

Parent Passage Guide

Mark 12

The Big Idea

Throughout Mark 12, Jesus confronts religious leaders who use their knowledge and positions for show, proving that God isn't interested in superficial religion. Instead, true devotion means surrendering our complete allegiance and giving God our whole hearts, just as the poor widow gave everything she had.

Younger Children (Ages 0–12)

Read

"Sitting across from the temple treasury, he watched how the crowd dropped money into the treasury. Many rich people were putting in large sums. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two tiny coins worth very little. Summoning his disciples, he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. For they all gave out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had—all she had to live on.'" (Mark 12:41–44)

Ask:

- Why did Jesus say the poor widow put more into the offering than all the rich people who gave large sums of money?
- When is it hard for you to share or give away something that is really important or special to you?

Do:

- Grab two different amounts of something you have nearby, like a large handful of crackers and just two single crackers. Ask your children which pile they would rather receive, and then explain that to God, the size of the gift doesn't matter as much as the love and sacrifice of the person giving it. It serves as a physical reminder that God wants our whole hearts, not just our leftovers.

Older Children & Teens (Ages 12-18)

Read

"One of the scribes approached. When he heard them debating and saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, 'Which command is the most important of all?' Jesus answered, 'The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these.'" (Mark 12:28-31)

Ask:

- In our culture today, what social pressures, expectations, or activities make it difficult to give God our complete allegiance instead of just giving Him our leftover time and energy?
- What is one specific comfort, priority, or mindset you might need to surrender right now in order to truly love God with all your mind and strength?

Do

- **The "I Will" Statement:** Challenge your teen to create their own action step this week. Have them fill in the blanks: "Because of what we read, I will _____ this week."