

4 Attitudes: Love

Love God with your whole heart and worship Him



B

Group Discussion Flow

connect with needs

- ▶ Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their **action to take** and **person to tell** went last week.
- ▶ Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- ▶ Start by stating: *“Love is a crucial element in causing a relationship to deepen over time.”*
Then, surface experiences:
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
“Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- ▶ Transition to the Bible by saying, *“This is also true in a relationship with God.”*

hear what God says

- ▶ Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.
Choices:
Matthew 22:36–38
John 21:15–17 (story)
Deuteronomy 11:11–15 (story)
Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.
Commentary:
Matthew 22:36–38 — Jesus makes it clear that loving God is our number one priority.
John 21:15–17 — Jesus strongly emphasizes that priority with Peter (who had recently denied knowing Him).
Deuteronomy 11:11–15 — God tells the children of Israel what wonderful benefits they will receive if they love and serve Him wholeheartedly.

apply that to life

- ▶ State the main lesson: *“Love God with your whole heart and worship Him.”* Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- ▶ Discuss:
Why don't we always love God with our whole heart?
What is one action you can take this week to start loving God more?
- ▶ Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

tell someone they know

- ▶ Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- ▶ Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- ▶ Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes and preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes and preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- Matthew 22:36–38**
 1. *What are some other answers Jesus might have given besides, “Love the Lord your God...?”* (For example, “Be holy” or “Obey God.”)
 2. *What may be some reasons Christ chose the “Love God” answer?*
- John 21:15–17**
Point out that this is the last recorded personal conversation between Jesus and Peter before Christ ascended to heaven.

notes and preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print [Love Mini Journal](#).

Deuteronomy 11:11–15

1. *What were the benefits God promised to the children of Israel if they loved and served Him wholeheartedly?*
2. *What might those benefits look like today, if we do the same?*

notes and preparation checklist

tell

- Encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who **tell** easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.