



Mark: Follow Me

Small Group Leader Guide

God's Purpose for Your Life

Scripture: Mark 12:28-34

Big Idea: Love God and love others, that is the sum total of Christianity, and God's purpose for your life.

Memorize: Mark 12:30-31 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

Lesson Recap

Love God. The command to love God is the greatest and most important command God has given us. Love is the reason God sent Jesus to save us of our sins, and it is the goal for our life. According to the apostle Paul, our love for God is a sign of our maturity as followers of Christ.

Love others. Loving others depends on what comes before it — loving God. God's love for us and our love for Him are the key to loving others. Loving others is a visible expression of loving God. This is why 1 John 3:16-17 says that, if we don't love others, it is a sign we don't love God.

This is a radical command. There are two radical elements to God's command: We are to love Him with everything — heart, soul, mind, and strength — and we are to love others as we love ourselves.

Discussion Questions

Choose or adapt questions so they are age/difficulty appropriate for your family.

According to Jesus, what are the two most important commandments? How do these commandments summarize the entire Bible and the Christian life?

How does a person know if they love God? (*Obey His commands, love other, seek happiness from God*)

How are you doing loving God? Are there areas of life that you are deliberately and habitually living in disobedience to Him? Are there areas of life where you are looking for happiness apart from God?

How are you doing loving others? The true test is at home. How are you doing loving your family and caring for the needs of others?

Prayer. Close in a time of prayer as a family. Praise God for His radical love for us, that He would send His only Son to die in our place. Ask God to teach you to love Him more and to better love those around you, starting with your family members.