



# THE RIDGE

## COMMUNITY CHURCH

### Day 11: Love God

*Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.* **Matthew 22:37-40**

It all comes down to love. Following Jesus is not about diligently keeping a set of rules or conjuring up the moral fortitude to lead good lives. It's about loving God and enjoying Him. God's love changes us from the inside out and redefines every aspect of our lives.

Once we come to the point that the depth of God's love for us truly grips us, our desires begin to change. We come to recognize that God is working in us to transform us. We begin to desire to know God more and to do what pleases Him. Philippians 2:13 says:

*For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.* **Philippians 2:13**

God produces within us a desire to know Him more. From this desire for knowing God, it becomes natural to read the Bible and learn more about His character, to have a conversation with God through prayer, to reflect on what He is teaching us, to walk in step with Him, to give generously and to share with others God's great love for us. This desire to know God more through a personal relationship with Him results in habits that we engage in regularly. Habits, such as prayer and reading the Bible should come naturally out of our love for God not as a pathway to His love. These habits produced by our love for God have been called different things throughout time some call them spiritual disciplines.

#### **APPLY:**

- Spend time in prayer talking with God and expressing your love for Him.