

MARK 12 | WHO OWNS MY LIFE?

Student Handout • Authority, Love, Hope, Integrity, and Generosity

BIG IDEA: Jesus exposes borrowed authority, shallow arguments, performative religion, and impressive-looking generosity. He calls us to wholehearted love, wise citizenship, resurrection hope, humble stewardship, and sacrificial trust.

1. The Tenants Reject the Son

Mark 12:1–12

God owns the vineyard; we are stewards, not owners.

Ask: Where do I get defensive when corrected?

Modern lens: founders, parents, leaders, or group-chat admins who treat entrusted influence like personal property.

3. Resurrection and Honest Questions

Mark 12:18–27

God's future is bigger than our present categories. Honest questions seek truth; "gotcha" questions seek a win.

Ask: Am I curious—or just trying to score points?

Modern lens: reaction videos, skepticism, grief, and online mockery.

5. David's Son and David's Lord

Mark 12:35–37

Jesus is more than a mascot, influencer, therapist, or political symbol.

Ask: Which teaching of Jesus do I tend to edit out?

Modern lens: inspirational quote feeds, campaign branding, and church-style wars.

7. The Widow's Offering

Mark 12:41–44

God sees cost, motive, trust, and the treatment of vulnerable people—not just the amount.

Ask: Is my generosity free, wise, sacrificial, and protective?

Modern lens: quiet giving, mutual aid, attention, and manipulative fundraising.

2. Give to Caesar and God

Mark 12:13–17

Government and institutions have real—but limited—authority. God alone owns our conscience and worship.

Ask: Is politics shaping my tone more than Jesus?

Modern lens: viral clips, algorithms, workplace pressure, and divided families.

4. The Greatest Commandment

Mark 12:28–34

Love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength—and love your neighbor with truth, dignity, action, and wise boundaries.

Ask: Who needs concrete love from me?

Modern lens: exclusion, caregiving, apologies, identity conflicts, and digital attention.

6. Warning Against Performative Religion

Mark 12:38–40

Spiritual visibility never excuses pride, secrecy, or exploitation.

Ask: Would I still do this if nobody saw it?

Modern lens: celebrity culture, livestreamed generosity, scams, and leaders who cannot be questioned.

GEN X + GEN Z: BETTER TOGETHER

Gen X may bring resilience, long-term perspective, and institutional memory.

Gen Z may bring digital awareness, transparency, and comfort naming harm.

Best question: How can loyalty avoid silence—and skepticism avoid cynicism?

What has God entrusted to me?

Who is my neighbor in this situation?

Where am I acting like an owner?

What costly, faithful action will I take this week?

Witty reminder: Jesus is not looking for your highlight reel—He is shaping your whole life.