

Sermon #2 Study Guide – Love Defined, Love Lived Matthew 22:34-40

June 19, 2017

How to Use This Study Guide: This guide can be used by individuals, families, & small groups to gain a deeper understanding of God's Word. Each section is organized in these areas: D.E.E.P = Discuss Sermon, Exchange Views, Examine Text, and Personalize Truth.

Discuss Sermon

- What does it look like to set the example for others in "Loving God and Loving Your Neighbor"?
- What are some of the challenges you face in learning to love as God has defined?

Exchange Views

"As God revealed himself to his children . . . they saw him as more than a mighty force. They saw him as a loving Father who met them at every crossroad of their lives." – **Max Lucado**

■ What are some of the obstacles that we face in our culture that interfere with maintaining a healthy relationship of "Loving God and Loving Others"?

Examine Text - Matthew 22:34-40

Read the main text from the sermon and reflect on the key words, phrases, and lessons that God is teaching us.

- What are the key lessons that you learn from this text?
- How can you apply these principles in your life today?

Personalize Truth

- How can you apply the principles of "The Ten Tools of Fatherhood" on the backside of this study guide?
- Give two ways you can improve how you "Love God & Love Others."

The Ten Tools of Fatherhood

Tool #1: Family First/Family Fun

When you enjoy the blessings of life with your family by putting them first today, you create a stronger family for tomorrow.

Tool #2: All-in Marriage

A committed marriage is the key to a happy family. Loving your wife is one of the greatest gifts you can give to your children.

Tool #3: True Moral Compass and True Humility

Setting a high moral standard for yourself and your family – and transferring those standards to your children over time – is the most important inheritance you as a father can give to your children.

Tool #4: Heartfelt Love

It is through commitment, fidelity, grace and tenderness that you show your family – in word and in deed – how much you love them.

Tool #5: Empowering Servant Leadership

Empowering your wife and children by putting their needs above your own will yield rich benefits today . . . and for generations to come.

Tool #6: Relationship Tools that Work

To be a good dad, you also need the willingness to listen, the skill to truly hear, and the ability to relate deeply with your wife and children.

Tool #7: Heaven's Help

To be the best earthly father you can be, you need help from the Ultimate Father.

Tool #8: Other Good Dads

There are no successful Lone Ranger dads – you need the support of friends and older role models from whom you can learn.

Tool #9: Optimistic, Never-Surrender Attitude

No matter how tough things get, you can never, ever quit on your family. Winning dads never quit, and dads who quit never win.

Tool #10: Dynamic, Whole-Person Support

It is critically important for you to support your family emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually – not just financially.

Gregory W. Slayton and Charles Colson, Be a Better Dad Today: 10 Tools Every Father Needs (Baker, 2012).