

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GROWING IN LOVE FOR GOD
Make Every Effort — Week 14

ICEBREAKER: What quality do you appreciate most in a friend?

OVERVIEW: According to the Jews there are 613 commands in the Old Testament law. On one occasion a scribe asked Jesus which law was the greatest, and Jesus replied that the greatest law of all is to love God. But what does it mean to love God? And how do we love God? In this discussion we will go deeper with how to grow in obeying the most important commandment of all.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. The definition of loving God is delighting in Him, desiring Him, and treasuring Him above all else. What does it mean to *delight* in God above all things? What does it mean to *desire* Him above all things? What does it mean to *treasure* Him above all things?
3. Read Mark 12:30. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?
4. Read Matthew 10:37. How can we make sure that we love God more than anything or anyone else?

5. Read John 14:15. To love God we must obey His commands. When is it okay to disobey God? How do you need to grow in obedience to God?
6. Read Psalm 97:10. To love God we must hate what He hates. Do you ever enjoy, or laugh at, or entertain yourself with things that God hates? Explain. How do you need to grow in this area?
7. Deuteronomy 11:1 (CEV) says, "Moses said to Israel: The Lord is your God, so you must always love him and obey his laws and teachings." We must love God *always*. Does your love for God waver, increasing on some days, and decreasing on others? What causes this? How can you grow at loving God always?
8. Read Matthew 6:24. We must not love money, because the love of money wars against the love of God. How do unbelievers treat money, and how should our love for God be similar?

The Last Word: "Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." James 1:12

