



## Have you ever struggled with loving others?

Mark 12:29–31 *“The most important commandment is this: ‘... <sup>30</sup> **you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.**’ <sup>31</sup> The second is equally important: ‘**Love your neighbor as yourself.**’ No other commandment is greater than these.” (NLT)*

### How Can I Love My Neighbor As Myself?

1. By \_\_\_\_\_ human \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Samuel 18:1, 3–4 *After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself... <sup>3</sup> And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. <sup>4</sup> Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt. (NIV)*

2. By \_\_\_\_\_ for my \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Samuel 19:1–2, 4–6 *Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David. But Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David, <sup>2</sup> told him what his father was planning... <sup>4</sup> The next morning Jonathan spoke with his father about David, saying many good things about him. “The king must not sin against his servant David,” Jonathan said. “He’s never done anything to harm you. He has always helped you in any way he could.” <sup>5</sup> Have you forgotten about the time he risked his life to kill the Philistine giant and how the LORD brought a great victory to all Israel as a result? You were certainly happy about it then. Why should you murder an innocent man like David? There is no reason for it at all!” <sup>6</sup> So Saul listened to Jonathan and vowed, “As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be killed.” (NLT)*

3. By \_\_\_\_\_ the test of \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Samuel 20:12–17 *Jonathan said to David, ‘By the LORD, the God of Israel! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or on the third day, if he is well disposed towards David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you? <sup>13</sup> But if my father intends to do you harm, the LORD do so to Jonathan, and more also, if I do not disclose it to you, and send you away, so that you may go in safety. May the LORD be with you, as he has been with my father. <sup>14</sup> If I am still alive, show me the faithful love of the LORD; but if I die, <sup>15</sup> never cut off your faithful love from my house, even if the LORD were to cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.’ <sup>16</sup> Thus Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David... <sup>17</sup> Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him; for he loved him as he loved his own life. (NRSV)*

4. By \_\_\_\_\_ when they \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Samuel 20:41–42 *David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most. <sup>42</sup> Then Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.’” And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city. (ESV)*

5. By \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Samuel 23:15–18 *One day near Horesh, David received the news that Saul was on the way to Ziph to search for him and kill him. <sup>16</sup> Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God. <sup>17</sup> “Don’t be afraid,” Jonathan reassured him. “My father will never find you! You are going to be the king of Israel, and I will be next to you, as my father, Saul, is well aware.” <sup>18</sup> So the two of them renewed their solemn pact before the LORD. Then Jonathan returned home, while David stayed at Horesh. (NLT)*

6. By \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Samuel 9:3, 6–7 *And the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?”... <sup>6</sup> And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, “Mephibosheth!” And he answered, “Behold, I am your servant.” <sup>7</sup> And David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always.” (ESV)*

### Why Should I Love My Neighbor As Myself?

**LOVING OTHERS IS ABOUT**

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Romans 13:8–10 *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for **whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.** <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. (NIV)*

**LOVING OTHERS IS GOD’S BEST FUTURE FOR US**

### ANSWER KEY:

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| 1. <b>REJECTING</b> human <b>DIVISION</b>       | 2. <b>INTERCEDING</b> for my <b>NEIGHBOR</b> |
| 3. <b>ENDURING</b> the test of <b>ADVERSITY</b> | 4. <b>GRIEVING</b> when they <b>HURT</b>     |
| 5. <b>ENCOURAGING</b> their <b>FAITH</b>        | 6. <b>KEEPING</b> my <b>PROMISES</b>         |

About: **ACCEPTING GOD’S FUTURE**

