**The Ties That Bind**

**Week 1**

**Loving God First**

Matthew 22:37-38

*“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”*

**1. Loving God with Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 • **Scripture**: Proverbs 4:23 – “Above all else, guard your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, for everything you do flows from it.”

 • **Illustration**: A compass points true \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when aligned; your heart points to God when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Him.

 • **Application**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your affections and desires to God. Identify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that take your focus away from Him.

**2. Loving God with Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 • **Scripture**: Psalm 42:1 – “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pants for you, my God.”

 • **Illustration**: Just as a stream nourishes the deer, God nourishes our souls when we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him.

 • **Application**: Reflect on how your relationship with God shapes your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and identity.

**3. Loving God with Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 • **Scripture**: Romans 12:2 – “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .”

 • **Illustration**: A garden flourishes when the weeds are removed; our minds flourish when renewed by God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

 • **Application**: Commit to studying Scripture and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on God’s truth daily.

**Challenge:**

**Reflect:** Which area—heart, soul, or mind—needs your attention most?

**Act:** Take one step this week to deepen your love for God in that area.

**Pray:** Ask God to help you love Him fully with your heart, soul, and mind.