



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 6: The Greatest Commandment

Scripture

Matthew 22:34-40
Mark 12:28-34

Memory Verse

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.
Mark 12:30 (NIV)

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus is our authority for what is right and best.

Understand that God requires our all.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have learned about some stories that Jesus told. Do you remember what the stories were called? (They were called parables.) What is special about a parable? (It is a story with a meaning.) So, what were the three parables we talked about and what were their meanings? (*Allow your students to tell you what they remember. Fill in what has been left out.*)

As we continue to study through the events leading up to the first Easter almost 2,000 years ago, we see that the Pharisees “made plans to trap Jesus with his own words.” (Matthew 22:15 NIV) If you will remember, these leaders were afraid that Jesus’ popularity with the people would leave them without a nation. They sent their own followers, along with some political leaders, to Jesus to ask Him questions that would trap Him. Another group of religious leaders, the Sadducees, did the same. Instead of trapping Jesus with His own words, they were amazed at His answers.

“One of the teachers of the law [a Pharisee] came and heard the Sadducees arguing. He noticed that Jesus had given the Sadducees a good answer. So he asked Him, ‘Which is the most important of all the commandments?’” (Mark 12:28 NIV) This man was an expert in the law and he, too, was testing Jesus with his question. This question was one which the Jewish leaders and teachers, including the Pharisees and Sadducees, argued about.* You see, there are many laws listed in the Old Testament. The most well known are the Ten Commandments. These religious leaders had also added their own laws over the years. Which of these would Jesus choose?

Jesus not only answered the man’s question, but He told him more than he had asked for. “‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: “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 mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31 NIV) Jesus was quoting verses from the Old Testament books of Deuteronomy (6:4, 5) and Leviticus (19:18). Jesus wasn’t quoting verses no one had ever heard. He was quoting verses “every devout Jew recited twice every day, and the Jews do it to this day.”* It was a cry against the cultures around them that worshipped many gods; it was a great statement of their faith in “One Living and Personal God.”*

Jesus explained that loving God that way would spill over into our relationships with others. Loving God is important. Loving others the way we already love ourselves is also important. We are not supposed to be selfish, looking out for only what helps us.

Application

What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?

To love God with all your heart is to love Him sincerely. It is the opposite of being hypocritical, or “two-faced.” It’s more than just saying we love God, it is sincerely loving Him.

Loving God with all of your soul involves your emotions. Do you love God when you are sad as well as when you are happy?

To love God with all your mind is the opposite of blindly following Him. It includes your thoughts and your intellect. Study God’s Word to show yourself approved by Him. (2 Timothy 2:15)

And loving God with all your strength uses all the energy you have. It is an intense love.

Do you love God with all the sincerity that you have or do you only give Him “mouth-service?” Do you love Him with all your emotions, or are your emotions divided with another? Do you love God with all your mind, learning as much about Him as you can or do you spend more of your thoughts on what the latest television star is doing? And are you loving God with all your energy or is He getting the leftovers?

Spend some time talking with Him right now.

When the teacher of the law heard Jesus’ answer, he replied, “You have spoken well, teacher. . . You are right in saying that God is one. There is no other God but Him. To love God with all your heart and mind and strength is very important. So is loving your neighbor as you love yourself. These things are more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” (Mark 12:32-33 NIV)

No one even thought of asking Jesus any more questions after that! Not only had the religious leaders not been able to trap Jesus with His own words, but He had reminded them with Scripture they knew very well to put God first. What did we say the religious teachers were worried about? They were worried that Jesus’ popularity would leave them without a nation, without power. Instead, they were to love God, with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. What do we know about Jesus? Who is He? Yes, He’s God son, but He is also God. (John 1:1) These leaders should have been loving and accepting and following Jesus, not trying to trap Him with His own words or seeking ways to kill Him.

The teacher had answered wisely, but Jesus knew that knowledge alone wasn’t enough to save this man. God is the one, true God, but keeping a list of rules and doing “all the right things” doesn’t get us to God. God’s gift of eternal life is FREE! There is nothing you can do to earn it or deserve it. It is one thing to know that you should love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength, but that verse begins with “Love the Lord, your God . . .” What does the title “Lord” mean? A lord is someone you surrender to. He is someone you give your life to. Have you surrendered to God? Have you given your life to Him? What are you waiting for?

*Jamieson, Robert; A.R. Fausset; and David Brown. "Commentary on Mark 12." . Blue Letter Bible. 19 Feb 2000. 2011. 28 Jan 2011. http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm_view.cfm?AuthorID=7&contentID=2874&commInfo=6&topic=Mark&ar=Mar_12_28

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Coming Events



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring pictures of a heart, a smiling face, a head/brain, and an arm making a muscle. Use these throughout the lesson.

After Jesus finished telling the stories about the vineyard and the wedding feast, some men came up to Him, asking Him questions.

These men were leaders and teachers. They were experts in the law of God and their own laws, as well.

Different men asked Jesus question after question trying to trap Him with His own words. The last question they asked Him was this, “Teacher, which is the most important of all the commandments?”

There are a lot of commandments. Which one would Jesus choose?

He chose the one they knew the best, the one they had memorized. It was a verse they repeated twice a day, every day.

“The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: “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 mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31 NIV)

The most important commandment is to love God. How should we love Him? We should love Him with all our heart, not being fake. We should love Him with all our soul; that means our emotions. We should love God when we are happy and when we are sad. We should love God when we are content and when we are angry.

We should also love God with all our mind. Learn as much as you can about God, but don’t forget to put it into practice. Putting it into practice with take all your strength. Do you love God like that?

When we are loving God that way, it will be easier to love the people around us, our “neighbors.” Do you think about your mom, dad, brother, or sister as much as you think about yourself?

God, help me to love you the way I should.



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Repeat the memory verse with motions. Cross your arms with fists closed for “love.” Point upwards for “the Lord your God.” Point to your heart for “with all your heart,” to the sole of your shoe for “all your soul,” your head for “all your mind,” and make a muscle with your arm for “with all your strength.”
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring heart shaped cookies for the snack or make your own.
- Reenact the lesson. Choose several students to be the religious leaders. Encourage them to ask many tricky questions. Practice the memory verse as “Jesus” answers the teacher of the law.
- Sing “I Love You, Lord.”
- Find Jerusalem on a map.
- Look up Deuteronomy 6:4,5 and Leviticus 19:18. Reread Mark 12:29-31. Discuss the following summation of those verses. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God," says the Law, "with *all* thy heart," or, with perfect sincerity; "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with *all* thy soul," or, with the utmost fervor; "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with *all* thy mind," or, in the fullest exercise of an enlightened reason; and "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with *all* thy strength," or, with the whole energy of our being! (Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown - see citation at the bottom of page 3)

**Love
the Lord your God
with all
your heart
and with all
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and with all
your mind
and with all
your strength.
Mark 12:30**

Trace the letters.

Love

God.

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?



Word Search

H T G N E R T S R U O Y L L A
 C S N O I T S E U Q M E T O M
 T R E D S D A B D N A D O V G
 R E D A E L S U O I G I L E R
 Y W D L S G N A T W R S O G S
 T S I L T N E M D N A M M O C
 O N N Y D O M J F H E A V D N
 T A G O R E E M O L U R A T E
 R G C U D S R Q F S M A N T J
 A N L R U A N N E R D B I A N
 P I O S D O A T R W I L A O I
 H Z M O S T I M P O R T A N T
 I A H U P S E I R O T S O Y E
 M M A L L Y O U R M I N D A J
 H A L L Y O U R H E A R T P J

JESUS

TRY TO TRAP HIM

COMMANDMENT

ALL YOUR SOUL

RELIGIOUS LEADER

AMAZING ANSWERS

LOVE GOD

ALL YOUR MIND

QUESTIONS

MOST IMPORTANT

ALL YOUR HEART

ALL YOUR STRENGTH



Word Search

H	T	G	N	E	R	T	S	R	U	O	Y	L	L	A
C	S	N	O	I	T	S	E	U	Q	M	E	T	O	M
T	R	E	D	S	D	A	B	D	N	A	D	O	V	G
R	E	D	A	E	L	S	U	O	I	G	I	L	E	R
Y	W	D	L	S	G	N	A	T	W	R	S	O	G	S
T	S	I	L	T	N	E	M	D	N	A	M	M	O	C
O	N	N	Y	D	O	M	J	F	H	E	A	V	D	N
T	A	G	O	R	E	E	M	O	L	U	R	A	T	E
R	G	C	U	D	S	R	Q	F	S	M	A	N	T	J
A	N	L	R	U	A	N	N	E	R	D	B	I	A	N
P	I	O	S	D	O	A	T	R	W	I	L	A	O	I
H	Z	M	O	S	T	I	M	P	O	R	T	A	N	T
I	A	H	U	P	S	E	I	R	O	T	S	O	Y	E
M	M	A	L	L	Y	O	U	R	M	I	N	D	A	J
H	A	L	L	Y	O	U	R	H	E	A	R	T	P	J

JESUS

RELIGIOUS LEADER

QUESTIONS

TRY TO TRAP HIM

AMAZING ANSWERS

MOST IMPORTANT

COMMANDMENT

LOVE GOD

ALL YOUR HEART

ALL YOUR SOUL

ALL YOUR MIND

ALL YOUR STRENGTH



Preschool Word Search

R I F H E A R T D I N G
B U F A L W O W L L Y E
F S T O R I E J E S U S
F T R V I N E Y A R D N
S A K M S O U L N Y L S
H O W J E S H E A D D O
S T R E N G T H E S O E
D A B M K J O J E S U S
M H E A V E N O R I E S
D E A J M I N D I S E N
L A K I N G G O B E Y J
J E L O V E G O D R I T

JESUS

LOVE GOD

HEART

SOUL

MIND

STRENGTH



Preschool Word Search

R I F **H E A R T** D I N G
B U F A L W O W L L Y E
F S T O R I E **J E S U S**
F T R V I N E Y A R D N
S A K M **S O U L** N Y L S
H O W J E S H E A D D O
S T R E N G T H E S O E
D A B M K J O J E S U S
M H E A V E N O R I E S
D E A J **M I N D** I S E N
L A K I N G G O B E Y J
J E **L O V E G O D** R I T

JESUS

LOVE GOD

HEART

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MIND

STRENGTH