

Wholehearted

Loving God

WARM-UP

1. When was the last time you did your very best for somebody? Tell us about it.
2. What does it feel like when someone does their very best for you? Share your story.

WORD

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37

In the Bible, you'll read how God shows His love for His people. You will also see how His people kept on disobeying Him. Despite God saving His people over and over, His people continued to disobey Him. Sadly, even at this time, all of us have disobeyed God's commandments. One way or another we've sinned against our creator. Yet even though we make many mistakes, God continues to show His love for us. He continues to remind us to love Him with all of our heart, mind, and soul. Today, we will look at the two ways we can love God because of the way He loves us first.

1. God loves us unconditionally

... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

It is rare for someone to want to give up his life to save a person who has done bad things to him. But God was different. He sent Jesus Christ His son to die for our sins. He took away the punishment of sin, which is death, while we were still His enemies. Because

of what He did, we can now come to God and receive His gift of eternal life. He did all that while we were still sinning against Him. Despite our disobedience, he reminds us of His unconditional love. He reminds us that our sins have been fully paid. This is even true for the people we dislike. The question now is are you willing to receive His gift and share it with others?

2. God wants to talk with us.

18 "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land; 20 but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Isaiah 1:18-20

Though we are offered the free gift of eternal life, God calls us to repent. He saved us from our sins, so because He loves us, He doesn't want us to keep on doing what will hurt us. Like a good father, He wants to teach us His good ways. He wants us to walk with Him so that when we stumble and fall, we know that God is there and He will help us up and help us grow. He's going to mold us into the image he originally wanted us to be; As we walk with Him, we become closer to being Christ-like, full of compassion and love for all people.

APPLICATION

1. Do you know God as your loving Father? Do you want to become His child today?
2. What are some ways you can show your love for God this week?
3. How can you share God's love to others this week?

PRAYER

1. Thank God for loving you unconditionally and for always wanting to talk with you.
2. Pray that you will learn how to show your love for God more as you walk with Him.
3. Pray that you will be able to share the love of God with others as well this week.