

Deep Practice Discipleship Guide

Sermon: *The Greatest Commandments*

Text: Matthew 22:36–40

1. Opening Check-In (Share)

Take time to hear from one another:

- How did it go with your discipleship practice from last week?
- What was encouraging? What was difficult?
- What did you learn about God or yourself in the process?

(Leader note: This isn't about perfection, but progress. Celebrate steps forward and encourage one another in struggles.)

2. Sermon Notes (Learn)

Hook – Introduction

- Ever felt buried under rules? Work, school, home... endless checklists.
- Israel: 613 laws + traditions → crushing weight.
- The big question: How do I please God in all this?
- Jesus' answer: Love God. Love people. Two commands. Two principles. Two loves.

Head – Understanding the Text

1. Love God

- Shema (Deut. 6) – heart, soul, mind. Not about rules → relationship.

2. Love Neighbor

- Lev. 19:18 – inseparable from love for God. Two sides of same coin.
- “On these two hang all the law and prophets.” Everything else is commentary.
- Ten Commandments:
 - 1–3 = Love God

- 4 = Sabbath (God + neighbor)
- 5–10 = Love neighbor

Heart – Why These Two?

- Why Love God?
 - He first loved us (1 Jn 4:19).
 - He created + redeemed us (Gen 1; Rom 5:8).
 - Loving Him is life itself (Deut 30:20).
- Why Love Others?
 - Because God loves them (Jn 3:16).
 - Love = God's essence and our calling.
- Image: Sun + planets → God's love is the center, holding life in orbit.

Hands – Living It Out at Covenant

Our mission: Worship Deeply. Grow Boldly. Live Sent.

- Worship Deeply – Love God with all you are.
- Grow Boldly – Love God + one another in discipleship.
- Live Sent – Love neighbor in action, not theory.
- Illustration: Big Wheel flat spot – life bumps along when worship, discipleship, service are out of balance.

Conclusion – Call to Action

- Jesus: “On these two hang all the law and prophets.”
- If faith feels heavy → simplify: Love God. Love people.
- What's your one step this week?
 - Worship deeply (prayer, worship, undivided heart).
 - Grow boldly (group, forgiveness, practice).
 - Live sent (serve, compassion, reaching out).
- Whatever step you take → let it be rooted in love.

3. Bloom's-Based Discussion Questions

Remembering (facts):

- What two commandments did Jesus say were the greatest?

Understanding (meaning):

- How do the Ten Commandments reflect the two great loves: God and neighbor?

Applying (practice):

- How could you practice loving God with your heart, soul, and mind this week?
- Where might God be inviting you to love your neighbor in action, not just words?

Analyzing (connections):

- Why do you think Jesus said “all the Law and Prophets” depend on these two commands?

Evaluating (priorities):

- If faith feels heavy, what practices or attitudes could you lay down to simplify your walk with God?

Creating (living it out):

- What is one creative way we as a group could demonstrate love for our community this month?

4. Storying Exercise (Tell)

Passage: Luke 10:25–37 – The Parable of the Good Samaritan

- Retell the story in your own words without looking at the text.
- What does this story show about how love for God is tied to love for neighbor?
- Who are the “neighbors” God is placing around you?
- How might we imitate the Samaritan’s costly compassion this week?

5. Closing Commitment (Live)

Reflection:

- If everything hangs on loving God and loving people, what's the next step for you?

Write it down:

- One thing I will do this week to love God more deeply is...
- One way I will love my neighbor this week is...

Share: Tell the group your commitment. Encourage one another and pray for strength to follow through.

6. Prayer

Pray together that your love for God and people would grow deeper, bolder, and more active this week.