

# Love<sup>3</sup>

## WEEK 3: LOVE OF GOD

---

O God, our Lord, help us to love you as you have commanded us-- with all our minds and hearts.

May we clearly demonstrate our love for you in all aspects of our lives, such as our relationships and in our daily activities. Guide us to become more like you. Amen

---

## WEEK 3: NOVEMBER 6, 2022

READ Matthew 22:37-39 and Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Matthew 22:37-39 - Jesus replied "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - Israel, listen! Our God is the LORD! Only the LORD! Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. Write them on your house's doorframes and on your city's gates.

## GETTING STARTED

- Welcome each other.
- Inquire as to anyone who is missing. Is follow-up needed?
- Reply to Pastor Rob's question: What makes a person a saint? Have you known any personally? How is this a good introduction to the sermon?

## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you react to the excerpt from Pope Francis' homily regarding good works and sainthood? How is it relevant to this sermon on the love of God?
- Are you familiar with the Jewish traditions of The Shema and the mezuzah? Do they have more meaning to you in the context of this sermon?
- What characteristics of God's love emerged for you as a result of reflecting on Pastor Rob's analysis of the word ahavah.
- The story of Moses and the Israelites receiving these commandments includes circumstances we encounter in contemporary life. What are your takeaways?
- How is the fear of God reframed for us in this sermon?
- Pastor Rob has mentioned that this sermon series is about stewardship. How is ahavah related to stewardship?
- We are asked to consider many reasons for loving God. What is the ultimate reason?
- Have you ever met a "Mr. Tony"? What happened? Reflections on your experience?
- Last check-in of this sermon series: how has it been to try to cultivate intimacy with God every day, serve someone else every day, and do something good for YOU each day? To what degree have these intentions made this sermon series relevant to your life?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

