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### WARM UP

Do you remember at the age of 8-10 who your childhood friend was? Who were they and what did you like about them?

### WORD

Read [Mark 12:28-34](#)

When we note that the most important commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, it is not just a commandment, but also a response to the love that He so lavishly first poured out on us (1 John 4:19).

It's the sort of love that transformed the life of the Jewish law scribe in this passage, that he would have a deeper revelation about the love relationship that God has called him into through Jesus.

### NOTES

## 1 IT ALL HANGS SO WE GET TO HANG

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<sup>35</sup>And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

[Matthew 22:35-40](#) (ESV)

For these two commandments to be the embodiment of the Jewish Law (and the Old Testament before Jesus was born), is to have all of Scripture hinge and hang on loving God and loving our neighbours. God calls us to a love relationship with Him, and out of the abundance of this love, we get to love our neighbours.

- How do you show your love for God with all your heart, your mind, your soul?
- How do these look in a practical way?

## 2 WHAT KIND OF LOVE?

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<sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

[John 15:12-13](#) (ESV)

Jesus shows us what kind of love He has for us by speaking about a love that is willing to be laid down for their friends. From this, we can see that it is Jesus who calls us into this beautiful relationship with Him. Not only is there no other greater love, but He also calls us to love our neighbours the way He loves us: as FRIENDS.

- Have you experienced a friendship with God? If you have, share your best experiences with Him. If not, would you like to pray right now to experience a friendship with God?

## PRAYER

- Pray for a deeper friendship with God. Set time to regularly spend with God in developing your relationship with Him.
- Spend time praising God for who He is. Magnify Him. Worship Him.
- Pray for one another, especially for those who may not be experiencing a friendship with God.