

Thinking & talking through the biblical text during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. Here are some key questions to get you started.

## Reflection Questions:

- What questions and comments did you have about the sermon and supporting texts?
- What comes to your mind when you hear the phrase “*living in a strange land*” or “*strangers in a strange land*”?

## Read **Mark 12:13-17**

- Why do you think North American’s buy into the idea of political Kingdom??
- Mike said “*our thinking and our theology always comes back to Jesus*” Agree/disagree? Why/why not? Some would want to reword that and replace Jesus with Bible. Is that valid? Why/why not?
- What is happening in these verses?
- What is the context? i.e. map out the week.
- What is the question that Jesus is asked? What are the broader implications of that question?
- Can we separate Jesus from politics? We can separate him from political partisanship, but can we separate him from politics? [cf **Luke 1:46-53, 4:18-19, 17:21**]
- Why is it significant that Jesus use the word “*eikon*” [**Genesis 1:27**] for image?
- What does it mean to “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give to God what belongs to God”?
  - What belongs to Caesar?
  - What belongs to God

## Living it Out

- There may be ways that seem right to us, but are actually the wrong way.
- Mike said “*Don’t do to Jesus what Jesus wouldn’t do to himself.*”
  - What are some of the implications of this?
  - How does this tie into the kingdom of God?  
Remember that the Kingdom that Jesus announces and brings, includes: forgiveness, grace, peace, praying for and loving enemies, shared resources, relationships – for real (practically and messily) not simply as theological ideas.