

DiscipleGroup Week: [July 31, 2016](#)

Bible Passage: [Mark 12:35-40](#)

Whose Son is Christ?

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

[if there are new people in your group, give brief introductions of people they don't know]

Remind group of DiscipleGroup Guidelines

Ask a hook question

[Ask a thought provoking question to get the group focused and talking.]

Have you ever bought something you saw advertised on Television or the Internet and when you got it you felt conned? Explain.

Share background for the story

[Provide context by sharing what comes before the story in the Bible.]

Tell the story – This week's story is from Mark 12:35-40

[Tell the story with your Bible open to the passage, but this is not the time to read it.]

Rebuild the story

[Group members tell the story together, one piece at a time, based on what they remember.]

Read the story out loud

[Read the Scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted and make corrections to the rebuilding of the story.]

Discuss these questions:

1. What does this story tell you about how Jesus saw Himself? Why do you think He asked this question at this time?
2. Why would these scribes receive the greater condemnation? What does this tell you about God?
3. Do verse 38-40 have implications for your faith practice today? Explain.
4. Are there things in your personal life that are incongruent with your faith talk? What will you do to make a change?

Ask someone to retell the story

[As for one volunteer to tell the story from start to finish. Help as needed.]

Assign next week's passage –

Mark 12:41-44

(The Widow's Mite)

Close in Prayer

[Co-leader or apprentice say a closing prayer.]

Six Guidelines for DiscipleGroups

Confidentiality

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

Don't Rescue & Don't Fix

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you may offer some advice.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

Use Humor Responsibly

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes, and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", "we", etc.