

DISCIPLES LOVE GOD MOST

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING IN PURSUIT / SERIES: DISCIPLE

BIG TRUTH: DISCIPLES LOVE GOD MOST

Deuteronomy 6:5; 10:12; Joshua 22:5; Matthew 22:37

BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 10:27-28

“And He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’ And He said to him, ‘You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.’”

BIG IDEAS

- We love God with all our heart and soul.
- We love God with all of our strength and mind.
- We love our neighbor as ourselves.

BIBLE PASSAGE: LUKE 10:25-37

TRANSFORM - LIVING IN PURSUIT

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Jesus is the only source of life
- God’s Word is authoritative and applicable for all of life
- To follow Jesus is to pursue a life of sacrifice and surrender



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the triune God who is worthy
- Convicted of how deception has led them to disobedience
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the gospel of John
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Implement regular rhythms of prayer and fasting throughout the semester



Every student should want to...

- Pursue obedience even when faith is a struggle
- Grow in living in step with the Holy Spirit
- Live their lives to glorify God the Father

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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Disciples love God with all of their being.

"...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind..."

- When Jesus calls people to follow Him, He doesn't just ask for some of their time or part of their lives. He asks them to give Him everything. He asks that they follow His example of laying down His life in love. When people follow His example, they lay down their lives in love for Him.
- To love Jesus the most is to die to our wants and desires every day. It means to set aside our own will for His. It means that He is the most important person in our lives and the one we love above all others. He is the one we sacrifice all other things for. We think about Him, we feel great emotion for Him, we serve others for Him, we give up things for Him, and we're willing to die for Him. This is loving Him with all of our being.

Disciples love others as they love themselves.

"...and your neighbor as yourself..."

- Part of loving God with all of our being is following His example of loving others sacrificially, too. When Jesus came to the earth, He showed His love for others by dying for lost people. He loved others in a radical and sacrificial way. He calls His followers to love others in the same way.
- The way Jesus expresses this call is by asking His people to love their neighbors like they love themselves. We can understand what this means because every person loves themselves the most. This is our flesh nature at work inside of us. When we hear to love someone else like you love yourself, you understand that means to hold them dear and to value them greatly. It means to treat them as you want to be treated. Disciples do this because they love Jesus first.

Disciples find life in loving God the most.

"And He said to him, 'You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.'"

- Disciples find joy in loving Jesus. They have been redeemed and understand that if it were not for Jesus and His radical love for them, they would be lost forever. They rejoice that they have the opportunity to love Him in return. They find joy and life in loving Him and loving Him above all other things.
- When we love God the most, it is life-giving. We don't just receive joy, but we receive eternal life. Because we love God the most, it reveals that we know Him and have a relationship with Him. If this were not true, we would not even be able to love Him.

BIG IDEA #1: WE LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART AND SOUL.¹**[THIS]**

We are first introduced to the idea of loving God with all of our heart and soul in the Old Testament. God commands His people to love them above all else. In order for a disciple to love God the most, he or she must give their hearts and souls to Him. Our heart is our emotional center. Through it we experience a myriad of emotions in our lifetime. We feel joy and sadness. We fall in love and can even feel anger and hatred. It is our heart that is transformed when we are redeemed. It is our heart that is set free from the hold of sin when we have saving faith in Jesus. It naturally makes sense that it is our heart that must be given completely to loving God. In order for us to do this, we must daily fight against loving other things more than God. As long as we live in this world, we will face the temptation of idolatry. Our eyes see some desirable thing in this world and our hearts begin to want it. If we give into that desire, we will love it more than we love God. Disciples fight against this. Instead, they choose to remove those things and to pursue Christ above all. They love Jesus more than anything or anyone else and the way they live their lives reveals this to be true.

[THEREFORE]

What things in your life do you love more than God? What do you need to do to remove these idols from your life so that you love God more than anything else?

Because we do not typically have statues in our rooms or bow down to images, we are tempted to think we do not have idols in our hearts, but idols are things we desire and love more than we do God. 1 Corinthians 10:7 shows us that this could be recreation and pleasure. 1 John 5:21 teaches us that we must flee idols. We cannot be passive when handling idolatry in our lives.

[THIS]

The soul is the spiritual or immaterial part of a person. Once our souls exist, they never cease to exist. Our souls are our deepest parts. In Luke 10:27, the lawyer questioning Jesus understood that to fulfill the great commandment, he needed to love God with all of his soul. If we are to love God the most, we must love Him with our deepest parts. Our souls must cry out for Him and seek Him daily. We must be spiritually connected to Him and desire Him above anything or anyone else. This is what it looks like to love God with all of our soul. Our souls will not be at rest or peace unless we are in relationship with God. When our souls love God the most, we will live for Him. We will pursue Him and His kingdom above all else because He will be the only thing that satisfies us.

[THEREFORE]

What are some things in this world that we pursue instead of pursuing God?

Often, when our souls do not love God the most, we live dissatisfied lives. We fill them with empty things like money and material things. Hebrews 13:5 and Colossians 3:2 remind us to keep our eyes focused on Jesus and His kingdom.

Why does Jesus call His disciples to love Him with all of their soul?

Jesus does not ask of His followers anything that He has not done Himself already. Romans 5:8 reminds us that He willingly died for us while we were sinners. He loved the world and gave His entire life for it. 1 John 4:19 teaches us that we know love because He loved us first. We are asked to love in return with our all because this is the right response.

1. Deuteronomy 6:5: God commands His people to love Him with all of their hearts and souls.

BIG IDEA #2: WE LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF OUR STRENGTH AND MIND.²**[THIS]**

The greatest commandment involves God's people loving Him with all of their strength. Strength doesn't just mean our physical ability. It means that we are leveraging our lives for God. We all have power in some way; we have people we can influence for the name of Jesus. When we love God with all of our strength, we are using this power for His glory and not our own. This means that we aren't studying and pursuing degrees for the sake of making a better life for ourselves or this world a better place. Instead, we are using our abilities and the successes we achieve in this life for the glory of God. Whatever power we have in this life, we use to make Jesus famous. We use our strength as humans to spread the Gospel in the world. This is loving God with all of our strength.

[THEREFORE]

Read Luke 10:27. How does the distraction of a good life keep you from loving God with all of your strength?

Whatever we do, we should do for the glory of the Lord. God blesses us and enables us to accomplish many things in this life. Our only response to His blessings is thanksgiving and to use those blessings for His glory. We should remove those distractions and seek His glory.

[THIS]

Our minds house our thoughts and our intelligence. Our thoughts often control our emotions, and our emotions can control our actions. We are called to love God with all of our mind. When we do this, we are fully aware of God and His work in our lives. He is not just a passing thought on a Sunday. He is our everything. Every day, we are aware of His presence in our lives. We center our thoughts on Him and His purpose for us. We do not go one day, much less days without thinking of Him and pursuing Him. When we love Him with our minds, we are filling our minds with a knowledge of Him and meditating on Him. We delight to think about who He is and what He has done. We fill our minds with His goodness and greatness. He is always a thought away and ever present in our minds.

[THEREFORE]

Does God permeate your thoughts on a daily basis? Why or why not?

One way to permeate our minds with thoughts of God is to meditate on His Word. Psalm 1:2 and Joshua 1:8 help us see that meditating on God's Word fills our minds with Him. When we love Him with our whole minds, He will fill our thoughts constantly.

What thoughts often fill our minds instead of thoughts of God?

Often, our minds are full of worry and fear about the things of this life. We are bogged down with the concerns of this life instead of loving God. John 14:1, Psalm 94:19, and Philippians 4:6-7 remind us that worry and anxiety can be replaced with a trust and hope in Jesus. When we fill our minds with a trust in God, we do not have to worry. When we love God with our whole minds, there will be no room for these emotions. We will be full of our love for Him.

2. Luke 10:27: Jesus calls His followers to love God with all of their strength and mind.

BIG IDEA #3: WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES.³**[THIS]**

In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus' conversation with the lawyer teaches us that the result of loving God above all else is that we will love others as we love ourselves. What is also revealed is that we all are born loving ourselves. If the standard by which we are to love others is the way in which we love ourselves, then we must naturally love ourselves with no problem. This is the way of our flesh natures. As redeemed people, we are set free from the hold our flesh nature has over us. We no longer are enslaved to our sin nature that loves ourselves and no other. Instead, we can love God and then others. Jesus taught that from our love for God will flow a love for others. Because God is love and we know how to love by His loving us, when we know Him and love Him, we will love others, too. We will see them as He sees them. Our perspective of people will change when we have the love of the Father in us. We will not hate others. We will love them and practice long-suffering.

[THEREFORE]

How does loving God result in our having the ability to love others?

John 13:34 teaches us that we should love others as Jesus has loved us. When we experience God's love, we will love others. He teaches us how to love others. 1 John 4:11 also reminds us that being loved by God and loving God results in the ability to love others.

[THIS]

When God calls us to love others, He calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. This call is more than being nice or kind to the people who live next door to us. It's a lifestyle of loving God and choosing to count others as more significant than ourselves.⁴ Loving God the most means seeing others as fellow image bearers and believing and treating them as such. When we love someone as ourselves, we treat them how we want to be treated. We respond to them in kindness, not anger or frustration. We show mercy and give forgiveness. We sacrifice for them and bear their burdens. We seek to know them and want to be known by them. We share our earthly goods with them and make sure they are taken care of. Loving others as ourselves requires us to sacrifice and to think outside of ourselves. We will have to die to some of our needs and wants. We will have to give up some of our earthly pleasures and comforts. We will be willing to be last in order to elevate them to first. We do this because we love God the most and loving Him the most means we love others.

[THEREFORE]

How do selfishness and greed keep you from loving others as yourself?

We are naturally selfish and greedy. We have to resist these natural tendencies. If we don't, we fall prey to living a self-centered life. 2 Timothy 3:2-4, 1 John 3:17, and 1 Corinthians 10:24 help us understand that we are to die to ourselves and live for Christ and others.

Who are your neighbors and how can you love them as yourself this week?

Our neighbors are the people we are around and interact with. We can love them as ourselves by sacrificing for them, being patient with them, and bearing their burdens. 1 Corinthians 13:4-6, Galatians 6:2, and Romans 15:1-3 help us understand how to do this.

3. Luke 10:27: Part of loving God the most is loving our neighbor as ourselves.

4. Philippians 2:3: Believers are to think of others before themselves. They are to see their needs as more important than their own personal needs.