

# Welcome to Church!

We are glad you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that your stay has been both meaningful and memorable.

Here are some activities going on with us!

## IDMC Conference 2026

February 20-21, 2026 at the Living Word Convention Center. Regular rate is P2,500. Students, PWD and senior citizens rate is P1,500. Registration closes on February 6, 2026. Click the QR code below to register.



## How can we pray for you?

Inviting you to join our **Prayer Meeting, Tuesdays at 7PM**. You may send your **prayer requests** and **praise reports** by text (0912 130 6148), by writing them on the prayer cards provided, or by sending us a private message on our Facebook page.

## Discover life with our Small Groups.

Looking for deeper connections and a closer walk with God? Our **small groups** are where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in faith together. Want to join? Visit our Information Booth after the service to find the perfect group for you!

## Stay for fellowship and refreshments.

Stick around after the service for **coffee** and **connection!** It's the perfect chance to meet some friendly faces, learn more about our small groups, our ministries, and discover all that our church has to offer. We'd love to see you there!

## Free Blood Pressure & Sugar Check-up

Encouraging those who wish to monitor their **Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar** levels to avail of our free check-up, happening **every after Sunday service!**

## Schedules for Services:

### English Service:

Morning 10:00 AM

Afternoon 01:00 PM

### Cebuano Service:

Afternoon 04:00 PM

2nd Floor,  
Northgate Center.  
across Gaisano Country Mall  
Banalad, Cebu City.

## ways to give TITHES and LOVE GIFTS

**BPI Checking**  
Acct no: 0421-0041-16

**Paypal**  
@livingwordnra

**GCash Account**  
0912-130-6148

EMAIL ADDRESS  
livingwordnra@gmail.com

FACEBOOK PAGE  
facebook.com/lwnra

WEBSITE  
www.livingwordnra.com

OFFICE TELEPHONE  
(032) 517 5991

TEXT ONLY NUMBER  
(63) 912 130 6148

**GET IN TOUCH  
WITH US!**

Living Word NRA  
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

## THE IMAGE ON THE COIN

The Jerusalem Ministry: The King Confronts Empty Religion (series)  
Ptr Nic Sy | February 1, 2026 | Mark 12:13-17



### SERMON NOTES

*The image reveals the owner.*

#### I. THE TRAP, OUR POSTURE.

*When approval matters too much, flattery works. When fear dominates the heart, pressure shapes our responses. But when belonging is settled, wisdom can show us the way.*

*Wisdom is not demanded in a moment; it is formed over time as we walk with him.*

#### II. THE REDIRECT, OUR WORSHIP.

"render" | Greek: *apodidómi* | "to repay, to render, give, pay back" It is the language of returning something to its rightful owner.

*God's people can honor earthly authority without betraying spiritual allegiance.*

**Reflect:** In my life, where am I faithfully 'rendering' what is due? And where have I accidentally started 'worshipping' the thing I'm supposed to just pay?

*We are called to be a responsible tenant in a world that is not our ultimate home.*

#### III. THE REAL IMAGE, OUR RETURN/SURRENDER.

**Reflect:** If I truly believe I bear the *eikón* (image) of God, what parts of my life am I currently handling as if they were mine alone?

*If I bear God's image, then my life is not something I donate, it's something I return.*

*The call to "render to God what is God's" is not a heavy demand from a distant landlord. It is a loving invitation from your Creator and Redeemer to come home.*

We are a church that seeks to bring glory to God, to build the local church through discipleship and to fulfill the Great Commission.

**OUR MISSION**

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of February 1, 2026  
"THE IMAGE ON THE COIN"

### Getting Started

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Besides money or IDs, what is the most random, valuable or sentimental thing currently in your wallet or purse?

### Group Discussion

#### Read Mark 12:13-17

1. When you read the opening flattery of the Pharisees in verses 13–14, what do you think they were hoping to achieve by calling Jesus "true" and "impartial"? How does Jesus' immediate response in verse 15, asking "Why put me to the test?" change the power dynamic of the conversation?
2. Jesus seems to "know" what's really happening in this moment. Why is discernment often misunderstood as a skill or shortcut rather than a posture? What practices or rhythms help you live more attentively before God? How does James 1:5–6 shape your understanding of wisdom as a gift rather than an achievement?
3. Jesus acknowledges responsibility to Caesar without diminishing responsibility to God. What are some modern examples of "Caesar" in everyday life (e.g. work, government, systems, expectations)? Where do you feel tension between being faithful to God and living responsibly in the world? What does this passage suggest about how Christians should approach that tension?
4. Jesus is not swayed by flattery or pressure in this encounter. What kinds of approval or validation are most tempting for you to seek? How does insecurity make it harder to respond wisely in tense conversations? What difference does it make to remember who you belong to when facing difficult questions?

5. Read Mark 12:16 and then Genesis 1:26–27 together. What does the image on the coin communicate about ownership and authority? How does the Bible's teaching that humans bear God's image deepen the meaning of Jesus' response? What connections do you see between these passages, even though they were written centuries apart?

6. Mark notes that Jesus "knew their hypocrisy," which comes from the Greek word for an actor wearing a mask. How often do you find yourself wearing "masks" of religious or social perfection to hide your true intentions or struggles? According to Psalm 51:6, what does God desire from us instead of these outward masks?

7. Reflect on the statement: "The image reveals the owner." Why can it feel like a burden to surrender our lives to God? How does understanding our status as beloved image-bearers – already his, and redeemed by Christ – change the posture of our surrender from one of reluctant duty to one of grateful return? Share an area of your life where accepting God's ownership has actually led to greater peace or freedom.

### Next Steps

*The image reveals the owner.*

- **Remember Who You Belong To.** I remind myself that my identity is rooted in God's love, not in approval, performance, or pressure.
- **Respond From Trust, Not Pressure.** I will allow space – silence, prayer, reflection – before responding, trusting God with the outcome.
- **Live Faithfully Where God Has Placed You.** I will honor legitimate authority without confusing it for ultimate authority.
- **Return My Life to God Daily.** I will surrender to God not just my beliefs, but my time, priorities, and decisions.

### Closing the Session

Close the session by taking the time to *pray for one another*. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a heart rooted in God's truth, wisdom shaped by trust rather than pressure, and a life that reflect the image of the One to whom you belong.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

#### BIBLE READING GUIDE

February 2 **Mark 12:13-17**  
February 3 **Esther 4:1-17**  
February 4 **Genesis 1:26-31**  
February 5 **James 1:2-8**  
February 6 **Romans 13:1-7**  
February 7 **Psalms 89:38-52**  
February 8 **Colossians 1:15-20**

