



For the Glory of God
*The Great Commandments
and Commission*
1 John 4:7-21

How to Prepare

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Resources-

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/if-we-love-god-most-we-will-love-others-best>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/spirit-of-the-law.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/great-commission.html>

Sermon Outline:

Matthew 22:36-40, 28:18-20

1. Love God. Matt. 22:36-38
2. Love Others. Matt. 22:39-40
3. Make Disciples. Matt. 28:18-20

Matthew 22:36-40, 28:18-20

Jesus Answers the Sadducees

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

37 And He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

38 This is the great and foremost commandment.

39 The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

The Great Commission

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Discussion Questions

Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 22:36-40, 28:18-20.

INTRODUCTION

Here is a question or two to help introduce the topic and jump-start discussion.

1. In your own words, why should loving God, loving others, and making disciples be the most important things in your life?

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

I. Love God. Matt. 22:36-38

2. Jesus emphasizes loving God with our entire being. What is the difference between "liking" God or following His rules and "loving" Him with your whole heart, soul, and mind? What does it look like to love Him this way?

3. Why must loving God be the "first and greatest" commandment? What happens to our lives when something else (work, family, hobbies) takes that first place?

4. How is the gospel instrumental in our ability to love God? What are some practical steps we can take to fuel our love for God?

II. Love Others. Matt. 22:39-40

5. What does "loving your neighbor as yourself" mean, and why is it the second greatest command? How is it "like" the first one, and how is our love for others a direct reflection of our love for God?

6. How do all the other commandments in scripture hang on these two great commandments? Can you give a few biblical examples? What does it say about us when we sin against God or others?

7. How is the gospel instrumental in our ability to love others? What are some practical steps we can take to fuel our love for the others we are around on a daily basis?

III. Make Disciples. Matt.. 28:18-20

8. In what way is a disciple more than just a student?

9. What is the cycle of biblical discipleship described here? Where do you think you are in the cycle of biblical discipleship, and how can you grow?

10. How is the gospel instrumental in our ability to make disciples? What are some practical steps we can take to fuel our intentionality to make disciples?

Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

Matt. 22:36 the great commandment. The rabbis engaged in an ongoing debate to determine which commandments were “light” and which were “weighty” (cf. 23:23; and note on 5:19). The Law refers here to the entire OT.

Matt. 22:37–38 love the Lord your God . . . heart . . . soul . . . mind. This command from Deut. 6:5, repeated twice daily by faithful Jews, encapsulates the idea of total devotion to God and includes the duty to obey the rest of God’s commandments (cf. Matt. 5:16–20). “Heart,” “soul,” and “mind” do not represent rigid compartments of human existence but rather together refer to the whole person.

Matt. 22:39 You shall love your neighbor as yourself. See Lev. 19:18, 34. Love signifies a concrete responsibility to seek the greatest good of one’s neighbors, both Jew and Gentile.

Matt. 22:40 The kingdom life that Jesus initiated—summarized in these two commandments—fulfills the deepest longings of human beings created in the image of God to display his glory. the Law and the Prophets. See note on 5:17.

Matt. 28:18 All authority. In his risen state, Jesus exercises absolute authority throughout heaven and earth, which shows his deity. His authority has been given by the Father, which indicates that he remains subject to the Father (see note on 1 Cor. 15:28).

Matt. 28:19 The imperative (make disciples, that is, call individuals to commit to Jesus as Master and Lord) explains the central focus of the Great Commission, while the Greek participles (translated go, baptizing, and “teaching” [v. 20]) describe aspects of the process. all nations. Jesus’ ministry in Israel was to be the beginning point of what would later be a proclamation of the gospel to all the peoples of the earth, including not only Jews but also Gentiles. The name (singular, not plural) of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is an early indication of the Trinitarian Godhead and an overt proclamation of Jesus’ deity.

Matt. 28:20 Teaching is a means by which disciples of Jesus are continually transformed in order to become more like Christ (cf. 10:24–25; Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18). observe. Obey. I am with you always. Jesus concludes the commission, and Matthew his Gospel, with the crucial element of discipleship: the presence of the Master, who is “God with us” (cf. Matt. 1:23).