips, (optional) card, plastic key rings, one per child.*

The denarius (see [Glossary](#) on p.35) was stamped with the Roman emperor's image, but all of us are stamped with God's image. Each of us has a unique fingerprint.

Invite the children to look at their fingerprints with the magnifying glass and think about how amazing it is that there has never been another fingerprint like theirs.

Give everyone some paper and invite them to make a thumbprint in the middle of it using the ink pad.

They can turn their thumbprint into a person by drawing on eyes, a smile, arms and legs.

Alternatively, do a thumbprint on one side of a small piece of card, write your name on the other and fit into a plastic key ring as a reminder that you carry God's image with you.

**Image of God**     *Share today's message with others*

**You will need:** *saucers, pencils, silver reflective card or shiny aluminium foil, scissors, glue sticks, A4 paper, felt tips.*

Give the children a saucer to draw round on a piece of silver card or aluminium foil.

Help everyone cut out their circle and stick it in the centre of a piece of paper.

Around the edge of the circle, the children write 'Made in the image of God' and decorate around it. Younger children may need help.

They can give the 'coin' to someone as a daily reminder that they are stamped with God's image.

**Powerful people**     *Intercessions for those in positions of power*

**You will need:** *a selection of 'power' objects and pictures (see [Prepare the space](#) on p.34).*

Look together at the display of objects and pictures which show different types of power and let the children handle them.

Invite everyone to choose one to look at quietly for a short time, as they think of people in power that they would like to pray for.

Close with a simple prayer:

All-powerful God, we ask you to be with people who hold positions of power in our world.

Help them to use their power wisely. **Amen.**

## Reflection

Jesus comes to Jerusalem, where he is acknowledged as a prophet, powerful in word and deed, by all people and groups – it may not be deliberate, but he draws attention. But in all his discourses, he invariably directs that attention back to God, to God's Word and to God's Law. He draws attention to God's desire for honesty, compassion and justice. This is because God's image is so deeply stamped upon him. If we too are stamped with God's image, how can we live out our calling to do the same?

Matthew's Jesus displays strong authoritative tones. He meets, head on, the challenges put to him by the leaders in Jerusalem. In today's reading, that challenge is about political leadership. Which will he choose – the Law of God or that of Rome? He does not reject the Law of God, nor does he ignore the oppression of Israel under Roman rule; but he does reinterpret the Law and its demands in a difficult situation, giving instruction and direction to all who will listen. How might the 'division of duties' described by Jesus be of relevance in today's complex world?

The image of a sovereign ruler is still to be found on every coin we use. Can we compare our experience of our Queen's reign with that of Israel under Rome? Whatever we think of our political 'masters', we do not live with the oppression that the Israelites experienced under Rome. Although not everyone will agree, for many, the Queen is seen as a servant to the people, leading by example. She has significant wealth and power, but her rule is not characterised by 'lording it over' the people. This has been her authority. How might we be faithful to God's rule in our daily lives?

Reflection continued:

**Standing in Jerusalem, understood to be the seat of God's authority on earth, Jesus allows time and space for heated questions and challenge about authority and power. Although it is difficult to sense the mood in Matthew's account, Jesus' response seems to be carefully considered and is itself a significant challenge. 'They were amazed' (v.22). How do we approach arguments and discord in our own lives? Do we allow time for God's Word to dwell deeply in our hearts before responding? Do our words and actions direct and enrich our relationships – and amaze?**

(Taken from *rootsontheweb*)

*Listen to Ascribe Greatness to the God our Rock*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02D3SMB21BI>

Link to the children's sheet:

[https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/15994/r91\\_chs\\_22oct17.pdf](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/15994/r91_chs_22oct17.pdf)

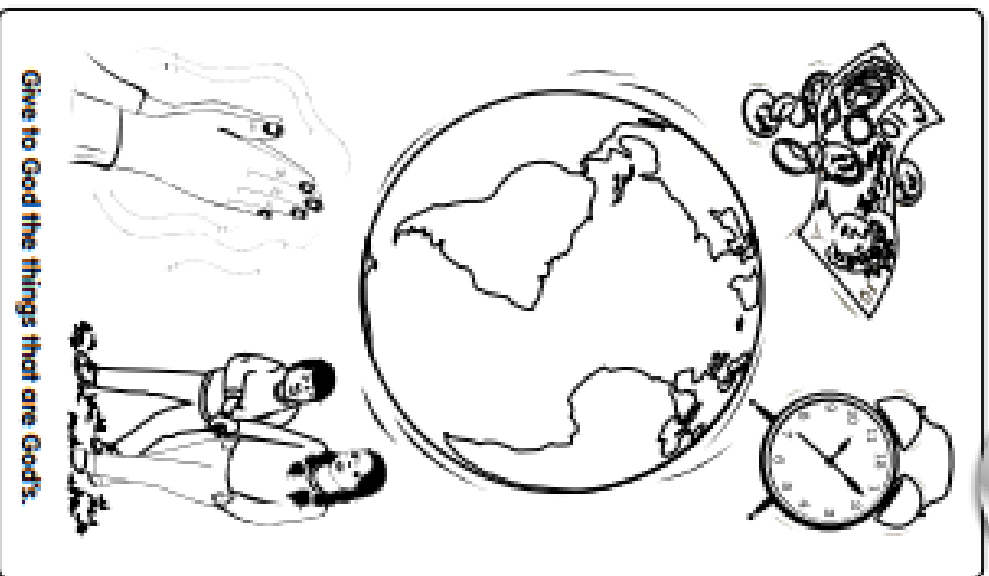
# 22-28 October 2017

## Roots Children's Sheet

**Matthew 22. 15-22**

Some Pharisees try to trick Jesus with a question about paying taxes. His answer amazes them and makes them think.

What can  
you give to  
God?



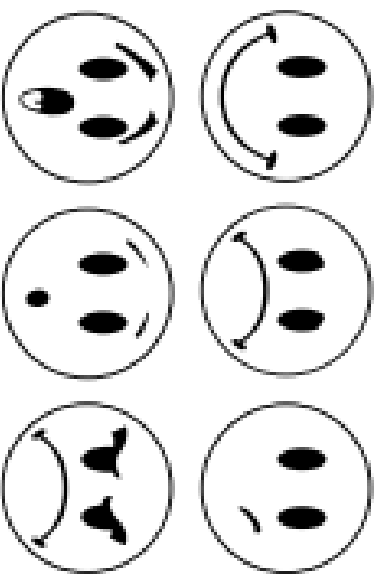
Give to God the things that are God's.

# PRAYER

Caring God,  
in prayer we are like Jesus,  
stamped with your image  
of compassion and kindness.  
Bless all the people we care about.  
Amen.

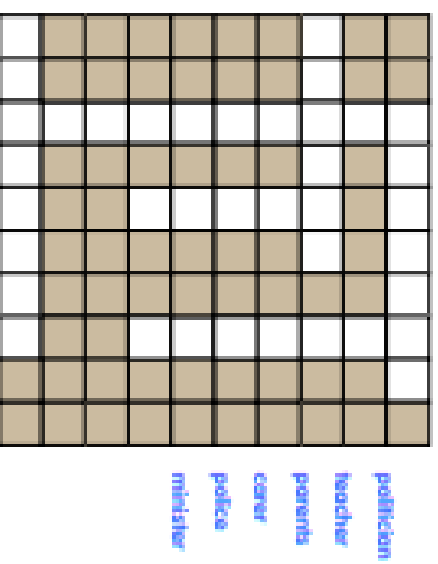
**Activity 1**

Which of these faces show how the Pharisees might have felt when Jesus answered their question? Colour them in.



**Activity 2**

Fit the names of some powerful people into the grid. What other people could you add?



**Live in faith**

Try to spot powerful people this week, and ask God to help them.

**Check it out**

The Saffish Crocodile, Fouslin Charles, Bloombury Publishing PLC

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## Time to pray

*Give everyone a postcard with a real/pretend stamp on and invite them to write a prayer to send/give someone.*

Caring God,  
in prayer we are like Jesus,  
stamped with your image  
of compassion and kindness.  
We entrust those we have named  
on our cards to your love.  
In Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**



In the sunrise (*raise your hands*)  
and in the sunset (*lower your hands*):

**God is greatly to be praised.**

In the steadfast tree (*stand very still*)  
and in falling leaves (*mime leaves falling*):

**God is greatly to be praised.**

For the world (*trace a circle with both hands*)

is firmly established (*interlink fingers together*):

**God is greatly to be praised.**

And we will praise you, O God.

**And we will praise you, O God.**

**Amen.**



***Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen***





## ***A sending out prayer***

Let us give time to the things  
that really matter,  
and the people we really care about,  
and may God bless us  
in all our joys and our struggles.  
**Amen.**

***Listen to Meekness and Majesty***

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tK1hQpacs8>**