

Dear God

Matthew 22:15-22

Week of July 28, 2024

BELONG

Ask this Ice Breaker Question: Can you share a fond memory from your childhood that reminds you of feeling loved and cared for?

BELIEVE

Have someone in your group read aloud: Matthew 22:15-22

Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:

- 1. The Pharisees could have simply held a charitable dialogue with Jesus. Instead, they tried to trap him. Why do you think political conversations often turn negative?**

Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):

- *Answers may vary.*

- 2. Jesus' response separates the realms of Caesar and God. How do you think we apply this principle ("render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's") in our lives today, balancing our civic duties and spiritual commitments?**

Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):

- *One option is to separate our lives into compartments. We have one set of ideas about politics and another set of ideas about faith.*
- *Another option is to eliminate one or the other areas from our lives.*
- *Another option is to simplify and reduce each area of our life.*
- *The integrated life is the most challenging.*

- 3. In what ways can our church community better welcome and value participation in civic affairs, following Jesus' example?**

BECOME:

Close by discussing Pastor Danny's challenge to fast from media. Then spend time praying together.