

# **BIBLE STUDY GUIDE: “LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE.”**

*(Mark 12:30–31 – The Greatest Commandment)*

**Source:**

---

## **BIG IDEA**

**A life fully devoted to God naturally overflows into a life that loves others—these two commands are inseparable and define what it means to follow Jesus.**

---

## **THEME**

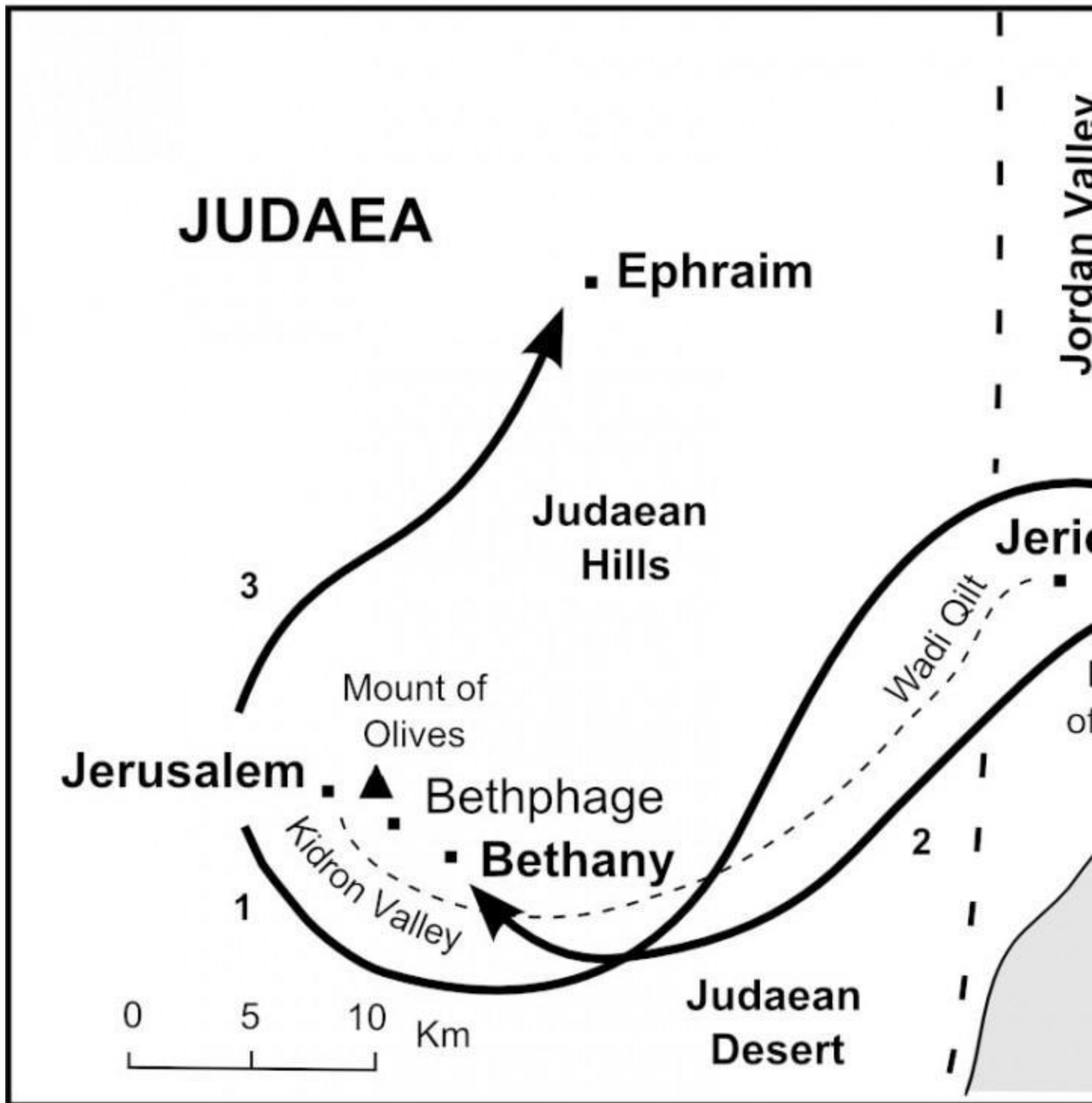
**Wholehearted Love for God That Transforms How We Love People**

---

## **CONTEXT (Historical + Biblical Setting)**







6

- Found in Mark 12:30–31, when Jesus is asked:

- **“What is the greatest commandment?”**
  - **Jesus responds with two connected commands:**
    - 1. Love God completely**
    - 2. Love your neighbor as yourself**
  - **This teaching:**
    - **Summarizes the entire Law**
    - **Defines the Christian life**
  - **Jesus reinforces this through:**
    - **The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10)**
- 

## **MAIN POINT 1: LOVING GOD IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING**

### **Key Scripture**

- **Mark 12:30 – “*Love the Lord your God...*”**
- **Deuteronomy 6:5 – The original command**

### **Teaching Insight**

- **Loving God is:**
  - **The starting point**
  - **The priority**

- **Without love for God:**
  - **Faith becomes empty**
  - **Actions lose meaning**
- **True love for God shapes:**
  - **Thoughts**
  - **Decisions**
  - **Identity**

### **Application**

- **Is your relationship with God your top priority?**
- **What competes for your love?**

### **Sticky Quote**

**“Everything begins with loving God.”**

---

## **MAIN POINT 2: LOVE GOD WITH YOUR WHOLE BEING**

### **Key Scripture**

- **Mark 12:30 – *Heart, soul, mind, strength***
- **Psalm 63:1 – *“Earnestly I seek you...”***

### **Teaching Insight**

- **Jesus calls for:**
  - **Total devotion**
- **This includes:**
  - **Heart → emotions**
  - **Soul → identity**
  - **Mind → thoughts**
  - **Strength → actions**
- **Partial love is not the goal—complete surrender is.**

### **Application**

- **Which area of your life is not fully surrendered to God?**
- **What would wholehearted love look like today?**

### **Sticky Quote**

**“God doesn’t want part of you—He wants all of you.”**

---

## **MAIN POINT 3: LOVING GOD LEADS TO LOVING PEOPLE**

### **Key Scripture**

- **Mark 12:31 – “*Love your neighbor as yourself.*”**

- **1 John 4:20 – “*Whoever does not love... cannot love God.*”**

### **Teaching Insight**

- **These commands are inseparable:**
  - **You cannot love God and hate people**
- **Love for God naturally produces:**
  - **Compassion**
  - **Kindness**
  - **Action**

### **Application**

- **How is your love for God showing up in your relationships?**
- **Who is God calling you to love better?**

### **Sticky Quote**

**“If you truly love God, it will show in how you love people.”**

---

**MAIN POINT 4: YOUR NEIGHBOR IS EVERYONE**

### **Key Scripture**

- **Luke 10:33 – The Good Samaritan**
- **Matthew 5:44 – “*Love your enemies...*”**

### **Teaching Insight**

- **Jesus expands the definition of neighbor:**
  - **Not just friends**
  - **Not just those like us**
- **Includes:**
  - **Strangers**
  - **Enemies**
  - **Those different from us**

### **Application**

- **Who do you struggle to see as your “neighbor”?**
- **How can you extend love beyond your comfort zone?**

### **Sticky Quote**

**“Your neighbor isn’t just the one you like—it’s the one in front of you.”**

---

**MAIN POINT 5: LOVE IS A DAILY DECISION**

## **Key Scripture**

- **Luke 9:23 – “*Take up your cross daily...*”**
- **Colossians 3:14 – “*Put on love...*”**

## **Teaching Insight**

- **Love is not:**
  - **Just a feeling**
- **It is:**
  - **A choice**
  - **A commitment**
  - **A daily action**
- **Every day presents opportunities to:**
  - **Love**
  - **Serve**
  - **Reflect Christ**

## **Application**

- **How intentional are you about loving others?**
- **What choices can you make today to show love?**

## **Sticky Quote**

**“Love is not accidental—it’s intentional.”**

---

## **MAIN POINT 6: LOVE TRANSFORMS YOUR DAY AND YOUR LIFE**

### **Key Scripture**

- **Matthew 5:16** – *“Let your light shine...”*
- **Galatians 5:6** – *“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”*

### **Teaching Insight**

- **A day rooted in love becomes:**
  - **Purposeful**
  - **Meaningful**
  - **Impactful**
- **Love transforms:**
  - **Ordinary moments into divine opportunities**

### **Application**

- **What would change if you started every day with love?**
- **How can you make love your focus today?**

### **Sticky Quote**

**“A day led by love becomes a day led by God.”**

---

## **MAIN POINT 7: LOVING OTHERS MAKES YOU A LIGHT**

### **Key Scripture**

- **Matthew 5:14** – *“You are the light of the world.”*
- **John 13:35** – *“By this everyone will know...”*

### **Teaching Insight**

- **When we love:**
  - **We reflect Jesus**
  - **We become a witness**
- **Love is:**
  - **The clearest expression of faith**
- **People recognize Christ through:**
  - **Our actions**
  - **Our compassion**

### **Application**

- **How are you being a light to others?**
- **What does your love reveal about your faith?**

## **Sticky Quote**

**“Love is the light that reveals Jesus to the world.”**

---

## **GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What does it mean to love God with your whole being?**
  - 2. Why are loving God and loving people inseparable?**
  - 3. Who is hardest for you to love—and why?**
  - 4. How can you love more intentionally each day?**
  - 5. What would change if you made love your priority?**
  - 6. How does loving others reflect your relationship with God?**
- 

## **PRACTICAL CHALLENGE**

- Start your day by committing to love God fully.**
- Intentionally love one person outside your comfort zone.**

- **Look for one opportunity to serve someone without expecting anything in return.**
- 

## **FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT**

**Jesus made it simple:**

**Love God. Love people.**

**The challenge is not understanding it—  
it's living it.**

---

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Father,**

**Help us love You with all that we are.**

**Teach us to love others the way You have loved us.**

**Let our lives reflect Your heart in everything we do.**

**Use us to be a light in this world.**

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**