

Who Do You Belong To?

South Jersey Small Group Guide

Warm-Up Questions

1. What's one thing you've changed your mind about in the last few years? What led to that shift?
2. If someone looked at your calendar or screen time this past week, what would they assume matters most to you?

Key Passage: Mark 12:13-27

Recap

In Mark 12, Jesus is confronted with two traps. One political — “Should we pay taxes to Caesar?” One theological — “Whose wife will she be in the resurrection?” But beneath both traps is a deeper issue: allegiance and hope.

Jesus takes the conversation all the way back to Genesis. If a coin bears Caesar's image, it belongs to Caesar. But human beings bear God's image — which means our ultimate identity, loyalty, and future belong to Him. Then, when the Sadducees question resurrection, Jesus reminds them that God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. If God is truly faithful, then death cannot have the final word.

The question for us becomes personal: What have we been rendering to “Caesar” that actually belongs to God?

This isn't just about politics. It's about fear. Identity. Control. Hope. And who we trust to carry our future.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. In what ways do you feel the pressure in our culture to align yourself with certain tribes or identities? How has that shaped you — positively or negatively?
2. The sermon suggested that fear can quietly become a form of misplaced allegiance. Where do you see fear influencing your decisions right now? What would it look like if fear wasn't in the driver's seat?
3. Think about a recent moment when your peace was disrupted. What was underneath that reaction? What did it reveal about where your hope or security might be anchored?
4. Jesus says the Sadducees didn't understand the power of God. Where in your life do you intellectually believe God is powerful, but emotionally struggle to trust that He will act?
5. When you hear “You bear God's image,” what does that stir in you? Confidence? Responsibility? Conviction? Resistance? Why?

6. If resurrection is truly the renewal of creation — not escape from it — how should that reshape how we think about our bodies, our work, and our everyday lives?

7. What's one area of your life where you're tempted to control the outcome rather than trust the God of the living? What makes that area so hard to surrender?

8. Imagine someone observing your life for a month. Based on your habits, reactions, conversations, and emotional responses — what might they conclude about who or what you belong to? How does that sit with you?

Pray