



SHARING SCRIPTURE

Discover • Jesus • Together

To Love the Lord Your God

For use: October 17 - 23

Texts: Deuteronomy 6:4, 5; Deuteronomy 10:12; Ephesians 2:1-10; Revelation 14:6, 7; Deuteronomy 4:37; Deuteronomy 11:1; Mark 12:28-30

Gary Chapman's 1992 best-seller, "The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate," theorizes that people reveal their own personal love language in the way they express love to others. He has identified these languages as acts of service, gift-giving, physical touch, quality time, and words of affirmation. [1] These concepts are now so well ingrained in our collective thinking that the Korean pop group BTS's fans (called ARMYs) have analyzed each performer accordingly. [2]

By observing how the members of BTS interact with each other and with their fans, ARMYs suggest that Jin, as the one who takes responsibility for the others, expresses his love through acts of service. Jimin, the hugger, prefers physical touch. Since Jungkook connects with ARMYs in Livestream chats, his language is quality time. Suga often writes songs for others, so his is acts of service. Namjoon is a lyrical writer, so he offers words of affirmation. J-Hope's language is gift-giving, as he supports charitable organizations. V is a bit more enigmatic, so fans couldn't agree on his love qualities.

As we see in these examples, for the most part it seems that we each have one prominent method of expressing love. However, there is One who is not limited to this set boundary.

We see in Scripture that God expresses love for us in all five languages. How? Well, the Holy Spirit touches us with a divine physical presence. God is ever-present with us, giving us quality time. The Bible contains words of affirmation for us in scores of promises. Jesus came to this earth as the Servant of all, and God serves us daily by providing for all of our needs. Finally, we've received the ultimate gift in Jesus' sacrifice for our salvation.

We, however, will tend to respond to God mainly through our primary love language. The command found in John 14:15 and 1 John 5:3 instructs us to show our love for God by obeying the Commandments. This can seem to require everyone to fit into the one style—acts of service. But, when we look deeper into the commandments, though, we can find ways to express the other languages. Encouraging, touching, giving, and the ministry of presence are also appropriate expressions of the love God instilled in us, and may be easier to express when we fully accept Jesus Christ as our Savior.

No matter how we express our love for God, Deuteronomy 6:5 describes the proper level of intensity of that expression—we will love with all of our heart, soul and strength. No matter which love language we're wired for, when we truly love God we'll worship with our whole being.

~Chuck Burkeen

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Five_Love_Languages

[2] <https://www.cheatsheet.com/entertainment/fan-guessed-love-languages-bts-members.html/>

For Reflection

Connecting: What is the most loving thing you remember your parents doing for you? Which love language did that act express? How do you think your upbringing has influenced your own love language response?

Sharing: Which of the Commandments gives us the greatest opportunity to show our love for God?

1. No other Gods—that way we can give our total devotion to the one true God
2. Do not covet—we can't love both God and things
3. Remember the Sabbath—it includes quality time and acts of service
4. Honor your parents—it's good practice for how we will honor our Creator
5. Don't abuse God's name—you wouldn't use your loved one's name as a curse word
6. Other:

Applying: Is love an action or a feeling? Based on your answer to this question, describe what love for God looks like. How can we, as a worldwide church, better show others that we love God?

Valuing: Do you feel loved by your family and friends? How does your sense of experiencing love in your life affect your ability to love God? Take time this week to examine your love relationship with God, and pray for the ability to fully love God at all times, no matter how you feel.

[Go to Website](#)



www.creativeministry.org | 800.272.4664.