

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:34-39

ICEBREAKER: What is your favorite movie or TV show?

OVERVIEW: What is the greatest and most important commandment? One time an expert in Jewish law tested Jesus by asking Him this very question. Jesus' answer was so profound that it silenced his critics (see Mk 12:34). He summarized all the commands in the Bible with two related commands: love God and love your neighbor. In this discussion we will go deeper with how to love God with all of your heart, mind, and soul.

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 sermon discussed the greatest commandment — loving God. The second is to love your neighbor as yourself. In your opinion, what is the third most important commandment in the Bible?
3. The Greek word for love — *agapē* — describes sacrificial and committed love. How is this different from the way our culture typically defines love?
4. The Bible describes the death of Christ as the ultimate picture of sacrificial love. Why is the cross central to understanding what true love looks like?
5. Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and answer the following questions.
 - a) What are the truths stated in this passage?
 - b) What does this passage call the Israelites to do?
 - c) Why is obedience an important part of love in this passage?

6. Refer to the sermon for the following questions. Read Matthew 22:34-39. Jesus says that loving God is the greatest commandment. Why do you think Jesus chose love as the foundation of the entire Law?
7. The sermon outlined three ways to love the Lord (Heart, Mind, and Soul). Which one do you most need to grow in?
8. Jesus teaches that our hearts follow what we treasure most. What are some things in modern life that often compete for our hearts and affection?
9. Jesus demonstrated surrender in Gethsemane when He prayed for the Father's will to be done. What does surrender to God's will look like in everyday life?
10. Why is it important for Christians to grow intellectually in their understanding of Scripture?
11. How can we grow in the love of God? Why are each of these ways important for our relationship with God and mission?

The Last Word: True love for God involves total surrender, obeying His commandments, and putting Him above all else.

