

LOVE GOD

HIGH CALLING DISCIPLESHIP 12

Jesus' Teaching: Love God

Mark 12:29-30 "The most important [commandment]," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" NIV

Love God by...

Meditating on his love for you.

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us. NIV

God's love evident throughout scripture.

Exodus 34:14b He is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you. NLT

Lamentations 3:22-23 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. NIV

John 17:23b [Jesus prayed,] "You sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." NIV

Galatians 2:20b I [, Paul,] live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. NIV

1 John 3:1a How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! NIV

God's love is seen in how he sees us.

What and who am I (according to Ephesians)?

I am blessed (1:3), chosen (1:4,11), holy (1:4), unblemished (1:4), loved (1:4; 2:4; 3:17-19), predestined (1:5,11), adopted (1:5), under grace (1:6-8; 2:5,8; 4:7), redeemed (1:7,14), forgiven (1:7), claimed (1:11), sealed (1:13; 4:30), Spirit-indwelted (1:13; 2:22; 3:17), an heir (1:14,18; 5:5), empowered (1:19-20; 3:16,20), alive (2:5), saved (2:5), raised with him (2:6), seated with him (2:6), an example of his kindness (2:7), his workmanship (2:10), with purpose (2:10), a member of his household (2:19), a fellow citizen (2:19), a place God lives (2:21-22), near to God (2:13), reconciled (2:16), at peace (2:17), with access to the Father (2:18; 3:12), his child (3:14), called (4:1,4), growing & progressing (4:13-15; 5:27), created to be like God (4:24), created to have true righteousness and holiness (4:25), a member of the body of believers (4:25), a dearly loved child (5:1), a saint (or one of God's holy people) (5:3), set apart (5:5,7,11), and a child of light (5:8).

Remembering his continuing grace.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. NIV

1 Peter 1:13b Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. NIV

10 stories of Grace.

Adam and Eve: Genesis 3:21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. NIV

Cain: Genesis 4:13-15 Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. NIV

Rahab (David’s great-great-grandmother): Hebrews 11:31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. NIV

David: 2 Samuel 12:13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.” NIV

Woman at the well: John 4:17-18 “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” NIV

Father of possessed boy: Mark 9:21-24 Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered. ²² “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

²³ “‘If you can?’” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

²⁴ Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” NIV

Thomas: John 20:27 Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” NIV

Peter: John 21:17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” NIV

Paul: 1 Timothy 1:15-16 [Paul wrote,] “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.” NIV

The end: Revelation 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen. NIV

Looking to the cross, not your circumstances.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. NIV

1 John 4:8-10 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. NIV