

Family Page

Respect for authority should be an outgrowth of appreciation for what is being done for us by the one in authority. Too often children are made to obey "just because" the person is grown up and "in charge." Here is a family project that will help everyone to become more sensitive to the difficulties of those who lead.



explaining GOD'S WORD

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) † Matthew 22:15-21 † October 18, 2026

1

Using the pattern on this page, make a number of cardboard or paper "coins."

2

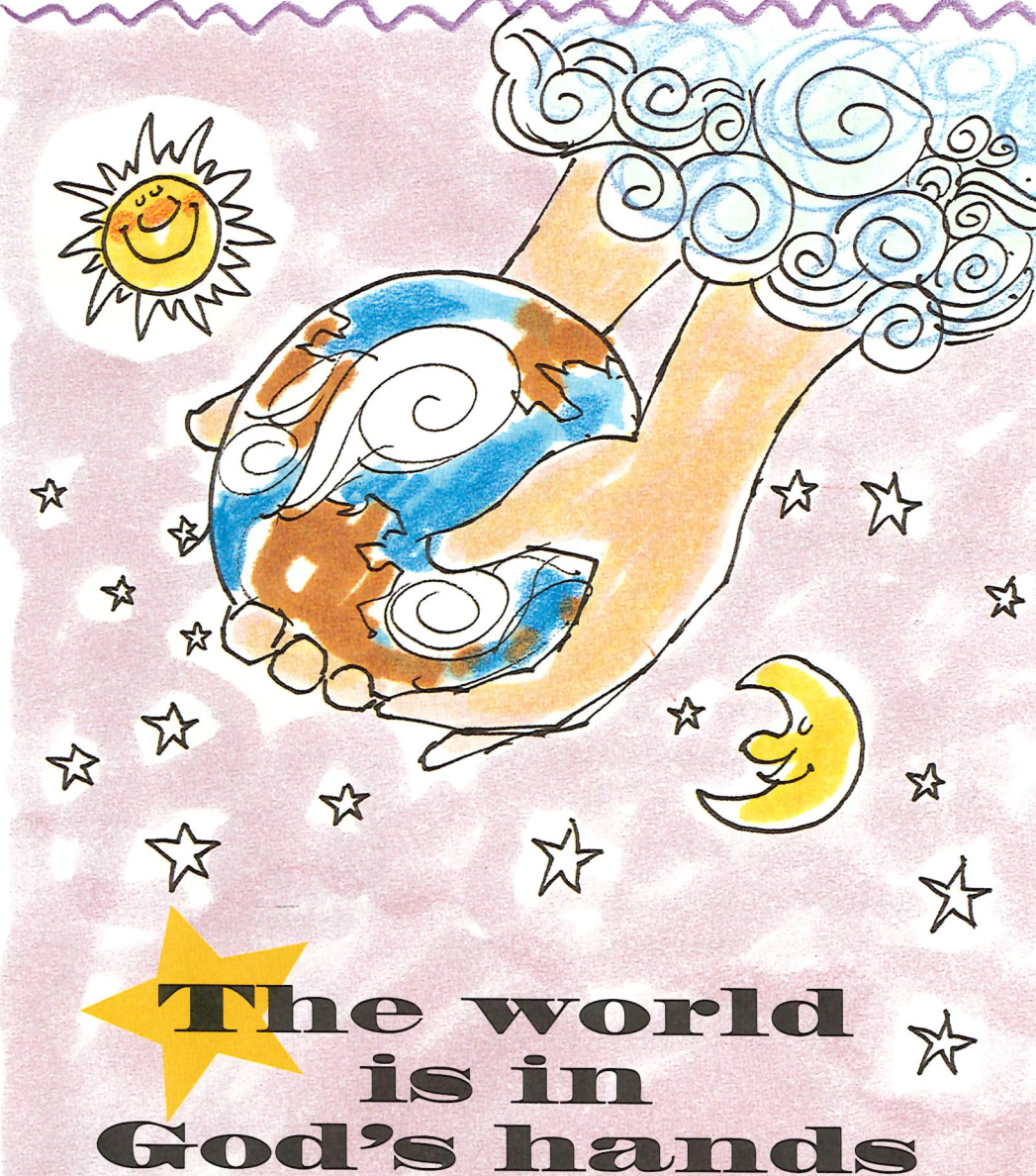
On each coin, write the name of someone who is in charge in your life: doctor, teacher, police officer, mother, father, pastor, and so forth.

3

Place all the coins in a small box on the table. Every morning each member of the family is to draw one coin. The person on your coin will be your special leader for the day.



4 Your job will be to pray for your leader and think of ways you can make his or her work easier or better. Also, see how much you can learn about what your leader does for you. In the evening, the family can discuss what each of you has learned about your leader.



Loving God and Others

In today's gospel story, Jesus uses a coin to teach a lesson. The people asked if it was right to pay taxes to the government. They wanted to know who is more important, God or the government. Jesus took a coin and asked whose picture was on it. It was Caesar, the Roman leader. Jesus said, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's."

Jesus meant that we should obey the laws of our government as long as they are not against the laws of God.

The government makes laws to protect and help the people. The schools make laws that help you to learn. The leaders of your town make laws to keep you safe and make your community beautiful. These are good laws, and God wants us to obey them.



Try always to obey the laws of your government, school, and community. Be kind and thoughtful to others, and fair and honest in all that you do.

In this way, you will be loving God and loving others too.

Hidden Lawmakers

In the magic square below, there are seven different people who make laws that protect, teach, or guide you. How many can you find? Can you think of any others?

X	B	Y	A	L	T	C	G	H	F
P	O	L	I	C	E	T	A	A	H
A	M	F	P	R	A	L	W	X	C
R	V	U	R	E	C	J	M	T	A
E	K	R	I	L	H	B	Q	O	O
N	P	B	E	Q	E	R	F	D	C
T	E	L	S	C	R	W	F	B	N
R	O	R	T	B	I	S	H	O	P
P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	F



Word List
POLICE

TEACHER
PARENT

COACH
PRESIDENT

PRIEST
BISHOP