



Personal Study Guide

Loving God

October 6, 2019

Introduction

? What are some of the competing “most important things” that the world promotes as being of ultimate importance? What shortcomings do you see in those offerings?

? Who inspires you with evident peace and contentment in his or her life? What do you know about that person’s relationship with Christ? What particular aspects would you like to emulate?

1. The Important and Impossible Question (Matthew 22:35-36)

? How does it make you feel when you suspect someone is asking you a question to set you up for backlash? Describe a time when someone asked you a leading theological question to pick a fight. How did you handle it?

? What do you learn about the expert in the Law that challenged Jesus, knowing that his question was specifically meant to test Jesus?

2. Loving God (Matthew 22:37-38)

? What does it indicate to you that Jesus’ response addressed a person’s love for God instead of a specific rule to follow? How does His answer reconcile right belief and right practice without diminishing either?

- ❓ What was the impact of selecting such a familiar passage as the most important one? How do you think it impacted His hearers to know that the most important thing was something they spoke of frequently but gave no evidence of practicing?
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3. Loving God Means Loving Others (Matthew 22:39-40)

- ❓ Why is it so important to connect the outflow of God's love to others with personal worship? In what ways does this reflect God's love for His people?
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- ❓ How should Jesus' explanation that all the Law and the Prophets depend on these commands impact one's understanding of the Old Testament?
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Conclusion

- ❓ Which of the three areas mentioned by Jesus (heart, soul, mind) is the most natural for you to express your love of God through? Which one requires the most discipline for you?
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- ❓ Given the community we live in, why do you think it is so important for believers to be theologically grounded? What is the danger in placing too much emphasis on theological knowledge?
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- ❓ What are some ways in which your love for God has found expression by tangibly loving others? How would you like to see that change over the next months? What particular neighbors do you feel drawn toward?
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Daily Readings

- Monday - Psalm 37:4
- Tuesday - Jeremiah 29:13
- Wednesday - Matthew 5:6
- Thursday - Luke 10:38-42
- Friday - Lamentations 3:25
- Saturday - Isaiah 40:31