

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Comparing a man's love for his wife gives insight into his love for his God.

Is the Lord the all-consuming passion of my life?

Do I have a deep, intense, and abiding affection for my Lord?

Am I loyal to my God with an exclusive love?

Do I resist and even oppose anything or anyone that seeks to do my Lord harm?

Am I zealous to defend, with grace, my Lord's name and honor?

Do I enjoy spending time with my Lord?

Do I do things that please my Lord and increase His joy?

Do I brag on my Lord to others?

Do I tell my Lord that I love Him?

Do I talk with my Lord as much as I can? (Storms, "I Love You")

Remember, these are not things I do to get God to love me. They are things I do because I am loved by Him and because I love Him. I love Him because He first loved me (1 John 4:10).

FROM TIM KELLER'S STUDY GUIDE

Read 12:13-17. What does this question have in common with the other accounts?

What is Jesus' answer and what are the implications for believers today?

Read verses 18-27. Jesus uses several different arguments to show the Sadducees their errors. What are they?

What can we learn and infer about life after death, according to Jesus?

Read verses 28-30. Why is Jesus' response to the teacher of the law so amazing to them? (verse 34b, "no one dared ask him any more questions.") What does it teach us about ourselves? How does it tell us more about the law?

Read verses 32-34. In what way is the scribe's question so wise, and why does Jesus say he is near the kingdom?

FROM EXALTING JESUS IN MARK

What groups are there in your country that can't agree about much, but they agree to oppose Christianity?

Did Jesus expect to change the mind of the Pharisees and Herodians with His answer? How do you think the crowd responded when Jesus delivered such a wise answer?

What is the difference between compliments and flattery? Would it be fair to say that flattery is a form of lying?

How can Christians be encouraged when they hear someone deliver a well-crafted answer to a skeptic? Is the skeptic still responsible for his motives and his refusal to repent?

What is the legitimate purpose of human government? What are the responsibilities of citizens?

What are the responsibilities of humanity, made in the image of God?

Is there a danger in your country for its citizens to worship the political leaders? to worship the government? to worship the country? How can you balance patriotism with Christianity?

Why do you think belief in life after death is the majority opinion? How do Christians defend this opinion with facts and evidence?

Have you met anyone who seems to have a standard “trick question” ready for a Christian? What was the question? Have you prepared a good answer in case you hear that question again?

Some people are indifferent about heaven because they think it will be boring. How would you respond to that attitude?

When Jesus debated the Sadducees, He used evidence from one of the five books of Moses. Why? How should His example affect the way we debate Jews? Should it determine how we debate atheists?!

Jesus’ argument hinges on the tense of a verb. What does this say about the accuracy of the Bible? What does it teach us about the importance of studying the Word closely?

Why do people like to discuss “greatest” questions? How are such questions valuable? When do such questions become trivial or even harmful?

Which of the Ten Commandments do you consider the most important? Why?

Books and movies often tell us that love is the supreme virtue. How does their definition of love often fall short of the Bible’s emphasis?

Why is it important that God is “One”? Why did this cause the Jews to resist Jesus’ claims to be divine?

In what way is the command to love God completely more difficult than the Ten Commandments?

What do “heart, soul, mind, and strength” represent individually and collectively?

How would you respond to the person who says, “Jesus is telling us we need to learn how to love ourselves first and then to love others”?

How is obedience to these two great commands different from observance of religious ritual? How do you explain that God commanded Israel to observe sacrificial rituals?

What is the connection between these two great commands and the concept of a relationship with God through Christ?

How was Jesus an example of absolute love for God? How was He an example of perfect love? One tangible way to better understand love in action is through a concept/tool developed by Gary Chapman called, “Love Languages.” The 5 Love Languages are:

- Acts of Service (kind or thoughtful deeds done for someone)
- Words of Affirmation (words to appreciate or uplift people)
- Quality Time (receiving another person's undivided attention)
- Receiving Gifts (getting tangible gifts)
- Physical Touch (appropriate touch i.e. holding hands, hugging, sitting side-by-side)

Of the list above, are there one to two that seem to fit you the best?

Take the Love Language quiz here: 5lovelanguages.com/quizzes

DIGGING DEEPER

[Render 2 Caesar - Alistair Begg \(41:01\)](#)

[The Sadducee's Question Part 1 - Alistair Begg \(34:35\)](#)

[The Sadducee's Question Part 2 - Alistair Begg \(36:40\)](#)

[Not Far From The Kingdom - Alistair Begg \(39:15\)](#)

[Nothing Is Certain Except Death & Taxes - Chris Brown \(50:59\)](#)
[Sermon Notes and Discussion Guide](#)

[If God Is Love, Does He Get To Define It? - Chris Brown - \(57:04\)](#)
[Sermon notes and Discussion guide](#)