



Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Mark 12:38-40

Introduction: In this passage Jesus turns from his conflicts with the religious leaders to warn the people about the scribes. The scribes were those most well acquainted with the Scriptures and therefore those most revered in Israel. Yet despite all of their theological education and influence Jesus condemns them. Ultimately, Jesus desires us to avoid the dangers of those who seek their own glory and not the glory of God.



Into the Word

“Power is being abused whenever the vulnerable are being exploited” - Langberg

What aspects of this passage do you find the most confusing or challenging?

Why does Jesus consider the scribes dangerous? What motivated the scribes? (v. 40)

Note: The scribes veiled exploitive behaviors with religious language.

Why are the scribes worthy of a “greater condemnation”? (v. 40)

Consider: James 3:1

What are the marks of those seeking their own glory? What might these look like today?

Note: The scribes wore special clothes, demanded respectful greetings, and expected special privilege.

Read Ezekiel 34:1-10. What does this teach us about God’s heart?

What is God’s purpose of leadership?



Into the Heart

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Philippians 2:3

Where are we most likely to have selfish ambition? What are consequence of selfish ambition? What is the root our selfish ambition?

Read Philippians 2:3-11. How can we resist selfish ambition?



Into the World

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. - John 10:11

What is great leadership in the eyes of the world? How is godly leadership different?

Consider: Mark 10:42-45, John 10:11-13, 1 Peter 5:2-4

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13. What are the most important aspects of church leadership?

Note: Notice the emphasis on character not ability.