

# Discussion Guide

Authority and Priority  
August 23/24, 2025

## **PART 1: RECAP. HAVE SOMEONE READ THIS OUT LOUD.**

This past week we focused on a few different stories that work together to show how Jesus desires to rearrange our hearts. In order to cultivate his character in us, we must rearrange priorities, attitudes, and behaviors. Now, this week we are concluding chapter 11 and beginning chapter 12 of Mark. In this section, we see that our allegiance should belong to the one whose image we are made in.

- Do you enjoy puzzles, riddles, brain teasers, etc.? Why or why not?
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## **PART 2: HAVE SOMEONE READ MARK 11:27-12:17 OUT LOUD. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP.**

- Who confronts Jesus in the temple courts, and what question do they ask Him about His authority? How does Jesus respond to their question about authority?
  - Why does Jesus quote Psalm 118:22–23 (“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone”)? How does this show us who Jesus is?
  - Why do the Pharisees and Herodians set a trap for Jesus in 12:13–15?
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**PART 3: REFLECT. DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP.**

- How might we, like the tenants, be tempted to reject God’s rightful claim on our lives?
- How can you balance being a faithful citizen while keeping your ultimate loyalty to God?
- Are there areas where you let politics, culture, or fear have more influence than God’s Word?
- How does the principle of “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” apply to your life today—in areas like finances, politics, or daily decisions? Be specific.

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**PART 4: MEMORY VERSE**

Mark 12:17  
Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they marveled at him.

**PART 5: NEXT STEPS**

- I am thankful that God has made me in his image.
- I will acknowledge the authority of Jesus in my life.
- I will give my allegiance to God instead of \_\_\_\_\_.
- I will take my next step of allegiance to Jesus by being baptized.

