



Loving God

MAIN IDEA

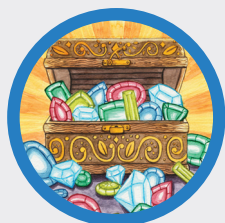
- **Loving God is knowing, feeling, and treating God as your greatest treasure.**

MEMORY VERSE

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
—Psalm 73:25

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Deuteronomy 6:5
- 2) Psalm 73:25
- 3) Ezekiel 36:26-27
- 4) Matthew 6:21
- 5) Matthew 22:37
- 6) Mark 12:30
- 7) Luke 10:27
- 8) 1 John 4:19-21



LESSON SUMMARY

Contemporary culture ascribes love to so many things. In the same conversation we state, “I love ice cream,” and “I love my spouse.” Yet we instinctively know that the latter “love” carries a weight and meaning far beyond the former. Therefore, it is important to clarify the meaning of love, especially in light of the greatest command:

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.—Mark 12:30

Love for God is to be ultimate, and it should involve every aspect of our being—every thought, emotion, attitude, word, and action. As this study of God’s attributes has hopefully communicated, God indeed is worthy of our greatest affections. He is the priceless and matchless treasure, and loving Him most is the only thing that will ultimately satisfy the soul. But loving Him most is an impossible command apart from His first loving and redeeming us (1 John 4:19). Once redeemed, the Holy Spirit transforms and empowers us to grow in our love for God. And the result of loving God most will not be less love for others but more love, as we love them out of the overflow of love that God pours out on us.

In this lesson, we helped the children see these truths by first talking about the natural affection they have toward parents, family, and friends, and then pointing them toward the necessity, significance, and fruit of loving God most of all.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- that your child would see and understand with increasing measure what it means to love God with his or her whole heart.
- that he or she will see that loving God most will also result in loving others with a greater degree of God-honoring affection.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- As descriptively as possible, talk about the love you have for your child and include some ways that you treat him or her specially. **If a person loves and treasures God most of all, what are some special ways that he would treat God?** [Give the children some

time to think about this and respond.] Think about all the things you want to do this week. **Are you also looking forward to doing things that show God He is most special to you? Why might it be hard for us to think of God first? Can you love God most, without Him first giving you a new heart? Where does this heart come from?** [See Ezekiel 36:26-27. Everyone who is trusting in Jesus for salvation has been given a new heart.]

- Point out that, even for someone who is trusting Jesus and is a child of God, there will be times when that person’s thoughts, feelings, words, and actions do not always show, “I love and treasure God most.” **Would this be right, to not show that they treasure God most?** No, it is sinful and wrong. **But would God be surprised by this?** Recall that God is understanding—He keeps in mind

that His children are weak, even people that have been Christians for many years. **But when we find ourselves not loving God most, should we just give up and say, “That’s just the way I am”?** **What would God want us to do?** [pray to Jesus and ask for help; talk to other Christians and ask them to pray, too; avoid things that draw your heart from God (if appropriate); etc.]

- Read and talk about 1 John 4:19-21. Explain that loving God with all your heart does not mean that you should not love your parents, brothers and sisters, and friends. When you love God with all your heart, He gives you even more love for other people. **Is there someone you are having a hard time loving? Why do you think it is hard to love this person? What would Jesus want you to do? Have you prayed about this? How can He help you become more loving?**

ACTION STEP

This week, use red paper to cut out a shape of a heart or draw an outline of a heart on a large piece of paper. Next, draw a picture of treasure chest. In the middle of the chest write the word “GOD.” Tape or glue the treasure chest within the heart. Use this visual to remind you that you are to know, feel, and treat God as your greatest treasure.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This verse does not look right. Practice memorizing your verse, and then see if you can put the words in the correct order on the lines below.



on besides I nothing desire have heaven you? Whom there
that in you but I And is earth—*Psalm 73:25*