

Mark Chapter 12 — Jesus teaches

In Chapter 12 of Mark's Gospel, Jesus tells a story about a man who owns a vineyard and sends helpers to take care of it. Some of the people refuse to listen to the owner's messengers, showing how people sometimes refuse to listen to God. Jesus also teaches that we should give to God what belongs to God and treat others fairly. When someone asks Jesus which commandment is the most important, Jesus says we must love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves. Later, Jesus watches people put money into the Temple collection box. He notices a poor widow who gives two tiny coins, about two or three cents. Jesus explains that her gift is very special because she gives all she has. Jesus teaches us that loving God, caring for others, and giving with generous hearts are more important than having lots of money or things.

Talk about these questions together as a family. Take turns sharing your thoughts, listen to one another, and discover how Jesus' teachings can help your family grow in faith and show God's love in everyday life.

1. Jesus says the most important commandments are to love God and love our neighbors. What are some ways we can show our love for God?

2. Who are our neighbors besides the people who live next door? How can we show them love?

3. The poor widow gave what she had, even though it was very little. If I felt called how much money would I part with for a cause? What are some things besides money that we can give to help others?

4. Why do you think listening to God and trying to do what is right can sometimes be difficult?

5. What is one thing our family can do this week to show love for God by helping someone else?