

The GOAT
Mark 12:28-34

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NOTES

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Suggested Questions for Individual
Study or Group Discussion*



- What ignites the most vigorous debates among your friends or family? Politics? Sports? Religion? Something else?
- Read *Mark 12:28-34*. How does this teacher of the law approach Jesus differently than the earlier interrogators (cf. Mk. 11:27; 12:13; 12:18)? Why might this matter?
- Why does Jesus begin not with a command but a declaration (Mk. 12:29)? What does this establish?
- What is included in the command to love God? What might be excluded? What would this look like in a person's daily life?
- Read *Leviticus 19:9-18*. Given the context of the command to "love your neighbor," what can you conclude about who your neighbors are and how you are to love them?
- What are ways to understand the adjunct to love your neighbor "as yourself"? What do you think Jesus intends for us?
- What are parallels to "burnt offerings and sacrifices" in the Church today? How should they relate to the love commands?
- What evidence supports Jesus' declaration that the scribe is "not far from the kingdom of God"? What is still required?
- How can you follow Jesus' example of both loving God and neighbor this week? How can your small group or others support and pray for you in this?

For Family Discussion: Ask: *How do we know when people love us?* Read Mark 12:28-34. Ask: *What does Jesus say is the most important thing God wants from us? How does Jesus want us to love God? Who else does Jesus want us to love? How can we do this together this week?*

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.