

# Lenten devotions \* Week 3 \* Listen

**Scripture: Mark 12:13-17**

*Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?"*

*But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it." And they brought one. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Jesus said to them, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him.*

## **Questions:**

- Have you ever been "put to the test"? Has anyone ever tried to trick you? What was that like?
- When have you been "utterly amazed"? Tell that story.

## **Going Deeper:**

- In your own life, what things are God's, and what things are not? How do you decide? And what does it mean that something is God's?

## **Activity:**

Notice how, in the beginning of the story, the Pharisees and Herodians weren't friendly to Jesus. But they asked him questions, and then they really listened to his answers. By the end of their listening, they were amazed!

Try asking lots of questions this week. And commit to having a conversation with your kid, or your parent, or your friend, where you don't give answers, or offer advice, or talk about yourself - for one whole conversation. Ask lots and lots of questions, and really listen to the answers. You might be amazed!

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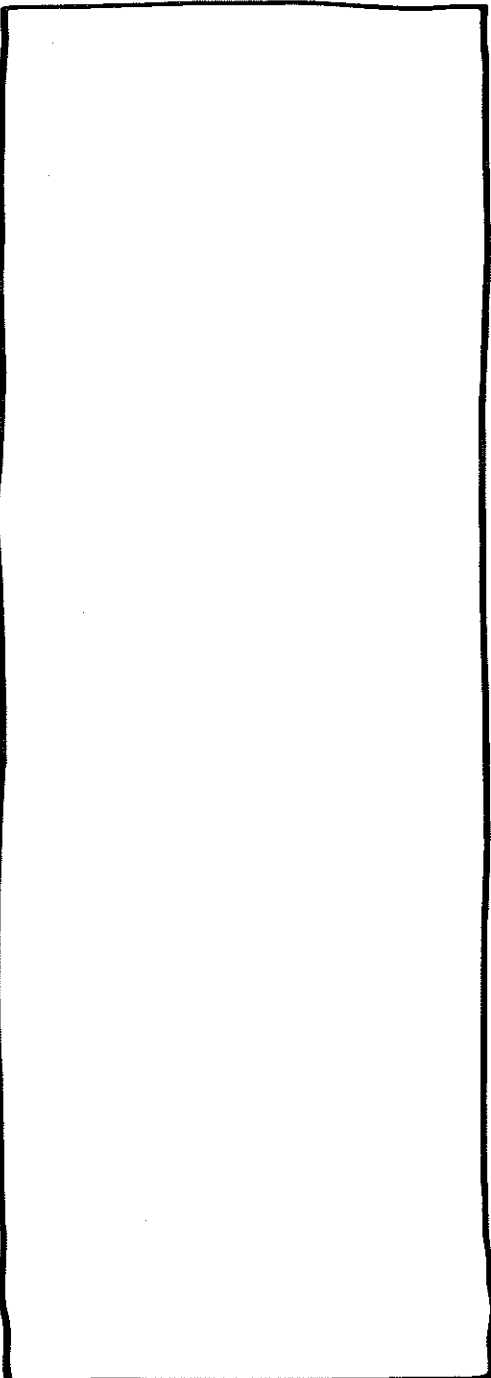
**Prayer:**

*Attentive God,  
Thank you for knowing us.  
Thank you that we can know you  
through your stories  
and through each other.  
Help us to love one another  
by listening well. Amen.*



# WEEK 3: LISTEN

THIS WEEK, OUR THEME WORD IS LISTEN. IN ORDER TO FOCUS ON WHAT LISTENING LOOKS LIKE IN OUR LIVES, WE HAVE ALL AGREED TO WORK ON THE FOLLOWING:



signed by: \_\_\_\_\_