

HOW TO LOVE GOD

Big Idea: Loving God actually begins with an understanding of how much He loved us first. Our response is to love Him in return in practical ways every day and believe His promises, including the promise that nothing can separate us from His love—both now and into eternity.

Romans 5:8 (NLT) *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

1 John 4:19 (NKJV) *We love Him because He first loved us.*

John 14:15 (NIV) *If you love me, keep my commands.*

Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT) *Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”*

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT) *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Start Talking:

How do you communicate love to others? How do people who love you communicate their love to you?

Start Thinking:

Read Romans 5:8 and 1 John 4:19. Why is it so important for us to know that God first loved us and sent His Son to die for us?

Read John 14:15. In what ways does obeying God’s commands express our love for Him? What are some other practical expressions of a genuine love for the Lord?

Read Matthew 22:37-40. What does it mean to love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind? How should this impact the way you treat others?

Read Romans 8:38-39. What difference should it make in our lives to know the truth that nothing will ever separate us from God’s love?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for God to help you understand “how wide and long and high and deep” (Ephesians 3:18) His love for you really is. Take time to meditate on Romans 5:8 and 1 John 4:19 this week to reinforce the truth of His sacrificial commitment of love to you, and to allow this to fuel your love for Him.

Look for ways to express this love through obedience to His Word, trust in His promises, gratitude and praise for His faithfulness, giving cheerfully and loving others in His name.

