

First Love Life... *Loving Jesus first*

Why Jesus?

Mark 12:28-31

²⁸ One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”¹

Day One

1. Understanding the WHY of doing what we do before the HOW TO is very important. The WHY question addresses motive and heart, the HOW TO focuses on performance. Until we understand WHY we love Jesus first the HOW TO doesn't need to be answered. And perhaps, once we understand WHY, the HOW TO will be there. Does that make sense? Off the top of your head answer this question as if a friend or child were asking: Why are we supposed to love God first? _____

2. This week and next we are going to do a quick survey of Who Jesus is. It is highly recommended that we study Jesus on an ongoing basis. We may know facts about Him, but the gospels are like fine diamonds. Each time we meditate on His earthly life, a new facet of His beauty is revealed. How does Proverbs 2:2-5 motivate you to pray? _____

A GREAT IDEA:

If you can, go to www.biblegateway.com and print out the first five chapters of the gospel of John in a translation you aren't used to (New Living, English Revised, Amplified, etc.). They have a printer friendly version. Use those pages to study the passages for this lesson. Mark them up! Read these pages as if they were a new manuscript placed in your hands. This may seem tedious at first, but keep in mind that we are searching for treasure. We want to know the One whom we are to love with our whole being.

¹Holy Bible. New Living Translation copyright © 1996, 2004 by Tyndale Charitable Trust. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers.

Day Two

Reminder: Don't forget the prayer challenge from Lesson Two Wrap Up. God loves to hear your voice.

1. We are continuing our overview of Who Jesus is, building our base of reason for WHY we love Him. Let's continue to search for treasure as you read John 1:15-34. Again, we are looking for facts, so take your time and pay attention to WHO Jesus is. Make a comprehensive list of all you learn in this passage about Jesus: _____

2. According to this passage, what are some roles Jesus fulfills? _____

3. John the Baptist testifies (v. 16) "From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another." What blessings do you think John is referring to? _____

4. John baptized with water. How does Jesus baptize? _____

5. What is the meaning of the word baptize? _____

6. We will study the impact of how Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit in a few weeks, but for now note that John the Baptist fully understood the difference. Do you find it interesting that John B. did not know Jesus before this encounter? Share your thoughts: _____

Life Points . . .

- Like yesterday, review your facts about Jesus as you discuss them with Him. What is unique about Jesus?
- Look back at yesterday's list. Meditate on WHO Jesus is.
- Ask God to continue to give you wisdom and understanding as you seek Him through His Word.

