

Discipleship Group Study #1

LOVE GOD

This is the first of four training sessions to guide your Discipleship Group as it begins. Each one hour meeting will cover one of the four bases along Oakwood's Discipleship Pathway (Love-Grow-Serve-Reach). The purpose of these studies is to help you discern where you currently stand in your walk with the Lord and how the Lord is calling you to grow. By the end of each session each member of your D-group will prepare *personal commitments* that articulate desired spiritual outcomes based on how the Lord speaks to them in these meetings. This session will lead to personal commitments related to how you seek to love God.

From the very beginning of D-Groups, we want to orient you to their unique structure. This will feature a method called the **THREE-THIRDS MEETING**. Each session will be composed of three key segments that each share an equal amount of time during your meeting. For instance, if you meet for an hour, twenty minutes should be devoted to each section. These three components are:

1. **LOOK BACK:** Here the emphasis is **accountability**. You will spend the first third of your time reviewing how you've done in accomplishing the commitments you made in your last meeting.
2. **LOOK UP:** Here the emphasis is **training**. You will spend the second third of your time seeking direction from God and His Word, often using a specific resource you've chosen for your D-Group to help you grow in a specific area.
3. **LOOK FORWARD:** Here the emphasis is on **application**. You will spend the last third of your time discussing and prayerfully planning how you will obey what you learned in the Look Up segment.

LOOKING BACK

1. As you look back on the previous week, how would you define your level of connection with the Lord? What practices helped grow your love for the Lord?

LOOKING UP

OPENING QUESTION

2. What are some things you love to do? They could be hobbies, places you like to go, or things you like to do with your family.

READ: Matthew 22:34-40

EXPLORE

3. Who asked Jesus the question in this passage?
What do you know about the group he belonged to?
4. What was the question he asked? What do you think his purpose was in asking?



5. How does Jesus answer his question? What additional element does He add in Mark 12:30?

DISCUSS

6. How is it that all the commandments of God could be simplified in these two commands to love God and to love others?
7. What are some things we are tempted to love today? Why are we tempted to love these things? What are we hoping they accomplish?
8. What do you think it means to love the Lord your God with all your heart or soul? Your mind? Your strength?

LOOKING FORWARD

APPLY

9. What are you currently doing to cultivate love for God in your life? Share specifically how it is helping or not helping as you'd like.
10. In what ways are you more prone to fail in loving God? In what specific ways more recently have you failed to love Him?
11. How is God calling you to grow in your love for Him? What might this look like fleshed out? Be specific.

COMMIT

12. What is the one thing you'd like to commit to for the coming week to help grow your love for God?

PRAY

13. How can the group specifically pray for your growth in your love for God?