

Jesus, Don't Touch That! **Small Group Guide**

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one harmless thing you are weirdly picky about people doing “the right way” (loading the dishwasher, driving, playlists, group texts)?
2. If you could instantly become an expert in one random subject for a day, what would you pick and why?

Read the Following Passages: Mark 11:27–33; Mark 12:1–12; Mark 12:13–17; Mark 12:18–27

Summary of Key Passage: In Mark 11 and 12, religious leaders come to Jesus with questions that sound spiritual but are really about control. Jesus answers, but not on their terms. He exposes the heart behind them, then tells a story that reveals ownership, confronts misplaced allegiance, and re-centers hope on the living God who raises the dead. The same dynamic is still with us. When Jesus presses on what we are protecting, we can either keep negotiating or we can yield. Where are you cross-examining Jesus instead of trusting Him?

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. **Read Mark 11:27–33.** What do the leaders actually seem to be protecting when they question Jesus’ authority? Where do you see that same impulse in yourself?
2. The leaders shift from “What is true?” to “What will this cost us?” Where do you notice yourself calculating outcomes instead of responding to what God has already made clear?
3. When has God challenged something in you that felt “inconvenient” (ambition, image, control, relationship, politics, identity)? What helped you move from resistance to obedience? Where are you being challenged again right now to practice that same obedience?
4. If authority is revealed truth that demands response, what has Jesus been pressing on lately that you have been slow to answer?
5. In the parable (**Mark 12:1–12**), the tenants don’t deny the son is the heir. They just don’t want what his presence implies. Where do you recognize Jesus’ claim on your life, but still resist the implications?
6. What’s a “vineyard” in your life right now. Something you treat like it’s yours. Your career. Your relationship. Your money. Your platform. Your body. Your timeline. Which one feels hardest to imagine releasing?

7. The tenants in the parable escalate when the owner asks for fruit. What does “fruit” look like in your life right now. What do you sense God has been asking for? And if it applies, what has your avoidance looked like?
8. What is one specific thing you need to stop calling “mine” and start holding with open hands this week? What would that surrender look like in real life, not in theory?
9. Read Mark 12:13–17. Jesus asks, “Whose image is on the coin?” then He implies a deeper question. Whose image is on you? What is one daily habit that would help you remember you belong to God this week (Scripture before phone, prayer walk, fasting a feed, silence in the car)?
10. Read Luke 9:23. Where does following Jesus feel most costly right now in the area of allegiance, and what would a simple, obedient “yes” look like in the next seven days?
11. Think about your week. What content consistently forms you the most, for better or worse? What is one small change you could make to your inputs so your soul is being shaped more by Jesus than by the feed?
12. Jesus tells them, **“You know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.”** Which one is your drift when you’re tired or stressed. Do you drift into ignoring Scripture, or believing God has no power to actually change things?
13. When Jesus says God is “not God of the dead, but of the living,” what part of your life needs to hear that as hope right now? What is one specific situation you want to bring under that truth in prayer this week?

Pray