

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday March 22, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Mark 11:27–12:34**, Jesus is not avoiding hard questions or shutting people down—He is exposing motives and inviting people into honest, humble pursuit of truth. He is not impressed by religious posturing or clever arguments, but He welcomes genuine seekers who are willing to respond. Many of us live with real questions about God while also feeling pressure to appear certain or “have it all together.” This passage brings that tension to the surface. Tonight, we’re not just talking about questions—we’re exploring how we approach Jesus and what we do with the answers He gives.

Main Passage:

Mark 11:27–12:34

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Great Debate!

READ ALOUD

Mark 11:12–25

Opening Question: When you have a big question in life, what usually determines whether you ask it or keep it to yourself?

- What differences do you notice between how the different groups approach Jesus in this passage?
- What stands out to you about how Jesus responds to their questions?
- What does this passage reveal about what Jesus values in people who come to Him?
- Where might this passage challenge the way we approach God with our own questions or doubts?

APPLY

- What is one question or struggle you've been hesitant to bring honestly before God?
- In what area of your life might your response to Jesus already be decided before you seek Him?
- What would it look like to love God more fully (heart, soul, mind, strength) in your current season?

RESPOND

- What is one step you can take this week to pursue Jesus more authentically?
- Who is one person you can talk with or pray for as you take that step?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Read Aloud: Mark 12:35–44

- What new insight about Jesus do you see in this part of the chapter?
- How does this section connect to what we saw earlier about authority and authenticity?
- What themes or patterns do you notice across the whole chapter?

PRAY

Take a few moments quietly to reflect on what God may be showing you. Invite Him to reveal any areas where your pursuit of Him has not been fully honest or open. Ask for help to trust Him with your questions and to respond with humility and obedience. If needed, confess anything that has kept you distant or resistant. Thank Jesus for His patience, truth, and grace that meets you where you are and leads you forward.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Mark 11:27–12:34

- Why were some people asking Jesus questions in this story?
- How did Jesus respond to people who were sincere versus those trying to trap Him?
- What does it mean to love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength?
- What is one question you would want to ask Jesus?

For younger children: Encourage them: “Jesus isn’t afraid of your questions—He wants you to trust Him and listen to Him.”

For older kids or students: What is one area of your life where Jesus might be asking you to respond, not just ask?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Mark 13:1–8
- **Day 2:** Mark 13:9–13
- **Day 3:** Mark 13:14–23
- **Day 4:** Mark 13:24–31
- **Day 5:** Mark 13:32–37

What's Going On?

This passage takes place during the final week of Jesus' life, where His authority is publicly challenged by religious leaders. Through questions, parables, and teaching, Jesus reveals both their motives and His identity as the Son of God.

The tension builds as different groups attempt to trap Him, but His wisdom exposes their hearts and points people toward true devotion to God.

A Bit of Background

Religious leaders in this setting held both spiritual and social influence, and public debates were common. Asking questions was often less about learning and more about testing or discrediting someone.

Jesus' reference to loving God (from Deuteronomy 6) was a central daily confession for Jewish people, making His answer both deeply familiar and powerfully clarifying.