



Love the Lord Your God

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”
Mark 12:29-30

Opening Thought

The Old Testament contains 613 laws. An expert in these laws once asked Jesus which one of those laws was the most important, and Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” In one sentence, Jesus teaches us that the most important thing we can do is to love God with everything we have.

QUESTION: How Can We Love God?

- We love God through our obedience to Him. Love is more than a feeling; it’s an action. We love God when we live righteously, according to His ways.
- Study the Scriptures: The only way we can be obedient to God is by learning what He has written for us.

“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.” John 14:21

QUESTION: What Are Other Ways We Can Love God?

(Leaders, while we must be obedient in order to love God, there are other ways in which we can express our love to Him. Use this question as a conversation starter.)

Application

Is there an area of your life where you are in disobedience? Make a new commitment today to obey God. In your daily decisions, ask yourself, “Am I obeying God? Am I loving Him with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength?” God will empower you to be obedient to Him. Also, surround yourself with others who are dedicated to loving God. Believers are called to encourage one another and build each other up. Remember, because God calls you to love Him with everything you have, you already have everything you need to fulfill the greatest commandment; to love the Lord your God.

Prayer

Close your gathering in prayer. Accept prayer requests from the group and include them in your prayer. Also, challenge your group to pray for each other. The following is a sample prayer you may use for guidance.

Father God, thank you for this day and for your message. Help us to take delight in your word and in You. Continue to teach us Your ways so that we may walk in obedience to them. We know that the greatest thing we can do is to love You with everything we have, therefore we desire nothing more. Help us to achieve this so that we may live in a way that glorifies You. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Additional and Optional Scriptures

“If you love me you will keep my commandments.” John 14:15

“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word.” John 14:23

“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love.” John 15:10

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.” 1 John 5:3