

## OPENING QUESTION

If you were to ask Jesus just one question, what would that be? Why would you choose that specific question?

## READ TOGETHER

Mark 12:13-37

## BIG IDEA

Jesus is way smarter than you are!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read through the **first question** that Jesus answered about paying taxes (vs. 13-17). What does it mean to “give to God what belongs to God?”
  - a. Jesus answered that question easily – read Luke 2:41-52, and see how Jesus grew in his favour with God. Then read James 1:5-8 and discuss how you are growing in your wisdom.
2. Jesus’ **second question** (vs. 18-27) was a bit more convoluted. What did Jesus challenge the Sadducees to know and understand better?
  - a. How would understanding more about the resurrection life, and the hope we have for the future help you deal with suffering and difficulties that you personally face? (John 11:1-44 will help in understanding this – especially what Jesus says in verse 25,26)
  - b. The apostle Paul faced the challenge of our suffering head on in directing our attention towards the hope of eternity (Read Romans 8:14-30 and 2 Corinthians 4:11-17)– how could we help each other do this more effectively?
  - c. How does Jesus’ death and resurrection offer us real hope?
3. In the **third question** Jesus answers the question of what is most foundational to our understanding of how to walk with God – how does Jesus’ answer impact how you act and live out your faith?
  - a. Jesus tells the teacher of the law that he is “not far from the Kingdom of God.” What would get him into the Kingdom of Heaven?
  - b. Have you ever thought about it in these terms? What would you say to this question personally...? **How far are you from the Kingdom of God?**

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4. What do you think of Jesus' nickname that He gave himself (John 14:6)? Do you feel this exhibits some narrow arrogance on the part of Jesus? Why or why not?
5. Read Matthew 7:13,14. In light of what Jesus said to the teacher of the law, and the presentation on Mormonism a couple of weeks ago, is it wise for us to help people see the way to Jesus more clearly and accurately help them to understand who he is? Or is our desire to point out the differences boarding on judgmentalism? Should we just leave it alone? How would you respond to this, and how do we grapple with this?
6. How confident are you in the wisdom of following Jesus? Do you feel like you are intellectually inferior for having faith?

## **PRAYER**

- Hold each other up in prayer. Take a few minutes to ask where each is at, both with this discussion and with faith and life in general, and hold them up in prayer.
- Pray that we are given wisdom by God to continually grow in these areas we have talked about, and pray that we continue to grow, not necessarily in our intellectual growth, but in our practical faith and walk with Jesus. "Lord help us to know you... not just know about you".

## **MESSAGE SUMMARY NOTES**

### **I. The Catch-22 Question**

**Question #1: Should we pay taxes?**

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. - James 1:5

Truth is relevant:

"Truth matters supremely."  
- Os Guinness, author, philosopher

### **II. The Hypothetical Question**

**Question #2: Whose wife is she?**

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying." - John 11:25

Truth is exclusive:

"During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act."  
- George Orwell, author

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### III. The Truth Question

#### Question #3: What's the greatest commandment?

And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. - Luke 11:9,10

Truth is personal:

"I want atheism to be true. And I'm made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't that I don't believe in God and naturally hope that I'm right in my beliefs, it's that I hope there is no God. I don't want there to be a God. I don't want the universe to be like that."

- Thomas Nagel, New York University Professor of Philosophy

#### CONCLUSION:

#### Jesus' Question: Whose Son is the Christ?

The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. - Acts 4:13

Truth is life-giving:

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." - John 14:6