



Introduction

Out of 613 laws that were identified by Jewish teachers (rabbis) in the Torah, rabbis were often discussing with each other which one was the most important. This was the question posed to Jesus. Not only did Jesus answer the question by saying that the most important commandment was to love God, but he also added a second, which flowed from it - love one another. Jesus taught that these two summarized the entirety of the Bible.

Observation/Interpretation

- Jesus placed loving God before loving others. Why do you think Jesus prioritized these in this order?
- How does, loving others, properly flow out from, loving God rightly?
- Jesus commends the teacher for his insight in noting that these two commandments are worth more than, “whole burnt offerings and sacrifices” (Mark 12:33). In today’s Christian culture where many opinions are divided over worship style and method, how does this passage reveal our often misplaced priorities?

Application

- Jesus taught that through His mission people would be liberated to worship God and love one another in a new way (as predicted by the prophets), which stemmed from renewed hearts and lives. How do Jesus’ words in Mark 12:30-31 challenge us to see that his kingdom is not merely about a “private spirituality” of worshipping God, but also must include a “social responsibility” to love others (as we love ourselves).
- In response to the above question how should this reshape the way that we live and act towards the people all around us?

Prayer

Ask God to help you love Him with all your heart, mind, soul & strength, and to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.