

# LOVE

## LESSON 4

### Loving God Best



**W**e know that God wants us to love Him. And certainly we think we do. The Bible tells us that part of loving God is keeping His commandments. And so we try to do what He says. We don't worship other gods or make idols. We don't take His name in vain. We take at least one day each week to spend time reading the Bible and remembering Jesus. We honour our father and mother. We don't kill, commit adultery, steal, or tell lies. And we don't covet what belongs to our neighbours. Is this enough? Jesus told a story that showed that it is not enough just to check off a list of requirements.

Once upon a time there was a rich man. He had lots of money, so much that he could do whatever he liked. He had a big, beautiful, comfortable home, fancy clothes, the best food he could buy and a wonderful cook to cook it. He loved God too, at least he thought he did. He did all the right things, didn't hurt anyone or steal or tell lies. He honoured his parents, in fact, he didn't think there was much else he could do to please God. But one day, he met Jesus. He asked Jesus what he could do to make sure he would have eternal life. To his surprise, Jesus told him if he really wanted to be perfect, then he should go home, sell all that he had and give to the poor, and then come and follow him. When the rich man heard that he went away very sad. He didn't want to sell all his fine things and give his money to the poor and then follow Jesus. He was too comfortable as he was!

Jesus turned to his disciples and told them that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God. This may seem like a funny thing to say, but it may be that Jesus was referring to a little gate in Jerusalem that was used when the main gates were shut. It was a very tiny hole in the wall and if a camel was to go through, it had to have all its burdens taken off first. This is what Jesus wanted the rich man to do because he couldn't get into the kingdom if he loved his riches more than God.

God wants us to love Him best. He wants us to love Him with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. If we love Him with all our heart, then we will be willing to part with our possessions, perhaps even our family and friends. If we love Him with all our soul, then we will be willing to give our life if need be to serve Him. If we love Him with all our strength, then we will be willing to use all our abilities in His service, helping others. If we love Him with all our mind, then our desires and all our imaginations will be those things which further His purpose of filling the earth with His glory. This is a tall order, but it something to strive towards. It is the kind of people that God wants in His Kingdom.

Jesus was the ultimate example of this. He loved his Father so completely that He naturally did Father's will and not his own.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORKSHEET 4: LOVING GOD BEST

### ANSWERS FROM THE BIBLE:

John says we love God because He first loved us... Look up the following verses and write out what it says about God's love for us.

Jeremiah 31:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 3:11,12 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 138 \_\_\_\_\_

### WORD STUDY:

#### **"heart"**

Look up this word in a concordance. What is the Hebrew word and what does it mean? Look up all the verses in Psalm 119 that mention the heart. If the heart is where love comes from, then how is David building up his love for God? Write out one of the verses that is particularly meaningful to you.

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### APPLICATION:

What are some ways that would help to increase a person's love for God?

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