



## **Group Discussion Guide: Love God | January 8, 2023**

### **Open with prayer (5 minutes).**

Take a few minutes to acknowledge God's presence as you begin your group time. Ask Him to help your group have a good discussion and to help you internalize the Scriptures.

### **Break into smaller groups and debrief the sermon (30 minutes).**

*Select a few of these questions to help you discuss through the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.*

- In what ways have you experienced God's love in your life?
- **Read Mark 12:28-30.** How do you love God with your heart, mind, soul, and strength? Which one are you best at? Which one can you grow in?
- What barriers do you have in loving God? Are they internal? External? Explain.
- When you think about your love for God, does it tend to be done out of duty, social pressure, or status? Or do you love the Lord out of delight? Explain.
- **Read Revelation 2:1-5.** Has there ever been a period in your life where you "abandoned" your love for God? What did that feel like? How did that impact your relationship with God and others?
- How would you like to see yourself grow in loving God?
- **Read Psalm 42 and Psalm 63.** How does the Psalmist's relationship with the Lord compare and contrast with yours? What similarities are there? What differences?
- What does "loving God" have to do with being for the 317?
- How else did God speak to you from this message?

### **Transition back to one large group and discuss (10 minutes).**

- Which questions did you discuss in your smaller groups? What were some of the things that came from your smaller group discussions? What lingering questions do you have about loving God?
- What Scriptures resonated with you most?
- How is God inviting you to respond after tonight's discussion?



**Break into gendered groups for deeper conversation (30 minutes).**

In this time, share vulnerably where you sense darkness in your life – it may be something going on inside of you, something happening to you, or something happening around you.

- If love, in general, manifests itself in faithfulness, pursuit, and obedience, how does that affect how you think about your relationship to God?
- Are you faithful to Him? Do you pursue Him? Do you obey Him? Explain.
- What action steps can this group do to help you in faithfulness, pursuit, and obedience to God?

Once you've finished, spend time praying for one another.

**Finish with intercessory prayer (10 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 your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.