

## Small Group Guide: "Securing Our Eternal Inheritance"

Based on Mark 12:1-12

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### Opening Prayer

Begin your group time with prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to understand His Word and apply it to daily life.

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### Ice Breaker

**Share a memory:** What's one valuable lesson your father (or father figure) taught you that you still carry with you today?

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### Sermon Summary

This message explores Jesus' parable of the vineyard, revealing God's extensive preparations for His people and the tragic rejection of His Son. The sermon challenges us to recognize Jesus as the cornerstone of our faith and to secure our eternal inheritance through relationship with Him.

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### Key Takeaways

1. **God's Great Preparations** - God went to extraordinary lengths to establish His vineyard (the church), providing protection, tools, and purpose.
  2. **The Pattern of Rejection** - Throughout history, God's messengers were rejected, beaten, and killed, culminating in the rejection of Jesus.
  3. **The Beloved Son** - Jesus is God's ultimate provision, sent to secure our inheritance.
  4. **The Cost of Rejection** - Those who reject the Son forfeit the eternal inheritance God has prepared.
  5. **Redemption for Others** - The vineyard was given to those who would receive the Son—Jew and Gentile alike.
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### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding the Parable (15-20 minutes)

1. **Read Mark 12:1-12 together.** What stands out to you most in this parable? Why?

2. The sermon outlined five preparations God made for the vineyard: planting, fence, wine press, tower, and lease. Which of these resonates most with you, and how do you see God's provision in your own life?
3. Who do the following represent in the parable?
  - The vineyard owner
  - The vineyard
  - The tenants
  - The servants
  - The beloved son

### **Personal Reflection (15-20 minutes)**

4. The sermon mentioned that it costs \$20,000-\$60,000 to plant a vineyard, with no return for four years. How does understanding the "cost" of what Jesus did on the cross impact your appreciation of salvation?
5. **Honest moment:** In what areas of your life are you tempted to act like the tenants—keeping what belongs to God for yourself rather than giving Him what's rightfully His?
6. The religious leaders in Jesus' day rejected Him despite knowing the Scriptures. What "religious activity" might we substitute for genuine relationship with Jesus today?

### **Application and Action (15-20 minutes)**

7. The sermon stated: "Whoever gets the Son gets everything." What does this mean practically for how you live Monday through Saturday?
8. Jesus said from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." How does this demonstrate the Father's love? How can we extend similar grace to those who hurt us?
9. The cornerstone sets the foundation for everything else. In what specific area of your life do you need to make Jesus the cornerstone rather than just another piece?
10. **Challenge question:** If someone examined your calendar, budget, and priorities this past month, would they conclude that you believe you have an eternal inheritance waiting? Why or why not?

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### **Practical Applications**

#### **This Week's Challenge**

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

### **Option 1: Gratitude Inventory**

- Each day, write down one specific way God has "prepared a vineyard" for you (provision, protection, purpose, etc.)
- Share these with someone by week's end

### **Option 2: Inheritance Audit**

- Examine one area where you're living for temporary treasures rather than eternal inheritance
- Take one concrete step to realign your priorities with God's kingdom

### **Option 3: Cornerstone Check**

- Identify one decision you're currently facing
- Before deciding, ask: "Am I building this on Jesus as the cornerstone, or on my own understanding?"

### **Option 4: Forgiveness in Action**

- Like Jesus on the cross, extend forgiveness to someone who has hurt you
  - Pray for them daily this week
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### **Memory Verse**

**Mark 12:10-11** "Have you not read this Scripture: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

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### **Prayer Focus**

#### **Pray for:**

- Gratitude for God's extensive preparations and provisions
  - Soft hearts that receive Jesus as Lord, not reject Him
  - Wisdom to invest in eternal inheritance rather than temporary pleasures
  - Fathers and father figures in your group and church
  - Those who don't yet know the Heavenly Father's love
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### **Closing Prayer**

Have group members share specific prayer requests, then close by thanking God for being the perfect Heavenly Father who loved us enough to send His Son.

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### **Before Next Week**

- Read Mark 12:13-27 (next passage in Mark)
  - Practice your chosen application challenge
  - Reach out to encourage at least one father figure in your life
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### **Leader Notes**

- Be sensitive to those who may have difficult relationships with their earthly fathers
- Emphasize that our Heavenly Father never fails, even when earthly fathers do
- Create space for honest discussion about areas where people struggle to "give God what is God's"
- Celebrate testimonies of how people are applying biblical truth