IDEAS FOR GROWING DEEPER IN LOVE FOR GOD

Scripture
✦ Daily Bible Reading
  ‣ Use a one year Bible reading plan, such as Timeless Reading Plan from thebibleproject.com (or use their app ReadScripture found at readscripture.org)
  ‣ Use a Bible reading plan found on YouVersion app (focus on reading plans that have you reading through entire books of the Bible, not just passages, such as a 31 day plan reading through the Psalms)
✦ Memorize Scripture (try to memorize a whole passage or chapter, not just one verse)
✦ Meditate on Scripture (Pick one or two verses to think about throughout your day)
✦ Study Scripture (join or start a Bible study and dig deep into a book of the Bible)

Prayer
✦ Spend 15 minutes in daily prayer
  ‣ Use the ACTS guide (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) so that the majority of your prayer is about worshiping God, not just about making requests)
  ‣ Spend time in silence before God (are you listening to God or just talking to Him?)
✦ Write out your prayers in a journal and look back through your prayer journal to remind you of God’s faithfulness and provision in your life.
✦ Write your own psalms of praise or lament to God

Fellowship
✦ Spend time with people that are passionately in love with Jesus

Obedience
✦ What are the obvious commands God gives us in His Word that you are ignoring?
  ‣ Is there something specific you know God is asking you to do and you are acting a bit like Jonah – refusing to do it. Maybe it’s something more radical like going to the mission field or moving away from family or getting involved in a church plant.
  ‣ If you are a teenager, perhaps God is clearly telling you to confess to your parents a sin you have been hiding from them, trusting God to bring you through the aftermath.
✦ Intentionally fight sin. Don’t let sin reign in your life (Romans 6:12). If sin separates us from God, you cannot grow deep in your love for God, if you are allowing sin to reign in your life.

Gospel Fluency
✦ Remember and proclaim the Gospel to yourself daily
✦ Listen to Podcasts/Sermons/Conference Sessions that will deepen your understanding of who God is and what He has done.
✦ Listen to Christian Music/Radio that will encourage you to praise God at all times
✦ Take your thought life captive, rejecting the lies and clinging to the truth found in God’s Word. (Philippians 4:8, 2 Corinthians 10:5)
✦ Read Christian books (classic and contemporary)
✦ Proclaim the truths of the Gospel to others regularly (check out Pastor Jeff Vanderstelt’s book Gospel Fluency or videos of his teaching on YouTube)
IDEAS FOR GROWING DEEPER IN LOVE FOR OTHERS

Marriage
✦ 40 Day Love Dare from the movie Fireproof
✦ Do the things you did when you first fell in love with one another
✦ Go on dates (the best gift you can give your children is a healthy marriage)
✦ Pray together and pray for each other
✦ Remember what you love about your spouse and tell him/her about it.

Family
✦ Pray (pray with your family and pray for your family)
✦ Spend quality time together
✦ Take your children/parents on a date to get to know them better
  › Children: ask your parents to tell you about their childhood or their work
  › Parents: ask your child to tell you about the things they are interested in
✦ Think about what is lovely about them
  › Children: What are the things you love most about your parents? Think about those things and tell them that you love those things about them.
  › Parents: What virtues do you see in your children? Point those out to them and encourage them to continue to grow in those virtues. What are the gifts and talents that God has blessed your children with? Point those out and encourage them to use those gifts to serve the Lord.

Friends/Co-workers/Classmates
✦ Pray (pray with your friends/co-workers/classmates and pray for them)
✦ Allow your friendships to move to deeper levels by being vulnerable with them and being a safe place for friends to be vulnerable.
✦ Invite others into your home and practice hospitality

The World
✦ Listen to David Platt sermons online and allow God to break your heart for the lost
✦ Ask Pastor Tony to borrow his DVD series on missions
✦ Watch films to raise your awareness and break your heart for the global issue of human trafficking (Nefarious: Merchant of Souls is one. Priceless is another.)
✦ Support a missionary (in addition to financial support, pray for them regularly and learn about their ministry.)