



LIFE GROUP LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

Loving God and Our Neighbor

Mark 12:28–34 • Sep 20, 2026 • 35 minutes

Aim Hear Jesus' call to love God with our whole selves and consider how that love shapes our treatment of other people.

Before you lead

Read Mark 12:28–34. This scribe listens to Jesus and responds thoughtfully. Avoid treating every questioner as hostile. Jesus affirms his understanding while saying he is near the kingdom; the passage does not tell us his later response.

Ask the main questions first. Use the follow-ups when the group needs help going deeper; the leader notes are for your preparation. Give people time to answer, and ask them to point to the verses behind their observations.

Suggested timing Welcome, prayer, and reading 4 min • Head 7 min • Heart 12 min • Hands 9 min • Closing prayer 3 min

HEAD

Understand the passage

Read Mark 12:28–34 aloud from the ESV. Keep the passage open throughout the discussion.

1. How does Jesus answer the scribe's question in verses 28–31?

Follow-up: Why do you think he includes a second commandment?

Leader note: Keep love for God and love for neighbor together without treating them as interchangeable.

2. What does the scribe recognize in verses 32–33?

Follow-up: Why does he compare love with religious sacrifices?

Leader note: He sees that religious activity cannot substitute for wholehearted love.

3. What does Jesus affirm about the scribe in verse 34?

Follow-up: What does the passage leave unanswered about him?

Leader note: Stay with what is stated. A wise answer matters, but the text stops short of describing his entrance into the kingdom.



HEART

Examine our motives

Choose a follow-up when it helps someone explain an answer. Allow people to share honestly without pressing them to disclose more than they are ready to share.

4. Where does your love for God feel most divided right now?

Follow-up: What is competing with your love for God in that part of your life?

Leader note: Invite a concrete example involving attention, effort, affection, or choices.

5. When have you used religious activity to avoid a harder act of love?

Follow-up: What made the activity feel easier?

Leader note: Discuss our own motives rather than evaluating another person's sincerity.

6. Who is difficult for you to love as you love yourself?

Follow-up: What do you want for yourself that you struggle to want for that person?

Leader note: Love seeks another's good. It can include wise boundaries and does not require excusing harm.

HANDS

Put the passage into practice

7. How could you show love to that person in an ordinary interaction this week?

Follow-up: What could you say, do, or stop doing?

Leader note: Choose an appropriate action within the person's actual responsibilities and circumstances.

8. What change would help you give God more of your attention this week?

Follow-up: When will you make that change?

Leader note: Keep the goal relational and specific rather than adding activity simply to feel more religious.

Close in prayer

Confess where our love has become divided or selective. Ask God to deepen our love for him and help us seek our neighbors' good in practical ways.