



**Family Devotions**  
**Devotion 4**  
**“Love God, Love Others”**

**The Setting:**

- Gather in a circle...for today it will be best to be around a table.
- Limit distractions...turn off phones, put away devices, turn off the TV, and focus on each other
- You can light a candle and put it in the middle of your circle to represent that Jesus is in your midst.

It may take a few times for everyone to take this seriously. Don't give up. Don't get frustrated with each other. Remember, we often laugh or make jokes when we are uncomfortable, and chances are this will be uncomfortable the first few times you do it!

**Open in Prayer**

*Dear God,*

*As we come together as a family we ask you to join us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, please help us be open to each other, honest in what we say, and willing to listen to each other. Help this time to be holy. In Jesus' Name, AMEN.*

**Opening Questions**

Ask the following questions, one at a time, and let each person answer. You can go around the circle or you can just let each person answer as they feel led.

1. What is a food that you “love”?
2. What is something that you “love” to do?
3. What is a show you “love” to watch?
4. Who is someone in your life you “love” and why do you love them?
5. What is the difference between loving a kind of food or a show on TV, and loving another person?

**The Scripture Lesson**

Read the following: Matthew 22: 34 - 40

1. In our Bible story today some leaders of the Jewish faith were trying to trick Jesus, so they asked Jesus to say which was the most important Commandment in the 10 Commandments. Jesus surprised them by saying we should first love God (referring to the first 4 of the 10 Commandments) and that we should love others (referring to the second 6 of the 10 Commandments). The bottom line...Jesus once again stated that to be a follower of God we must love!
2. In this passage we are told we should love God with our heart, our soul, and our mind. What does it mean to love God in this way? How can we show our love for God?

3. The second part we are told to love others as much as we love ourselves. Jesus was basically saying that we should treat people exactly how we want to be treated, maybe even better. What are some ways we can express our love towards other people?
4. This passage tells us that the way we love others is the same way we love God. Are there some people that are difficult to love? Why is that? What can you do to be better at loving others?
5. Chances are that during this time of isolating ourselves from other people there are a few folks that we are really missing. Who are those people and what do you miss about them?
6. This is Holy Week...the week that Jesus dies on the cross and then is resurrected on Easter Sunday morning. What are some ways that you, as a family, can love God? What are things you can do to put God at the center of your lives? (Don't make this harder than it needs to be. Maybe you can commit to praying before each meal; to reading Scripture each night or doing a daily devotion together as a family; maybe you can commit to being better about attendance at Sunday School and worship; or maybe you can explore serving somewhere locally or going on a mission trip as a family)

### **Closing Prayer**

*Dear God,*

*Help us, as a family and as individuals to love you and to love others even more than we already do. Give us guidance as a family towards being better about putting you front and center in our lives. And, help us show how much we love you by loving others. In Jesus' name we pray, AMEN.*