

Study Guide 1-26-26 All In The Family - Live and Love

Overview

This message explores what life looks like after coming to Christ, centering on Jesus' teaching in **Matthew 22:34-40** that all the Law and Prophets hang on two great commandments:

1. Love God with **all** your heart, soul, and mind.
2. Love your neighbor as yourself.

The sermon connects loving God fully (making Him Lord over every area) with loving people sacrificially (as Christ loved us), then ties both to **holiness**—being set apart for God by closing the "leaks" sin creates in our lives so His love, presence, and power can remain and flow through us. It ends with an invitation to identify, confess, and fully surrender areas not under Jesus' lordship.

Main Points

1. **The Two Greatest Commandments Define God's Family**
 - Love God with **everything** (surrender total lordship; trust His way over yours).
 - Love people with **everything** (love costs; it involves self-denial—Luke 9:23).
2. **How We Love** (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
 - Biblical love is patient, kind, selfless, humble, not irritable, forgiving, truthful, enduring.
 - Love is a **decision**, not a feeling—choosing another's good over your own.
 - We can only give love we've first received from God (1 John 4:7-8, 19; Romans 5:8).
 - Love **initiates**, moves toward people, sacrifices, forgives, and reflects Christ—even when undeserved.
3. **How We Live – Holiness**
 - Holiness = being **set apart**, distinct, pure (1 Peter 1:15; Isaiah 6:3).
 - Not a works-based status, but stepping out of worldly culture into kingdom culture.
 - Sin creates "leaks" or "holes" that prevent God's presence from staying (analogy: a pot with holes).
 - God's holiness reveals our holes → leads to repentance, confession, cleansing, and restoration (Isaiah 6 example).
 - Correction precedes commissioning; full surrender allows God to fill and send us.
4. **The Path Forward**
 - You cannot love God fully and live casually.
 - Holiness starts with three steps: **Identify** → **Confess** → **Surrender** (fully, not halfway).
 - Invitation: Bring hidden areas into the light; receive God's transforming love, not condemnation.

Reflection Questions

1. If you were brutally honest, what is **one area** of your life you're not fully surrendering to God's lordship right now? Why do you hold it back?
2. How have you recently experienced God's initiating, undeserved love toward you? How did it change you?
3. Thinking of 1 Corinthians 13, which quality of love (patient, kind, not resentful, etc.) is hardest for you to show—toward God or toward others—and why?
4. Where do you see "leaks" or "holes" in your life right now (habits, attitudes, relationships, compromises) that keep God's love/peace/power from staying?

5. When has God's holiness confronted you (like Isaiah's "woe is me" moment)? What was the result?

Application

This week, choose **one practical expression** of love in each category:

- Toward **God**: Identify one area you're holding back → confess it honestly → surrender it fully (no halfway). Practice obedience as an act of kindness to God.
- Toward **people**: Intentionally choose one action from the sermon's examples:
 - Patience instead of sarcasm
 - Forgiveness instead of justice
 - Presence instead of avoidance Do this toward someone difficult or undeserving.
- Holiness step: Spend 5–10 minutes daily asking God to reveal any "leaks." Journal what He shows, confess it, and declare your full surrender.

Group Discussion Prompts

1. Share your biggest takeaway from the two greatest commandments. Which one feels more challenging right now—loving God fully or loving people sacrificially—and why?
2. How does the idea that "you can't give what you haven't received" change the way you view loving difficult people?
3. The sermon uses the "pot with holes" analogy. What "leaks" has God recently revealed in your life, and how are you responding?
4. What misconceptions about holiness have you encountered (e.g., works-based or legalistic views)? How does this message redefine it for you?
5. If the group prayed right now for full surrender in specific areas, what would you ask prayer for? (Optional: time for sharing and prayer.)

Feel free to use this guide for personal devotion, small group, or family study.