



Week of November 4, 2018

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;

³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

³¹ The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

³² Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other';

³³ and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'-- this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. When did you learn that Santa Claus was not real? How did you learn it? What other kinds of childish beliefs did you hold?
- B. What's the hardest test you ever took?

Bible Study Questions:

1. What do you think the scribe's intent is in asking Jesus the question?
2. In verse 34, what do you think Jesus means when he says that the Scribe is "not far from the kingdom of God"?
3. In verse 33, what is the significance of the scribe's mention of whole burnt offerings and sacrifices?
4. Jesus states that the most important commandments are first to love God and second to love your neighbor. Yet many people say that "all that matters is how you treat others." How should you respond to someone who makes a statement like that?
5. What did you once believe as a Christian that you don't believe anymore? What changed?
6. In terms of loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength – how would you rank them in terms of how well you are loving God? How can you develop the others?

Closing prayer: particularly invite people to pray for specific ways to grow in spiritual wisdom.