

Lifegroup Questions

Mark 12 – The Greatest Commandment

Read Mark 12:28-34

- Jesus answers the teacher of the law's question with the 'Shema' a Jewish prayer taken from Deuteronomy 6:4-9. The prayer is prayed twice as the first words and last words of every day. Why do you think this prayer was so significant for the Jewish nation? Is there a particular prayer you pray more than any other?
- Jesus tells us to love the LORD your God with all your heart and all our soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Why do you think Jesus give us this commandment? Is it possible? What does your love for God look like?
- Why do you think that Jesus puts 'love your neighbour as yourself' (taken from Leviticus 19:18) next to the Shema? Is it possible to love God and not love your neighbour? (1 John 3:16-18, 4:20) What do you think it means to 'love your neighbour as yourself' today, especially at this time of international concern and social isolation?
- The teacher of the law agrees that loving God above all others and loving our neighbours as ourselves is more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. Are we ever in danger of putting religious practice above relationship?

Read Mark 12:35-40

- What does Jesus declare about himself in these verses? What does he declare about the teachers of the law? Do you think the teachers of the law are more interested in relationship or religion? Are there any lessons for us?

Read Mark 12:41-44

- Why does Jesus take the time to point out the poor widow to his disciples? How do these woman's actions relate to Jesus earlier words about the greatest commandment? Are there any lessons for us?