

Small Group Guide

Based on "Curiosity Rising" — Mark 12:18-27

OVERVIEW

Jesus' conversation with the Sadducees reminds us that knowing about God is not the same as truly knowing God. The Sadducees came to Jesus with questions, but their hearts were already closed to the truth. Jesus challenged them to stop relying on their own assumptions, understand God's Word correctly, and trust in the power of God.

This passage reminds us that our faith is not built on opinions or feelings — it is built on the truth of who God is and the hope we have through the resurrection of Jesus.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- We can come to God with our own ideas already made up and miss what He wants to teach us.
- Following Jesus means being willing to seek truth, even when it challenges us.
- God's Word is meant to guide us, not simply support what we already believe.
- Jesus reminds us that our God is powerful enough to do what seems impossible.
- The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our hope. Because Jesus is alive, we can have confidence in our future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening Question — Getting Started

Have you ever had your mind made up about something before you had all the information? What happened?

Section 1 — Coming to God With an Open Heart

The Sadducees came to Jesus with a question, but they weren't really looking for an answer. They were trying to prove Jesus wrong.

1. Why do you think people sometimes ask questions about faith because they are curious, but other times because they want to argue?
2. What are some things that can get in the way of being open to what God wants to teach us?

3. How can we come to worship, youth group, or Bible study with a heart ready to hear from God?

Section 2 — Knowing Scripture and Seeking Truth

Jesus told the Sadducees they were wrong because they did not understand the Scriptures or the power of God.

1. Why is it important to understand the Bible instead of just using one verse to prove our point?
 2. Have you ever seen someone misunderstand something because they only knew part of the story? How can that happen with faith?
 3. What are some ways we can grow in understanding God's Word?
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Section 3 — Trusting God's Power

The Sadducees thought the resurrection was impossible. Jesus reminded them that God is not limited by what humans can understand.

1. What are some things people today might think are "impossible" for God?
 2. When life is difficult, why is it sometimes hard to trust God's power?
 3. Can you think of a time when you saw God working in your life or someone else's life?
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Section 4 — The Hope of the Resurrection

Jesus said, "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Our hope is not just about what happens after we die — it changes how we live today.

1. How should knowing Jesus is alive affect the way we handle fear, stress, or struggles?
 2. What difference does Jesus' resurrection make in your everyday life?
 3. Who is someone in your life who needs to know the hope that Jesus gives?
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PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one challenge to practice this week:

Heart Check:

Before church, youth group, or personal Bible time, ask God: "What do You want to teach me?"
Come ready to listen.

Scripture Challenge:

Read Mark 12:18-27 again this week. Ask:

- What does this teach me about God?
- What does this teach me about Jesus?
- How should this change me?

God's Power Journal:

Write down one way you see God working each day this week.

Share the Hope:

Pray for one person who needs to know Jesus and look for an opportunity to encourage or talk with them.

CLOSING PRAYER GUIDE

Open Hearts

Ask God to help us be willing to learn, grow, and surrender our own assumptions.

Truth

Ask God to help us understand His Word and seek truth instead of just what we want to believe.

Hope

Thank God for Jesus' resurrection and ask Him to help us live confidently because He is alive.

I kept this to a length that should realistically fit a 30–40 minute middle/high school small group discussion while still hitting the major sermon points.