

Zion Lutheran Freeland: 4th-6th Grade Sunday School
Family Learning Activity for October 18

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 22: 15-22

Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar

15 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. **16** They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. **17** Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax^a to Caesar or not?"

18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? **19** Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, **20** and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

21 "Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

22 When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away

Family Discussion Questions

1. What lesson do you think Jesus is trying to teach his disciples?
2. Why do people pay taxes? What might this have to do with faith?
3. Jesus says, "Give...to God what is God's." What do you think we have that God wants?
4. What is one question you have about this Gospel passage? How could you find the answer to this question?

Family Activity - "Lutheran Karaoke"

One of the most famous hymns in the church, and definitely the most famous one written by Martin Luther, is the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is our God." In fact, this hymn is called the "battle hymn of the Reformation." Take a minute and listen to this version of the hymn.

[A Mighty Fortress is Our God](#)

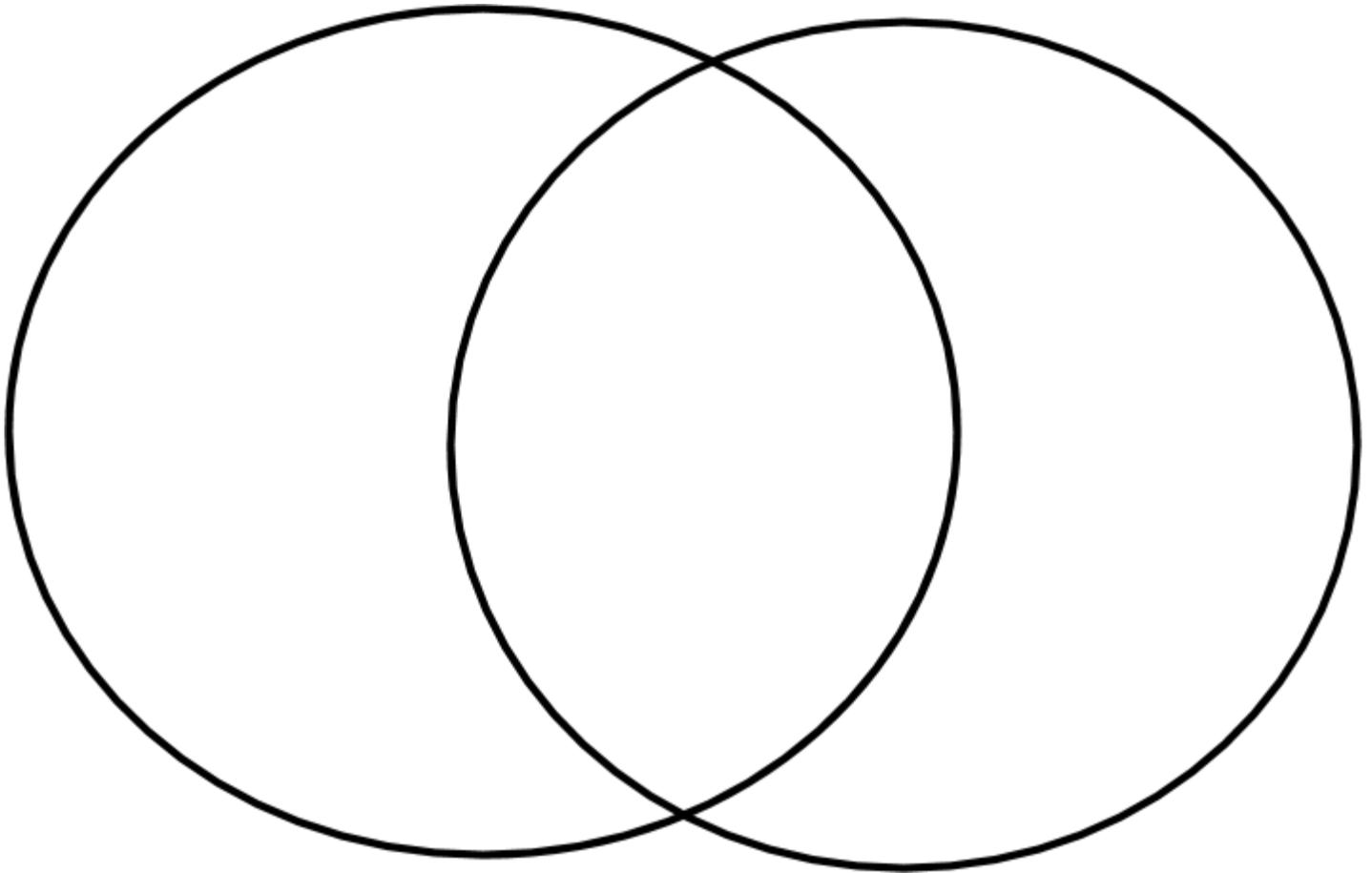
Let's take a look at where the lyrics came from. Martin Luther based them on the 46th Psalm

Psalm 46	A Mighty Fortress is our God
<p>1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.</p> <p>2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,</p> <p>3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.☐</p> <p>4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.</p> <p>5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.</p> <p>6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.</p> <p>7 The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.</p> <p>8 Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.</p> <p>9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields☐ with fire.</p> <p>10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."</p> <p>11 The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress</p>	<p>A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing: Our helper He, amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work his woe; His craft and power are great, And armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.</p> <p>Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing; Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth is his name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle.</p>

Similarities and Differences - What things do these two texts have in common? How are they different? (Put the things that are similar in the middle).

Psalm 46

A Mighty Fortress is our God



Karaoke Challenge: Choose a song that you feel represents your faith. Share it with your family and sing along!