

## RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (FACILITATOR)

### MARK CHAPTER 12

#### Discussion Starter

- Outside of your relationship with God (salvation), spouse, kids, what is the greatest gift you have been given? What did you do with this gift?
- What is the greatest gift you believe you have given? Why?

#### Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

#### Tell the Story

#### Read the Story (Mark 12:1-44)

- Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

#### Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

#### Mark 12:1-12

- The Jews would have been extremely familiar with the contents of this parable, especially in light of Isaiah 5:1-7. The parable is a slap in the face to the Pharisees and the other Jews who constantly and consistently rejected the message of God including Jesus but let's take a look at how it applies to you and me today.

- If someone asked you what you daily do with Jesus, how would you respond?
  - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What would be some of the first things that come to your mind if you were asked to list/describe all of the resources that God has given you?
  - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- How would you say that you are currently using the resources that God has given you including Jesus to share God and His message with the world around you?
  - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What do you think this parable says about the patience of God?
  - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Mark 12:13-17

- Why do you think the Pharisees and the Herodians were trying to trap Jesus?
  - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Have there ever been times when you have rationalized/justified what you are doing because you didn't like what God was saying? What did/does this look like?
  - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

- Why did the religious leaders ask Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar?
  - The religious leaders fully anticipated that Jesus was going to be trapped in His own words because they understood the claims that He had been making Himself about being a king. If Jesus said that people shouldn't have paid taxes to Caesar, He would have been going against Roman law and telling His people to do the same. However, if He said to pay taxes to Caesar, the religious leaders thought He would be validating the power and kingship of Caesar while invalidating His own kingship.
- Why did Jesus ask the religious leaders to bring him a denarius and what did Jesus' response to the religious leaders actually do?
  - Coinage in that day was all about power and recognizing the ruling leader. The ruling leader of that day had his inscription on the coinage and indicated their power and realm of power. In Jesus' response, He actually validated the limited scope of Caesar's power while pointing to and highlighting the unlimited scope and power of Him and His kingdom.

#### □ Matthew 12:18-27

- What's laughable and sad about this entire interaction that the Sadducees have with Jesus is that the Sadducees don't even believe in the resurrection and the resurrection that they don't believe in is how they attempt to trap Jesus. It is the whole basis of their "argument."
  - How do you think they got to the point where there were so illogical?
  - How are you and I similar to the Sadducees and what they did today?
    - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Mark 12:28-34

- Whereas the scribe asks Jesus about the most important commandment, Jesus states/combines two commandments. Why do you think Jesus does this?
  - Jesus is making the point that if indeed an individual loves God with everything that is within him or her, then love for others is going to be a byproduct of this. The two are inseparable.
- What do you think it means and looks like to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength?
  - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What do you think it means and looks like to love your neighbor as yourself in practical every single day living?
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□ Mark 12:38-44

- While it is obvious that Jesus is holding up the poor widow, her heart, and her actions over and above the scribes and other religious leaders, the reality is that many if not all of us do not live as a “poor widow.” We have more resources and what we would consider “better life circumstances.” Consider the following questions.
  - How are you sacrificially giving of yourself for the sake of God and His kingdom?
  - How are you sacrificially giving of your resources for the sake of God and His kingdom?

- In what ways are you risking for God and His kingdom?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

**□ Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

**□ Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
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