

# Small Group Guide

## "Fatherhood & Footstools" | Mark 12:35-37

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### OVERVIEW

In this sermon, Pastor Virgil walks through Mark 12:35-37, where Jesus challenges the scribes' understanding of the Messiah's identity. Drawing on Old Testament prophecy and the words of David in Psalm 110, Jesus reveals that the Christ is not merely a descendant of David but is Lord over David himself. This guide is designed to help your group dig deeper into those truths and consider what they mean for everyday life.

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### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus publicly and boldly declared his identity as the Messiah in the very center of religious authority, the temple, leaving no room for ambiguity.
  - Old Testament prophecy in Jeremiah 23:5-6, Micah 5:2, and Isaiah 9:6-7 pointed clearly to a Messiah who would be far greater than a political or military deliverer.
  - Psalm 110, the most frequently quoted Old Testament passage in the entire New Testament, establishes that the Messiah is Lord over David, not merely his descendant.
  - Knowing who Jesus is requires more than intellectual knowledge. It requires the work of the Holy Spirit and a response of personal faith.
  - The church has been entrusted with the mission of proclaiming the gospel, both locally and around the world, and that mission calls every believer to participate with their unique gifts.
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### OPENING QUESTION

*Use this to get conversation started. Keep it light and accessible.*

Pastor Virgil mentioned the idea of a paternity test and how important it is to know where you come from. Share a story about a family tradition, trait, or characteristic that has been passed down through your family. What does it mean to carry on a family legacy?

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### Understanding the Text

1. Read Mark 12:35-37 together as a group. In your own words, what point is Jesus making when he asks, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?" Why does it matter that David calls the Messiah "Lord"?

## Fatherhood & Footstools – 8.16.2026 Sunday AM - Adult

2. Pastor Virgil described the difference between the temple and the synagogue. Why is it significant that Jesus chose to make this declaration in the temple, right in the center of religious and political authority? What does that tell us about the character of Jesus?
3. Look at the three Old Testament prophecies referenced in the sermon: Jeremiah 23:5-6, Micah 5:2, and Isaiah 9:6-7. What specific details in each passage point to Jesus as the Messiah? Why do you think so many people in Israel missed these signs even though the scriptures were right in front of them?

### Going Deeper

4. Pastor Virgil said, "If you know what you are looking for, you are more likely to see it." In what ways do you think familiarity with Scripture can either sharpen or dull our ability to recognize what God is doing around us? Have you ever experienced a time when you read a passage of Scripture and suddenly saw something you had never noticed before?
5. Pastor Virgil drew a contrast between knowing about Jesus intellectually and truly knowing him through the conviction of the Holy Spirit and personal faith. He shared his own testimony of coming to faith at age 26. How would you describe the difference between those two kinds of knowing in your own experience?
6. Satan's strategy in the Garden of Eden was not to deny God's word outright but to twist it slightly. Pastor Virgil said, "All God has to do is show us his truth, but all Satan has to do is try to twist it." Where do you see that same strategy at work in our culture today? How do we guard against it personally and as a church?
7. Psalm 110 is described as the most frequently quoted Old Testament passage in the New Testament. What does that tell us about how central the lordship and reign of Christ is to the entire message of the Bible? How does that truth shape the way you read both the Old and New Testaments?

### Personal Reflection

8. Pastor Virgil said, "There is no stopping what God will do through us if his church did not care who got credit for it." Is there an area in your own life or in your church involvement where you have struggled with that? What would it look like to release that to God?
9. The great crowd in the temple heard Jesus gladly. Pastor Virgil connected that reaction to the joy of Anna the prophetess when she saw the Christ child dedicated in the temple. On a practical, day-to-day level, what does it look like to live with that kind of gladness and rejoicing in who Jesus is?
10. The sermon closed with 1 Corinthians 15:58, which calls believers to be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord. What does "abounding in the work of the Lord" look like specifically for you in this season of your life?

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## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to discuss as a group and commit to practicing before your next meeting.

**Know What You Are Looking For:** Set aside time this week to read through one of the three Old Testament prophecies mentioned in the sermon: Jeremiah 23:5-6, Micah 5:2, or Isaiah 9:6-7. As you read, write down two or three specific ways you see that prophecy fulfilled in the life of Jesus. Bring your notes to share with the group next week.

**Identify Your Gift:** Pastor Virgil reminded the group that not everyone preaches, sings, teaches, or builds ramps, but every believer has a gift. This week, write down one specific gift or ability you believe God has

given you. Then identify one concrete way you are currently using it, or one way you could begin using it, to serve your church or community.

**Pray for the Lost in Your Circle:** Pastor Virgil closed by describing thousands of people in the surrounding community who have no idea who Jesus is. Write down the names of two or three people in your own life who do not yet know Christ. Commit to praying for them by name every day this week and ask God to give you a natural opportunity to share your faith with at least one of them.

**Support the Mission:** The sermon highlighted mission trips to Slovenia, Newfoundland, London, Argentina, and Liberia. As a group, discuss one practical way you can support one of these mission efforts, whether through prayer, financial giving, or eventually going yourself. If your small group is not yet aligned with a mission partner, consider asking your church leadership how your group can get connected.

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## CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

Close your time together by praying as a group over the following:

- Pray for the mission teams preparing to travel to Slovenia and for the IMB missionaries already serving there.
- Pray for the Mile One Mission church plant in St. John's, Newfoundland, and for the ongoing relationships being built there.
- Pray for each group member to have clarity about how God has gifted them and courage to use those gifts.
- Pray for the lost in your community by name, asking God to open hearts to the gospel.
- Pray for your church to be unified, on mission, and unafraid to boldly proclaim who Jesus is.

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## MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

1 Corinthians 15:58 -- Paul calls the church to be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord, with the assurance that labor done in the Lord is never wasted.

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*This guide was prepared from a sermon preached at First Baptist Church Stanleyville on Mark 12:35-37.*