



# Outward Group Discussion Guide

June 21, 2026

## SUMMARY

This Father's Day sermon emphasizes that the single most important pursuit in life is loving Jesus Christ with complete devotion. The pastor unpacks the Great Commandment from Mark 12, explaining that God requires love from every facet of human personality—heart, soul, mind, and strength. He challenges the congregation to move beyond casual Christianity toward passionate discipleship. The sermon confronts the reality of our sinful hearts while pointing to the transformative power of God's love demonstrated through Christ's sacrifice. The ultimate motivation for loving God isn't human willpower but experiencing the overwhelming love God has for us through Jesus. The message concludes with the truth that only through Christ dwelling in us can we truly love God as He commands, making disciples who love Jesus and live outward.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The pastor states that the most important thing in life is loving Jesus, even above job, comfort, or position. What areas of your life currently compete with your love for Jesus, and how might you reorder your priorities?
2. Jesus says we must love God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Which of these four areas do you find most challenging to surrender to God, and what specific obstacles stand in your way?
3. The sermon describes the heart as 'desperately sick' and 'deceitful above all things' according to Jeremiah 17:9. How does acknowledging the true condition of your heart change the way you approach God and your need for His grace?
4. The pastor asks, 'What part of my heart isn't seeking God?' If you were to honestly answer this question about your own life, what hidden corners or compartments would God reveal?
5. Isaiah 26:9 describes a soul that 'yearns for God in the night' and a spirit that 'earnestly seeks Him.' Do you experience this kind of deep spiritual

longing, or has your Christianity become more routine and casual?

6. The concept of 'garbage in, garbage out' applies to what we consume mentally through media, social platforms, and entertainment. What would change in your spiritual life if you replaced one hour of daily consumption with Scripture, worship, or prayer?
7. The pastor shares his progression of prayer: 'I want that,' then 'help me want to want that,' then 'help me want to want to want that.' Where are you in this progression regarding your desire for deeper intimacy with Jesus?
8. The sermon emphasizes that we cannot love God in our own strength, but only through recognizing how Christ loved us and gave Himself for us. How does meditating on Christ's sacrificial love for you personally fuel your love for Him?
9. Jesus connects loving God with loving your neighbor, saying these two commandments are inseparably linked. How does your current love for God manifest in tangible love and service toward the people around you?

10. The pastor challenges listeners to use their 'strength of will' to make difficult decisions that align with loving Jesus, even when it feels painful. What relationship, habit, or pursuit might God be calling you to release or change in order to follow Him more fully?