



Group Discussion Guide: Heart | October 10, 2021

Begin with Scripture + prayer (5 minutes).

As you begin, start by spending a few moments in silence as a group.

[Why silence? Our world is so busy and distracted, and technology fills any gaps in between. With all that moving, it can be hard to hear others and hear the voice of God. As we gather, let's press pause and enter a moment of quiet so that we can hear what God is saying to us and through others.]

Once you've completed your moment of quiet, **read Mark 12:28-30**. After you've finished reading, pray to open your time together.

Discuss your impressions + hopes for this series (15 minutes).

- When you heard that we were going to spend four weeks looking at *how* to love God after spending nine weeks talking about God's character, what thoughts or feelings did you have?
- As you do an initial inspection of how Jesus says we are to love God (heart, soul, mind, strength), which of those do you feel most confident in? Which one of these do you need to grow in? Explain.
- What are you hoping to get out of this sermon series?

Read Scripture + debrief the sermon as a group (50 minutes).

- What resonated with you from the sermon this past weekend? What was new to you? What was said in a fresh way that struck you differently?
- What challenged you or made you wrestle a little bit?
- Re-read some of the passages that Dan mentioned in his message: **Proverbs 4:23; Jeremiah 19:9; Ezekiel 36:26; 1 Kings 11:3-4; Joel 2:12**. What do these verses tell you about our hearts?
- In this sermon, Dan's first point was, "God wants me to love Him with all my heart." Do you think this is attainable? Why or why not? Where do you feel tension in your life regarding this?



- What would it take for you to give more of your heart to God? What would a heart 1% more surrendered to God look like for you personally?
- If you do feel tension, it's probably because of the second point Dan mentioned – that our hearts do not naturally love God the right way. In what ways have you seen this to be true in your life?
- With that being the case, how does it make you feel to know God can change your heart and your desires?
- What's an example of a time in your life where your heart was changed? Think about your heart be changed in reference to a hobby, a sports team, a relationship, etc.
- In what ways do your habits set you up for success when it comes to loving God? In what ways do they set you up to fail?
- What habits do you need to replace to align yourself with loving God with your whole heart? What new habits do you need to begin?

Go over the daily work for this week (10 minutes).

Don't forget that you can access daily work at thecreek.org/devotionals!

This week you'll have the opportunity to invite God to examine your heart, to search the Scriptures each day, and to truly identify your desires.

Look over the weekly work with your group. Ask if there are any questions. You'll want to encourage each person to commit to doing the three practices outlined in the All Week 1 work:

- Practice #1: Inviting God to Examine Your Heart
- Practice #2: Search the Scriptures
- Practice #3: Identify your Desires

We do these practices, not as a checklist, but to see what it is we truly love and begin the process of forming our loves through our habits.

There will be space in the group guide for your next group gathering to go over thoughts, insights, reflections, and challenges from these experiences.



Finish with intercessory prayer (5 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close in prayer.