



TRANSCEND

TRAIN · DEVELOP · MENTOR · EMPOWER

TRANSCEND
EMPHASIS 2022-2025



37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

MATTHEW 22: 37-39 NIV

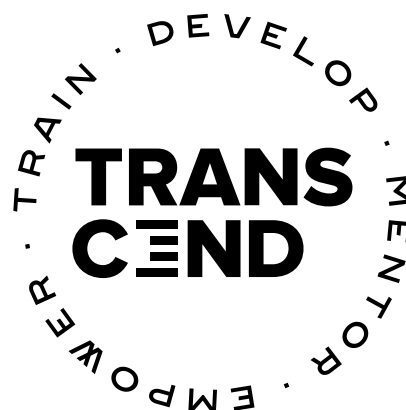
We all know the great commandment; however, we do not put it into practice in its entirety because we only focus on loving God for what He has done and will do in our lives. Is it really possible to love God with the mind as much as to love God with the heart? Jesus calls us to do it with both, and with the soul as well, with all that we have and with all that we are, with what constitutes the center of our being. However, we leave two fundamental things in the background to transcend, which are to love our neighbor and also to love ourselves.

***Do we really love God with all our heart?
What does it mean to love Him with all our being?
What does it mean to love our neighbor as ourselves?***



The term Transcend from the biblical perspective comes from the Latin transcendens; which is interpreted as transcending, surpassing, being better than others; it gives us the idea of surpassing or exceeding. It is the character of the transcendent, that is, what is beyond the perceptible and the possibilities of the intelligible (understanding) and is opposed to the concept of immanence.

From another perspective, transcending means: moving from one area to another, crossing the limit that separates them; to be or to go beyond something.



TRANSCEND LOVING WITH THE HEART



How will what you are doing go beyond the limits of your natural life? Even after your encounter with God, it is necessary that you begin to develop the works of faith that are within you and that the Spirit has already enabled you to do.

When we surrendered our life to Jesus, He deposited upon us His essence of love, which helps us to love Him as our God, He gives us His heart.

When we receive this new heart, we can love without restrictions; our heart beats in tune with that of God Himself. How can we know if this is really happening? Only by knowing where our treasure is as stated in Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

So, to transcend loving God with all our heart we must ask ourselves, How much does my heart beat like Christ's? Does it hurt what hurts Him? Am I happy for what He is satisfied with?

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

EZEKIEL 11:19-20 NIV

2022



TRANSCEND LOVING WITH YOUR BEING AND MIND



This requires a cognitive and emotional capacity with which we have been endowed by God Himself, to love God with Being and Mind we must be aware of what we are and what we do.

Einstein said: "The mind that opens to a new idea will never return to its original size"; we could then say that when we meet God we want to know more, knowing Him produces curiosity and allows us to advance in our personal relationship with Jesus. (Proverbs 3:13)

Transcending loving God with our Being and our Mind is shown in the continuous search, that deep, but conscious and rational longing to experience God in our lives. The more you know God, the more you love Him, the more you become passionate, our faith never becomes common, boring, or tedious, we continue to fear Him because we know who He is.

So: Do you love God with all your mind? How much of your time during the day do you rationally seek to know Him? And as Paul asked the eunuch, Are you understanding what you read? Furthermore, Are you living in obedience to what you learn from Him?

2023



TRANSCEND LOVING YOURSELF



Loving ourselves as to our neighbor will likely go against what we have been taught throughout life. But... if we do not know how to love ourselves as a neighbor in need of our love, How can we truly love our neighbor?

Joe Gorman reminds us that “the Christian life is a journey to love God and others, but it is also a journey to learn to love ourselves... the first neighbor God calls us to love is ourselves.

Self-care is not a selfish act but an act of love, both for oneself and for others.

It is an acknowledgment that we are God's holy people, gifted and called to participate with God in His redemptive mission in the world.

Rather, it is “an act of worship that honors God and we must do it in an integral way affecting the physical, emotional, social and spiritual so that we can serve others well and feel good about ourselves.

*This is how we know that we live in Him
and He in us: He has given us of His Spirit.*

1 JOHN 4:13

2024



TRANSCEND LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR



It is easy to love those who are good to us and love us, but it is a challenge to love those who want nothing to do with us. (Luke 6:27-36)

Jesus Himself shows us how to love others by surpassing the conventional expectations that other human beings have established; He shows it by giving everything for us.

Each of us must understand that this type of qualifying love is not enough, to whom does or to whom does not deserve it based on our own non-biblical parameters, for that reason it is important at this point to reflect, Am I loving my neighbor the Jesus way? How would Jesus act if He were in our passion or in front of this person to whom I must show His love? Am I really giving more than what others give me?

2025



Loving God, with all our heart, being and mind gives a sense of purpose to everything we do, loving ourselves and our neighbor helps us to transcend in the process of being disciples. Moreover, knowing that my decisions, my Faith, my works transcend, lead me to be more responsible; to make my best effort; to be different; to be humble, to follow Jesus with intentionality and integrity.

This is why NYI in the Mesoamerican Region will forge a path for the next four years so that all of Jesus' disciples are able to:

TRANSCEND, LOVING GOD WITH ALL THEIR HEART

2022

TRANSCEND, LOVING GOD WITH ALL THEIR BEING AND MIND

2023

TRANSCEND, LOVING YOURSELF

2024

TRANSCEND, LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

2025

TRANSCEND
LOVING GOD

MONTHLY EMPHASES
2022



Nazarene Youth International
Mesoamerica Region

↓ JANUARY

OUR FIRST OBLIGATION



These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all His decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

(Deuteronomy 6:1-5).

We Christians are confused about what our priority is. We have been taught that we were created to worship God, others tell us that sharing the gospel is our fundamental task, and, on the other hand, we hear that we must ceaselessly dedicate ourselves to prayer and fasting. However, the Word will remind us that our first obligation, our first call, the first invitation that God makes us, is to love Him with all that we are. Loving God is, then, our priority; praise cannot be given if we do not love God, we cannot speak of someone we do not love, it is not possible to look for someone for whom we do not feel love. Loving God is, then, the source of meaning for our life.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Have a time of solitude with your group of young people, in which they reflect on what it means to love God.
- Take prayer times in youth meetings, with the request to love God more day by day.
- Invite each young person to think of ways to show love to someone (partner, children, parents, etc.); later, to think of actions that demonstrate love for God, and to carry them out.



↓ FEBRUARY

IT'S IN YOUR HANDS



This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you, life and death, blessings, and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

(Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

God does not force us to do anything. Although His first call, and our first obligation, is to love Him, it is not a coercive action. Rather, it is a loving invitation that He extends to every person in the world, and throughout history. The answer is in each one of us. What are you going to choose?



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Hold discussions in which you expose the consequences of loving God and not doing it. Close with an invitation to decide to love God.

- Hold services of invitation to accept the love of God, or to consecrate yourself totally to Him; make a clear call to decide for the way of the Lord.



↓ MARCH

A LOVE THAT TRANSCENDS GENERATIONS



I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

(Exodus 20:5b-6).

All of us are the product of history. Behind us are parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and the way we live today is largely the result of decisions that other people made in the past. The same will happen with us: we will not always be young, nor will we be in the present conditions; therefore, the decisions we make today will not only affect us and our current situation, but they will also be decisive for our future life, for the lives of our children and grandchildren.

How do you want your future to be? In what conditions do you want to live later? What inheritance do you want to leave to your next generations? Loving God guarantees His blessing and His love in our future life, and in that of the people who come after us.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- In the youth class, invite the attendees to write or draw a picture of their future; put special emphasis on thinking about the way of life they want, and encourage them to make the decision to love God to live well tomorrow.

- Encourage each young person to make a list of qualities they would like for their children and grandchildren; after having it, have each one to reflect on what they must do today to achieve that promising future.



↓ APRIL

CONSEQUENCES



Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the Lord's anger because they forsook Him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. In His anger against Israel the Lord gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them, just as He had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

(Judges 2:11-15).

Loving God brings positive consequences; not loving Him brings negative consequences. The Israelite generation of the book of Judges, had the opportunity to enjoy God's blessings, but they made a wrong decision: they forgot about Him, turned their backs on Him, and gave their love and devotion to other gods. The consequences were terrible and immediate. Our lives can face a similar risk: we can easily forget our love for God, and give it up to school, work, money, fame, illicit sex, certain substances, pride, etc. The consequences for us can be fatal.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- In a special class or activity, invite each young person to reflect on the people, institutions or elements that can represent a threat to their love for God. They can make a list of them. End with a prayer, asking God to keep you from giving your love to those other things, and being faithful only to Him.



↓ MAY

RECIPROCITY



*I love those who love me,
and those who seek me find me.
With me are riches and honor,
enduring wealth and prosperity.*

(Proverbs 8:17-18).

The basic characteristic for any loving relationship between two people is reciprocity. If, in a courtship, the girl loves the boy very much, but he does not, and he is only in that relationship to pass the time, without any doubt there will be a lot of damage for both, and the situation will be unhealthy. A healthy relationship requires reciprocated love from both partners. It is the same with God. He loves us with an eternal love, unequalled, we can do nothing so that He loves us more, or so that He loves us less. What we can do is thank Him for His love and decide to reciprocate every day.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- In a special class or retreat time, invite each young person to reflect on their actions towards God. Ask, Are all the actions in my life corresponding positively to God's love for me? Does what I do every day say that I love God?

- Encourage each young person to make a list of five daily actions that they commit to carry out to show that they correspond positively to God's love. They can give this list to you, and you can ask them weekly how they are doing with complying with it.



↓ JUNE

RESPONSIVE LOVE



*The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying:
"I have loved you with an everlasting love.
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.
I will build you up again,
and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt.
Again, you will take up your timbrels
and go out to dance with the joyful.
Again you will plant vineyards
on the hills of Samaria;
the farmers will plant them
and enjoy their fruit.
There will be a day when watchmen cry out
on the hills of Ephraim,
'Come, let us go up to Zion,
to the Lord our God.'"*

(Jeremiah 31:3-6).

The prophet Jeremiah developed his ministry among an exiled people, among migrants living in slavery, among marginalized people surrounded by sadness and hopelessness. In the midst of a difficult situation, God reminds His people that, because of His great love, He will restore His situation, have mercy, and give them a renewed life. In many cases, our lives can be similar: we live in despair, we have experienced painful moments, we have suffered irreparable losses; God's love promises to restore us, give us new life, renew all that we are.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Visit especially young people in the congregation who are going through, or have recently gone through, painful situations, of loss, of separation, and use this text to give them encouragement and hope.

- Hold a special restoration service, aimed especially at young people in a condition of sadness and despair. Encourage a time of prayer on behalf of them, and their family.



↓ JULY HEART



*The Lord says:
"These people come near to me with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
Their worship of me
is based on merely human rules they have been
taught.*

(Isaiah 29:13).

Imagine a person who flatters his partner, tells her that she is beautiful, precious, cool, very pretty, that she is the love of his life, that she is the best thing that has happened to him, that she is the most beautiful person on the planet, and a very long list of other attributes; however, he constantly cheats on her with other people, attacks her verbally, psychologically, and sometimes physically, and sometimes he spends several days without coming home. Could we say that this person loves his partner? I don't think so.

God tells His people, through the prophet Isaiah, that He does the same. He offers Him sacrifices, sings psalms to Him, but, internally, in his heart, God is not his priority. That is definitely not loving. We could be in the same situation today: we can go to the temple, sing the praises, raise our hands, say "I love you, Lord", but, in the depths of our hearts and minds, and with our daily lives, we make actions that dishonor God, disobey Him, and sadden Him. Our hearts would then be far from Him, we would not be truly loving Him.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Hold meaningful talks with young people and adolescents selected by you, those who you consider need to evaluate the state of their hearts to truly love God.

- Make a special service, in which you preach on this text, and make an intentional call to love God. It can be a service without songs, to help young people understand that music is not needed to praise God.



↓ AUGUST

CONFIRMATION



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. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

(Mateo 22:37-40).

The message of the God of the Old Testament, given through Moses to his people, is now confirmed by Jesus Christ, the God who draws near, who seeks us, who becomes like us. To the question: "What is the most important commandment?", Jesus, without hesitation, gives the same instruction given to the ancestors, through the Shema. The priority is clear: love God.

But now Jesus makes an addition. There is a second commandment, which is similar to the first, which helps us to understand the first, which enables us to fully fulfill the first: love your neighbor, the way you love yourself. The perhaps abstract instruction of the Old Testament becomes practical in the New; the ambiguous commandment of the Shema is made clear in the word of Jesus Christ. That is the parameter for us: love God, love the people close to you, as you do with yourself. A perfect triangle of holistic and balanced love.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Make a time of intercession. Invite each young person to take the requests of others as if they were their own.

- Encourage each young person in your community to make a list of practical actions, through which they can show that they love God, people, and themselves.



↓ SEPTEMBER GOOD



And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

(Romans 8:28).

What a beautiful promise from God! He arranges that all things be for the good of those who love Him. This way it is good to love God! This way it is convenient to love God! If everything is going to work out for me, who wouldn't want to love God? This is a passage that we have misinterpreted on several occasions, mostly for one word: good. We have believed that loving God means that everything turns out the way we want, the way we hope, the way it suits us; we believe that this good is popular, emotional, instantaneous.

But the message is different: the good that God has for us is eternal, it is the one whose end is good, it is the one that is in accordance with His will and His purpose for our life; And, although it sounds good, that is not always easy to accept, easy to comply with, or to understand. To love God is to be willing for Him to dispose of our eternal good, even if that leads us to make sacrifices here and now.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Carry out an in-depth Bible study of the passage of the month, you can take as a reference the text written above.

- Make a profound call to the youth of your community to accept the will of God in their lives, and to seek that God disposes of the good according to His purpose.



↓ OCTOBER

JEALOUS LOVE



You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit He has caused to dwell in us?

(James 4:4-5).

When someone gets married, the minister says that, from that moment on, the man will renounce the possibility and desire to be with another woman and will be kept only for his wife; the woman hears the same words regarding her husband. Just imagine that this pact was not respected, that a married couple is given the freedom to go out with other people, see them, talk to them, kiss them, and even have sex with them. Of course, that would be unheard of, and it would speak of an unhealthy relationship.

James reminds us that our commitment to God is similar. Any of us who choose to love God must remember that this covenant forces him not to desire anything that goes against that love. Sometimes that will result in breaking with certain friendships that take you away from your love for God; in others, you must stop a habit that is harmful to your relationship with Jesus; in cases, you will be forced to abandon certain tastes that would be harmful to your love for God. If your decision is to love God, do it well, remove from your life all the things that could minimize, restrict, damage, or kill that love.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Hold a special youth worship with an emphasis on entire consecration. Make a call to each young person to surrender all aspects of their lives, in love for God.

- Invite each young person to make a list of friends, habits, activities, or priorities that they must change in order to improve their love for God.

- Review the material of "A Journey of Grace", to find how the grace of God can help each person in this process.





NOVEMBER

REAL LOVE



We love because He first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

(1 John 4:19-21).

Loving God can be an abstract concept. How is it done? What actions show my love? Is going to church services enough? Wearing T-shirts with religious messages is enough? If I only listen to religious music, am I already loving God? The apostle John gives us a sweeping criterion: if someone does not love the people he sees, he cannot love a God whom he does not see.

It is time to review our personal relationships, starting with those we have with the people closest to us: spouse, children, parents, siblings, close friends, etc. Is our relationship with each of them one in which God's love is demonstrated?



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- *Make a fellowship time to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the local youth community. It can be a stroll, an excursion, an outing to the movies, or something similar.*

- *If you know of a case in which there is a family fracture, intentionally minister to the people involved, and guide them to ask for forgiveness, and to renew love between them.*



↓ DECEMBER WATCH OUT!



Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

(Revelation 2:4).

Jesus Christ, through John, addresses these harsh words to the church at Ephesus. They had done things well at the beginning, they had been faithful to God, they had kept the faith, but little by little, they were losing their commitment, interest, and fidelity towards God. That happens to a lot of people: the initial excitement of Christianity causes them to be faithful, attend activities, commit to church service, etcetera, but as time goes by, the excitement wears off, and everything becomes mechanical.

We are in time to avoid this. Constantly renew your commitment to the Lord, that the decision to love Him may be real, fresh, and genuine on a daily basis. Take care of those things that could affect this relationship. Do not lose that love towards whoever loves you the most.



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- *Take personal prayer times with those young people in the community who have been in it the longest. Ask them for their love for God, for their fidelity to Him. Invite them to renew their commitment to love God.*

- *Intentionally minister to youth community servants. Sometimes the service in the church is so much that it is done mechanically. Invite them to review their actions, and to commit to love God always, and to do the things they do out of love.*





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