



# 1-14-18 Sermon Discussion Guide

“Game On!: Practices”

**GAME  
ON!**

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## **Context**

Our Christian Education theme for year is “Game On!” We are encouraging people to be fully engaged participants in the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Throughout this year, the second Sunday of each month will be our “Game On Sundays.” We’ll explore how we play this game as Christians and what we need in order to play it well. In short, we are all players on the team. Our presence matters. This month, we talk about the practices we use to engage us in our faith. Everything worth doing requires practice. We discuss how practices keep us engaged.

## **Checking In**

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

## **Introduction**

What is the impact of having “your heart in it?” What does it mean to be fully invested something? In contrast, how can you tell when somebody isn’t fully invested? What’s the impact of only giving part of ourselves to a task?

## **Discussing the Text – Mark 12:28-33**

1. What does having one God alone have to do with loving God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength?
2. What do you think is the difference between loving God with all your heart, all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength? How could these be different ways to love God?
3. What do you think it means to love your neighbor as yourself? Who is your neighbor? See if Luke 10:29-37 helps you answer this question?
4. In Matthew’s version of this story (22:37-40), Jesus says that all the Law and Prophets are summarized in these two commandments. What do you think Jesus means by this?
5. If loving God with all our being and loving others as ourselves are the two most important commandments, what does that mean about all the other Biblical commandments? Are we still to follow them? All of them? If not all, then which ones? How do we know?

## **So what?**

1. What is one way you can practice loving God with all your heart?
2. What is one way you can practice loving God with all your soul?
3. What is one way you can practice loving God with all your mind?
4. What is one way you can practice loving God with all your strength?
5. What is one way you can practice loving your neighbor as yourself?
6. Do you find it harder to love God or to love your neighbors as yourself? Why?

## **Prayer**

Share something you for which you are thankful and/or something for which you need support. Invite the group to develop a prayer practice this week. Encourage members to try doing one thing in prayer every day this week.