



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH – PART 1 OF 3

Series Title: Loving Strong

Lesson Title: Loving God

Key Scriptures: Matthew 22:37-38, 1 John 4:19

Homework Instructions: This series will cover three weeks of lessons for the month of February (February 4th, 11th and 18th) and includes homework for each week.

You should complete the homework assignment for each week before class. However, you are welcome to go ahead and complete all homework assignments in advance if you would like to.

Lesson Overview

Today, we're talking about "Loving God" – which Jesus Himself says is "...the first and great commandment"(Matthew 22:37-38). We know that God loves us – He sent His only begotten Son Jesus to die an agonizing death on the cross to save us from our sins...and there are hundreds of other scriptures that reveal His love for us.

But God also desires that we love Him. In this lesson, you'll be empowered to understand the spiritual significance of loving God and the impact it can have on your life and those connected to you!

This week we will cover:

- 1. Who Is God?**
 - 2. Why Should We Love God?**
 - 3. How Do We Show Our Love For God?**
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1. Who Is God?

We can really only scratch the surface of who God is in this lesson! However, we can give an overall picture of who God is. In the Bible, the word “God” describes an invisible and eternal spiritual being who is omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), omnipresent (everywhere at the same time), wise, and good. He is holy, morally pure, loving, gracious, merciful, patient, and forgiving. He created and sustains all things, seen and unseen, and will one day judge all mankind.

He is our Redeemer, our Healer, our Deliverer. Our Savior, our King, our Source. Our Father, our Creator.

Without God, there would be no us! He created us, not just for life on Earth, but He made a way for us to be with Him for all eternity. That’s reason enough for us to love Him!

2. Why Should We Love God?

The Word of God has a very concise answer to this question. **1 John 4:19 says, “We love him because he first loved us.”**

We see God’s love for us in many ways – He keeps our hearts beating and lungs breathing through the night while we sleep. He answers our prayers and keeps us in perfect peace through the storms of life. God wakes us each day with new mercies. But the greatest display of God’s love for us is seen in Him sending His only begotten Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. This show of love has eternal significance – accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior changes our spiritual destination from hell to heaven!

The more we come to know God, the more we will love Him. As we learn more of His character and His ways through the Word of God, His goodness, grace, mercy and unfailing love toward us are so overwhelming – we can’t help but love Him. We are also commanded to love God with our all! Matthew 22:37-38 says, “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.”

3. How Do We Show Our Love For God?

Loving God Through Worship

One way that we show our love for God is through worship. When we worship God, we put Him first – reverencing and honoring Him for who He is. It's important to engage in worship in our personal devotions and also corporately in church services, but worship is ongoing in life. We are worshipping God when we invite someone to church, give our best efforts at our job or spend time teaching our children God's principles. Worship is in all aspects of our life – so our love for God should be the driving force in all that we do.

Loving God Through Obedience

John 14:15 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Obedience is a clear indicator of our love for God. Abraham proved his love on a mountaintop where he thought he'd have to sacrifice his son, Isaac. God provided a ram in the bush, but Abraham was willing to give the life of his beloved son to please God. We will all face decision points in our walk with Christ – will we obey God's Word, or follow our flesh? Romans 8:8 already lets us know that "...they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

When you call your child from work and assign them tasks to accomplish before you get home, don't you just feel the love when you walk in the house and see all of the tasks completed? That's how it works with God – He is more interested in how we live out our obedience than anything we may say with our lips.

Loving God Through Giving

²² David said to him, "Let me have the site of your threshing floor so I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped. Sell it to me at the full price."

²³ Araunah said to David, “Take it! Let my lord the king do whatever pleases him. Look, I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering. I will give all this.”

²⁴ But King David replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the LORD what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing.” (1 Chronicles 21:22-24)

In the story above, David wanted to purchase a place to build an altar. He found someone and offered full price. The owner was being generous and offered to give the space to David free of charge, as well as provide the actual animals to be sacrificed! Seems like a great deal, right? How many of us may have said, “Why thank you - look at God!” But David understood the spirit of the thing, so he insisted on paying full price. This altar was to be used for his worship, his sacrifice, and so he wanted to pay out of his own resources. Worship always costs you something.

Worshippers give out of love and thankfulness for what God has provided. Worshippers tithe and give a good offering. Worshippers give to the New Worship Center and other church initiatives. Worshippers understand that their giving is connected to their love for God! There is a saying, “You can give without loving, but you can’t love without giving.”

Loving God extends beyond loving the person of God – it becomes the driving force behind how we live our lives, how we treat others, how we give and serve. We aren’t born knowing how to love God, but as we continue to come to church, hear God’s Word and apply it, we will find ourselves growing in our love for God and in our understanding of how that love impacts every facet of our lives.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH – PART 1 OF 3 Loving Strong: Loving God

Who Is God?

1. List 5 attributes of God

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

Why Should We Love God?

2. **Fill in the Blanks** – 1st John 4:19 says, We _____
because He _____ us.

3. Write out the scripture, Matthew 22:37-38:

How Do We Show Our Love For God?

4. **True or False** – According to the lesson, three of the ways we show our love for God are through worship, through obedience and through giving.

- a. True
- b. False

5. Select the statement that demonstrates loving God through worship (circle all that apply):

- a. Worshipping in our personal devotions
- b. Corporately worshipping in church
- c. Putting God first – reverencing and honoring Him for who He is
- d. None of the above

6. Circle the Correct Answer – How did Abraham show his love for God?

- a. By writing a poem
- b. By telling someone he loves God
- c. By sacrificing his son
- d. By thinking about God

7. Circle the Correct Answer – Why did David pay full price for the threshing floor?

- a. He understood that his worship should cost him something
- b. He wanted to be nice
- c. He wasn't a good businessman
- d. None of the above

8. Fill in the Blanks – (Romans 8:8) ...they that are _____ cannot _____.

9. Fill in the Blanks – Worshippers understand that their _____ is connected to their _____ for _____.