



LIFE GROUP LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

Honoring Jesus Above Ourselves

Mark 12:35–40 • Sep 27, 2026 • 35 minutes

Aim Recognize the Messiah's authority and examine the desire for religious recognition that Jesus exposes.

Before you lead

Read Mark 12:35–40, with Psalm 110:1 as background. Jesus' question shows that the Messiah is more than merely David's descendant. The warning that follows concerns status, exploitation, and religious pretense. Keep both parts of the assigned passage in view.

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 12:35–40 aloud from the ESV. Keep the passage open throughout the discussion.

1. What question does Jesus raise about the Messiah in verses 35–37?

Follow-up: Why does it matter to Jesus' question that David calls the Messiah "Lord"?

Leader note: Jesus does not deny Davidic descent. He challenges an understanding that falls short of the Messiah's authority.

2. What do the scribes want others to notice about them in verses 38–39?

Follow-up: What do their preferred clothes, greetings, and seats have in common?

Leader note: The repeated concern is public honor. Do not assume every public role or formal garment is condemned.

3. In verse 40, what harm are the scribes doing while appearing to be religious?

Follow-up: Why is this more serious than simply enjoying attention?

Leader note: Jesus exposes exploitation of widows and prayer used as a cover. Vulnerable people suffer real harm.



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 is it hard for you to accept Jesus' authority when it conflicts with your own judgment?

Follow-up: What are you reluctant to let him guide?

Leader note: Connect the discussion to Jesus' identity before moving to personal choices.

5. When are you most tempted to make sure others notice your faithfulness?

Follow-up: How do you feel when your work goes unrecognized?

Leader note: Invite honest reflection without turning the conversation into a competition in humility.

6. Have you ever protected your reputation at someone else's expense?

Follow-up: What were you afraid people might think of you?

Leader note: Allow people to speak generally if naming details would expose someone else's private experience.

HANDS

Put the passage into practice

7. What good could you do this week without seeking credit?

Follow-up: Who would benefit from it?

Leader note: Aim for useful service rather than an impressive private challenge.

8. Is there someone you need to listen to or make things right with?

Follow-up: What would a humble first step look like?

Leader note: Where harm has occurred, apology may need to be followed by practical repair and accountability.

Close in prayer

Honor Jesus as Lord. Confess our desire for recognition and ask for honesty, humility, and care for people whose needs are easily overlooked.