

# Loving God and One Another

**Leader:** We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross. In the name . . .

Jesus offered these two Commandments as the greatest of all: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30–31).

Simply put, that means loving God with everything we have within us, freely, with no measure or conditions. By implication, Jesus asked us the following questions.

**Reader 1:**

- Will you believe that I love you without any reservation?
- Will you trust me?
- Will you let me be your strength?
- Will you let go of your own strong control?
- Will you believe in your own giftedness?
- Will you walk with insecurity for a while?

**Reader 2:**

- Will you come to me in prayer so I can empower you?
- Will you be vulnerable with me?
- Will you take me to the places in your heart where you hide out?
- Will you allow me to walk with you?
- Will you recognize your own weak areas?

**Reader 3:**

- Will you be quiet enough to hear me?
- Will you talk with me about what is really difficult for you?
- Will you stand close to Calvary and learn from me?
- Will you believe that nothing can separate you from me?

**Leader:** Like those in Jesus’ time, we all struggle to give ourselves fully to God. As a sign of support and commitment to our journey toward greater love and fullness in God, I invite you to come forward and select a paper from the basket on the prayer table. In receiving a name, you are making a commitment to offer prayers for that person. *(Invite the participants to come forward one at a time.)*

**Leader:** Let us end by listening to these encouraging words from Sacred Scripture.  
*(Read Romans 8:35–39.)*

