



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for the week of July 12, 2020

"One Drive"

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Theme/concept

A person who is fully alive in Christ passionately loves God. Disciples "experience Christ moment-by-moment through vital fellowship, worship, gratitude, and grace that set us free to live with joy and purpose." We have "one drive," one dominant purpose and motivation. We do not fit the Lord into our lives; we form our lives around the Lord.

Application

We love God with loyal hearts, abiding souls, obedient strength, and renewed minds.

Charge

Love the Lord at all times with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Icebreaker (for groups)

Tell your group about a time in your life when you felt focused and driven toward a goal you were passionate about.

Reflections on the sermon

Which of the four aspects of loving God—with your heart, soul, mind, and strength—best captures how you love God?

Background/Context

The two main passages (Deuteronomy 6:1-8 and Mark 12:28-31) focus on the greatest commandment: to love God. The thrust of the command is the same in the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, Moses gives the Israelites this command from God after bringing them to a place where they could enter the promised land. In the New Testament, Jesus gives this command in response to a question from a Jewish teacher of the law. This takes place not long before Jesus is crucified and resurrected, enabling his followers in all ages to enter heaven, a different sort of "promised land," where we will be able to love God fully, as God intends.

Scripture

Deuteronomy 6:1–8 (New International Version)

These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

Mark 12:28–31 (NIV)

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it.

Psalms 86:11

Teach me your way, Lord,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.

1 John 4:10

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Genesis 2:7 (King James Version)

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

John 15:5

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Joshua 22:5

“But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

John 14:15

“If you love me, keep my commands.”

2 Corinthians 10:5

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Isaiah 55:9

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

1 Corinthians 2:16b

But we have the mind of Christ.

Breaking down the Scripture

1. In Deuteronomy 6:1-3, how many benefits of keeping God’s commands can you find?

2. In Deuteronomy 6:5-6, what is the connection between loving God with all our hearts and having His commandments on our hearts?

3. In Deuteronomy 6:7-8, what are three ways of responding to God’s call for undivided loyalty?

4. In Mark 12:29-30, why did Jesus choose to answer the Jewish teacher’s question by quoting the Deuteronomy passage?

Going deeper

1. Of the four aspects of loving God (with your heart, soul, mind, and strength), which is most important, and why (see Proverbs 4:23)?

