

Life Notes

MISSION JH | May 19/20

Day 1

READ: Matthew 22:36-40. The greatest commandments are relational! The more you get to know and love our awesome God, the more natural it is to see everyone around you through His eyes, as His creations, His sons and daughters. It gets easier to love everyone... even when they are tough to love.

LOOK: Remind yourself that God loves each of the people that you encounter.

JOURNAL: What does it mean to love someone? How does 'liking' grow into 'loving'? What does it look like to love God in all the ways that Matthew says to?

Day 2

READ: John 13:1-17. Do you love your friends? If you are like me, it is easy to love them... when they love me back. Jesus' example in this passage shows us how we are to love our friends unconditionally. Think about it... Jesus knew Judas was going to betray him, Peter was going to deny him. He still loved them. Ate with them. He even washed their feet.

LOOK: Watch for opportunities to extend the same grace and love to your friends that Jesus did.

JOURNAL: What would our church look like if we all loved each other in this way? How does loving God help us to love others this way?

Day 3

MEDITATE: We did a study through Ephesians a few months ago... let's revisit what Paul writes about relationships. Read Ephesians 4:20-5:2. Stop for a moment. Ask God for guidance and the ability to listen. Now read it again, slowly. Pay attention for words or phrases that stand out to you. Pause and think about these things.

Remember them throughout your day (or tomorrow if you're doing this at night:)

JOURNAL: What stood out to you? Why do you think that God want's you to know this particular thing right now?

Day 4

READ: Matthew 25:31-46. Jesus loved the poor, weak, sick. He didn't just love them with words - Jesus' love has action. He calls us to the same love - to care for those who are easy to ignore. Look at the things listed in verse 36. Often when we think of caring for people, we think of giving money or stuff - but what is listed is relational! Inviting in, spending time, visiting, looking after. Real love.

LOOK: Where might God be asking you to put love into action? Look for opportunities to care for the people that God places in your day.

JOURNAL: Can you think of a time that God put someone in your life to care for or spend time with? Do you feel that you did a good job caring for them?

Day 5

READ: Luke 5:12-16. Today we are going to circle back to Day 1 - LOVE GOD! Jesus spent himself teaching, traveling and healing. His days must have felt so busy and chaotic! "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed". We often think of lonely as being a bad thing - but Jesus saw it as time to be with God. He knew that 'Love God' is the most important part.

LOOK: Are there quiet spaces in your day that feel 'lonely'? Use these moments to spend time with God..

JOURNAL: Do you take time to be alone with God? How would your relationship with Him look if that was a priority in your day?

Talk about it...

Questions & topics for conversation with your leaders, family & friends...

- Love is such an over-used word. I can say "I love my Mom" and "I love burritos". What does it mean to really love?
- Discuss unconditional love in your relationships.
- Was there something special that stood out to you in Day 3's Meditation? What was it and why?
- What are some ways that you can care for the poor, hungry, sick in your life? In your community
- Was there a time recently that you needed God but felt like He didn't show up for you?
- Was there a time recently that God really showed up for you and you felt His presence or guidance?

Contact Information

If you have questions or would like someone to talk to this week, email Josh at joshb@mission68.org. We would also love to hear your story - what are you learning and how are you growing closer to God and your MISSION family? Let us know by sharing with your leaders or emailing Josh.

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