

# Jesus Loved God

January 6, 2019

THE  
DISCIPLE  
MAKER

**Open:** What are some common misconceptions of what it means to love someone?

**Read & Discuss:** Mark 12:28-30

1. The commandment to love God starts with the phrase “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one” (v. 29). Why would this statement be relevant to the command to love God? How do you ensure that your love for God is rooted in truth about God?
2. Practically, what does it look like to attempt to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (v. 30)? What makes this commandment so important?

**Read & Discuss:** John 15:7-11

3. In verse 9, Jesus speaks of the Father’s love for His Son, Jesus. From what you know of Scripture, how would you describe the Father’s love for Jesus? In addition to dying for us, how has Jesus demonstrated His love for us?
4. How would you explain why there’s a connection between keeping Jesus’ commandments and abiding in His love (v. 9)? From this passage, what should we expect if we *don’t* obey Jesus’ commands? What should we expect if we *do* obey Jesus’ commands? How should these expectations shape how we go about making disciples?

**Read & Discuss:** Revelation 2:2-5

5. What might cause someone to do all the things listed in verses 2-3 and yet not have love? How do we know if we’re doing acts of obedience without love? What are some common spiritual practices that you know you have done at times apart from love for God?
6. Looking at verse 5, how would you counsel someone who recognizes they have fallen into a life of loveless obedience to God?

**Apply:** What’s one thing you could do this week to cultivate your love for God? What’s one thing you could do this week to help others cultivate a love for God?

**Pray:** Pray that we would be people who love God with all that we are—and that we would be people who inspire others to do the same.

## **Mark 12:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'<sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" (ESV)

## **John 15:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (ESV)

## **Revelation 2:2-5**

<sup>2</sup> "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. <sup>3</sup> I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. (ESV)