



THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

LESSON AT A GLANCE

■ New Apostolic Church USA



CURIOSITY

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: *Some things just go together, like peanut butter and jelly. What things do you think should go together?*
- Brain Teaser: Match It!
- Declaring God's Wonder

BELIEF Choose either Hear It or Experience It and supplement with the video

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Opening Prayer
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth

FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Ways We Can Love
- Blessing Your Kids

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

LESSON 1

NAC USA

Goals and Objectives

[IA 1, 3-10, 11, 13-20, 21, 23-30](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#)
[ID 2, 4, 6](#) [IE 1-3](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:

God Wants Us to Love Him and Love Others

SCRIPTURE:

[Matthew 22: 25](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:

An expert in the law asks Jesus which is the most important commandment, and Jesus says that the greatest commandment is to love God and the second is to love others.

WORD OF WONDER:

[Matthew 22:37-38](#)

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind." This is the first and most important commandment."



Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

FOR LEADERS

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father...

Dear Sunday School Teachers,

God calls us to do two things above all else: **Love Him and love others.** These two loves are inseparable—they are foundational to our faith.

Now, imagine a child in your class pouring a jug of juice onto your fingertips. Would the liquid simply drip down, or would it spill over onto those around you? Of course, it would! This is a beautiful picture of God's love. **When God pours His love onto us, it naturally overflows onto those around us.**

Jesus tells us in [Matthew 25:31-40](#) that loving others—caring for the hungry, the lonely, the hurting—is how we show our love for Him. As Sunday School teachers, you have the incredible opportunity to **teach children that love for God always leads to love for others.**

Have you ever felt God's love overflowing in your life? He loves you **completely**—just as you are. You don't need to do more or be more to receive His love. And when you live in that love, it will pour out onto the children in your class, your family, and your community.

This week, as you teach, **let God's love fill you to the brim**—so much that it spills over onto the little ones He has entrusted to your care.

With love and joy,

The Faith Arc Team

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A ROAD MAP

WHO?

Pharisees were influential Jewish men who promoted their religious traditions based on their interpretation of the Law of Moses. In this story, a Pharisee who was an expert in the Law, tried to trap Jesus in His words by Him with a question.



WHAT?

Jesus teaches that the two greatest commandments are to love God and love others. The Law and the Prophets hang on these two commands, which go hand in hand. Jesus equates loving others and meeting each other's needs with loving and serving Him.



WHERE?

Jesus was in Jerusalem. The Pharisee in [Matthew 22](#) questioned Jesus while He was teaching in the temple courts. By [Matthew 25](#), Jesus had left the temple and was teaching His disciples on the Mount of Olives, east of the city across the Kidron Valley.



WHEN?

These teachings happened during the week leading up to Jesus' death. Jesus was in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Feast with His disciples. Jesus' teaching in [Matthew 25](#) looks ahead to the return of Christ, when God's kingdom comes in its fullness.



CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

For all eternity, God is love. He gives of Himself for the good of others. God's love changes our hearts so we might be found walking in love on the day of Christ's return. This will show that we love God and belong to Jesus.



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WELCOME QUESTION

SUPPLIES: paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional), **Welcome Question Slide**

Before kids arrive, display the **Welcome Question Slide**, or write the following question on a whiteboard: "Some things just go together, like peanut butter and jelly. What things do you think should go together?" Set out sheets of paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive, warmly welcome them by name and ask them to Check In.

All Ages

Use the feelings chart on the next page and ask each child how they are feeling (refrain from asking "How are you?" as children may be accustomed to responding with "fine"). You may want to print and post the feelings chart in your classroom for ease of use.

- Allow each child to name their feeling or to use a color to name their feeling. Older children might use words, younger children might point to the pictures or use the colors to express their feelings.
- There are no wrong feelings and all feelings should be acknowledged.
- Acknowledge how children feel by giving each child time and space to share anything they might need or want to share in regard to their feelings. For example, you can ask "Why are you angry?" or "What made you sad?"
- If you can, address the feeling (hunger/thirst - provide a snack/drink, sadness - give a hug, joy - give a high five, tired - let the child rest, anger - a calming space, etc.).
- Keep in mind throughout the lesson how each child is feeling and that feelings may change during your time with the child.
- If you notice a change, you may want to allow the child to rename their feeling and again address the feeling if needed.
- Acknowledge all feelings, concerns, joys, and celebrations in your opening and closing prayer. Use a grace-based approach to the learning as feelings will impact how children learn. (adapted from the Zones of Regulation)

Show them the **Welcome Question**. Invite kids to write or draw pictures of items they believe make great groupings (such as a famous cartoon character pair; pineapple and pizza; sun and sunblock; head, shoulders, knees, and toes; etc.). Share a few of your own ideas of things that go together. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

At your start time...

Greet kids and share how happy you are to see everyone. Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **Some things just go together, like peanut butter and jelly. What things do you think should go together?**

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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Angry



Scared



Panicked



Inconsolable



Happy



Focused



Calm



Proud



Worried



Frustrated



Silly



Excited



Sad



Bored



Tired



Sick



What creative ideas you have! I never would have imagined putting (choose an example that kids shared) together. Some things just go together, and today we'll hear about two things Jesus taught. In fact, you can't have one without the other. But, first, it's time to be curious.

BRAIN TEASER: MATCH IT!

SUPPLIES: table or stool, tray, towel, items to put on the tray (fork, spoon, cup, saucer, toothbrush, toothpaste, key, lock, toy car, toy truck, different kinds of athletic balls, hat, gloves, scarf, socks, etc.), scissors (optional), **Match It! Slide**, **Greatest Commandment Wonder Truth Slide**, **Match It! Cards Slide** (optional), **Match It! Cards Sheets** (optional)

Ahead of time, place at least 10 various items on a tray and place it on a table. Cover the tray with a towel to hide the items.

Gather kids and display the **Match It! Slide**. I've got a brain teaser for you!

Point to the covered tray. On this tray there's a collection of random items. We're going to play a game called Match It! When it's your turn, choose two items that you think go together. Be ready to explain why. Remove the towel and point to (or pick up) each object so everyone can see it clearly. Put the items back on the tray.

Now that you've seen what we've got, think about what you're going to choose that you think goes together? Call on a few kids to choose items from the tray that they think go together. Line kids up across the front of the room so everyone can see what they've chosen to go together. Encourage creativity! Some things might go together in surprising ways! Let kids explain why they chose their items, ask: **Why did you choose those two items to go together?**

If your group and space are large and it would be difficult for all the kids to see the tray clearly, consider using the **Match It! Slides** rather than a physical tray. Invite kids to share what items pictured on the slide they would choose to go together and why.

Make It Inclusive: *For kids with visual impairments, use objects only and allow the kids to feel each object and to name each object. Assist with the naming as needed.*

Thank the volunteers for their creative ideas and ask them to put the items back on the tray before sitting down. **We've been talking about things that go together. Jesus taught about two things that go together too— love for Him and love for others. Jesus made it very clear we can't have one without the other.** Display the **Wonder Truth Slide**. Today's Wonder Truth is: **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE HIM AND LOVE OTHERS.**

DECLARING GOD'S WONDER

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Declaration Slide**. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Help me find ways to show my love for You, (Kids repeat.)

And help me find ways to show love to others! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

OPENING PRAYER

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Father God, You know us and love us. Help us to hear and understand Your Word today. May Your Spirit show us how we might show love to You and to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

GOD'S BIG STORY

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story – we recommend you choose **HEAR IT!** or **EXPERIENCE IT!** and supplement with the **WATCH IT!** video. **HEAR IT!** is read directly from the Bible. **EXPERIENCE IT!** is an interactive story-telling activity.

Hear It!

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), **Greatest Commandment Title Slide**

Display the **Greatest Commandment Title Slide**. Encourage kids to open their Bibles to the book of Matthew, the first book in the New Testament. They can find the large number 22 for the chapter and the small 36 for the starting verse. Explain that in this passage, some religious teachers were testing Jesus by asking Him hard questions.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!

Invite everyone to read [Matthew 22:36](#) aloud together. Then read [verses 37–40](#) (Jesus' words) aloud as the kids follow along. Next invite everyone to flip a few pages over to [Matthew 25](#) and follow along as you read Jesus' words from [verses 31–40](#).

Watch It!

Watch [The Greatest Commandment God's Big Story!](#)

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Experience It!

SUPPLIES: cardstock, scissors (prep only), name badge holder (3" x 4") with lanyard, paper, marker, envelope, shopping bag, crown, bread, bottled water, envelope, small coat or sweater, empty OTC medicine bottle, chairs (6), Bible or scroll, **Visitor's ID Sheet**

Ahead of time, print the **Visitor's ID Sheet** onto cardstock and cut out the cards.

Place two cards back-to-back in a name badge holder with lanyard attached, so the image is visible from both sides. With a marker, write the words "Shopping List" in large letters at the top of a sheet of paper and list these items below: food, water, invitation, clothes, medicine, visitor's card. On a sealed envelope write "You're Invited!" with a marker.

Gather your props. In a shopping bag place these six items: bread (or any food item), bottled water, the "You're Invited!" envelope, a small coat or sweater, an empty OTC medicine bottle, and the visitor's card on a lanyard.

Set six chairs in a row at the center of your stage area. Place the crown on one of the chairs.

Casually enter with the full shopping bag and the shopping list in hand. **Before I went shopping, I made a list of all the things I needed so I wouldn't forget.** Pause. **Oh, no!** Quickly look through your bag—look at your list—and back through your bag again. **Whew! It's all here.** Set the bag down.

Lists can be helpful. In the Old Testament, God gave His people lists of rules—called commandments—to help them know how to live. These commands set them apart as special and helped the people live good lives. Of course, with sin in every heart, no one could follow the commandments perfectly. No matter how hard we try, every person sins and does wrong things. In that way, the commands showed the people they still needed something... they needed someone.

Sit on one of the chairs and notice the crown. **When Jesus began His ministry, He told people, "Turn away from your sins! ... The kingdom of heaven has come near" ([Matthew 4:17](#)).** Hold the crown. **God's kingdom—God's new creation and new way of life—was showing up. Jesus was letting people know that God is in charge and that the broken parts of the world are being fixed. He was showing people how to love.** Set the crown down.

Once, some Pharisees got together. One of them came to ask Jesus a question. This Pharisee was an expert in the law—the lists of commands (hold up a Bible or a scroll) God gave His people after delivering them from slavery in Egypt. The Pharisee came to test Jesus. You may want to use a different voice for the Pharisee: " 'Teacher,' he asked, (tap the Bible or scroll arrogantly) 'which is the most important commandment in the Law?'" ([Matthew 22:36](#); emphasis added).

Jesus replied with words from Scripture. He said, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself'" ([Matthew 22:37–39](#); [Deuteronomy 6:5](#); [Leviticus 19:18](#)).

Jesus then explained that everything God commands us to do is a way of loving God and loving others. You can't love God without loving what God loves. And God loves people! So we can show our love for God by loving others just as we love ourselves.

Make It Inclusive: *Engage kids who are especially active and those who struggle to focus by inviting them to be volunteers on stage for this storytelling.*

ELEMENTARY

But what does it mean to love others as we love ourselves? Invite six kids to sit in the six chairs. **Each of our friends here—let’s call them our neighbors—has a problem.** Starting on one end, stand behind the kids as you introduce them. Encourage the kids to make a silent gesture or facial expression that shows each problem. Our neighbor (say the kid’s name) is hungry. **Our neighbor** (say the kid’s name) **is thirsty.** **Our neighbor** (say the kid’s name) **is a stranger in a new place.** **Our neighbor** (say the kid’s name) **is cold.** **Our neighbor** (say the kid’s name) **is sick.** **Our neighbor** (say the kid’s name) **is in prison.**

Stand again behind the first kid and move down the line as you address each problem. Ask the kids in the audience to respond to these questions: **Let’s imagine: If you were hungry, what would you want from someone?** Pause for responses. **If you were thirsty, what would you want?** Pause for responses. **If you were a stranger in a new place, how would you want someone to treat you?** Pause for responses. **If you were cold because you didn’t have the proper clothes, what would you need?** Pause for responses. **If you were sick, what would you need?** Pause for responses. **And finally—if you were in prison, or if you had done something wrong—how would you want to be treated?** Lead the kids into compassionate responses by reminding them we have all done wrong things. **This is how we love others: by loving them as we want to be loved.**

Teaching Tip: *There may be kids in your ministry who have loved ones who are incarcerated, so be especially sensitive when talking about prison. Keep in mind that kids might have hurts or be dealing with difficult situations that you’re unaware of.*

Pick up your shopping bag. **I have some items in here that could help our neighbors.** Invite six more volunteers—one at a time—to come up and reach into the bag for an item. Here is a list of the items and the need each meets: bread (hungry), water (thirsty), invitation (stranger), coat (cold), medicine (sick), visitor badge (in prison). Have the kids who are standing describe their items and then match them to the needs of the kids who are seated, giving away their items. As the items are given, briefly discuss how each item meets a need. Thank the six standing volunteers for loving their neighbors as they would love themselves. Ask them to remain as a group on the right side of your stage.

Jesus told His followers that He will return someday and sit on His throne as the everlasting King. Put the crown on your head. **When He returns, Jesus will separate all people into two groups. Jesus will welcome one group** (hold out your arms to the six kids standing in a group to the side) **into God’s forever kingdom, saying, “I was hungry. And you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty. And you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger. And you invited me in. I needed clothes. And you gave them to me. I was sick. And you took care of me. I was in prison. And you came to visit me”** ([Matthew 25:35–36](#)).

The people will ask (invite the standing group to repeat after you when you pause), **“Lord—”** Pause. **“When did we do these things for you?”** Pause. **They wondered when they had seen Jesus hungry and fed Him, or thirsty and gave Him a drink. When did they see Jesus as a stranger and invite Him in, or cold and clothe Him? And when did they see Him sick, or in prison and visit Him? They did all those things, but they did them for** (point to and list the names of the six kids in the chairs).

Stand behind the kids in the chairs. **Jesus will answer** (talk to the group of kids standing), **“Anything you did for one of the least important of these brothers and sisters of mine** (look down at the kids in the chairs and tenderly list their names), **you did for me”** ([Matthew 25:40](#); emphasis added). Thank the six standing volunteers and ask them to rejoin the audience.

Jesus said the other group to those who did not prepare for His return, (point to an invisible group on your left side) **will have no part in His My kingdom. Unlike the first group, these people those who prepared, you did not care for those who were** (as you mention each problem, gently take back the items from the kids in the chairs and put them in your bag) **hungry or sick, thirsty or a stranger, cold or in prison. Jesus will say to them** (say to the invisible group), **“Anything you didn’t do for one**

of the least important of these (point to the kids in the chairs), **you didn't do for me**" ([Matthew 25:45](#); emphasis added). Thank the six volunteers in the chairs and ask them to rejoin the audience. Remove the crown from your head and set it down.

Love for God (refer to the crown) **and love for others** (refer to the six empty chairs) **go hand in hand. The love Jesus showed on the cross by dying for our sins, and the love God showed by sending the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, made it possible for all people to be part of God's eternal kingdom.**

This is God's plan of salvation—His way of saving all humanity—which we can see throughout the Bible. Through our belief in Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are called God's children. As His children, we are invited to live as part of His family, loving God in a way that naturally overflows into love for others.

God cares about His people—His children. He cares about how we treat each other and how other people treat us. When we follow Jesus, God changes our hearts and gives us power through the Holy Spirit to love like Jesus. Place one item from your bag onto each of the six chairs while saying: **We show our love for Jesus by loving and serving our neighbors, giving of ourselves for their good. Our love comes from a good heart, not from good deeds. This is the way we live when we follow Jesus. This is the way of God's kingdom.** Shake out your bag—make sure it's good and empty. God wants us to love Him and love others.

CONNECTING THE WONDER TRUTH

Display the **Wonder Truth Slide**. Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD WANTS US TO LOVE HIM AND LOVE OTHERS. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God is love, and He gives of Himself for the good of others. God's love changes our hearts so we can love others the way He loves us. The Bible says Jesus will return someday, and when He does, our love for others will show that we love God and belong to Jesus.

ELEMENTARY

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

QUESTIONS: YOUNGER KIDS

- According to Jesus' words in our Word of Wonder, what three things are we to love God with? (*heart, soul, and mind*) How are we to love our neighbors? (*as ourselves*)
- Jesus wants us to show love to people who are considered "the least important of these brothers and sisters of mine" ([Matthew 25:40](#)). Who is Jesus talking about? (*people in need, such as people who are hungry, thirsty, a stranger, in need of clothes, sick, in prison*)
- When we do something for someone in need, who does Jesus say we are also showing love to? (*Jesus*)
- Have you ever cared for someone in need? Share about it. Why do you think loving God and loving others go together?

Loving God and loving others are a big deal. Jesus says that all the commandments in the Old Testament that help people honor God and live good lives are based on these two commandments (from [Matthew 22:40](#)). They go together—you can't have one without the other. Loving God and others are both the easiest and hardest things to do as we seek to follow Jesus. Let's talk with Jesus now and ask for His help.

Make It Inclusive: *If kids in your group struggle to answer open-ended questions, consider rewording questions into true/false format. For example, ask, "True or false? When we do something for someone in need, Jesus says we are also showing love to Him."*

PRAYER TIME: YOUNGER KIDS

Ask if anyone would like to share a prayer request (both needs and celebrations). Write down any requests; then invite the group to pray together. Ask Jesus for His help to find ways to love Him and love others this week.

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QUESTIONS: OLDER KIDS

- According to Jesus' words in our Word of Wonder, what three things are we to love God with? (*heart, soul, mind*)
- What do you think it means to "love your neighbor as you love yourself" ([Matthew 22:39](#))?
- Jesus wants us to show love to people who are considered "the least important of these brothers and sisters of mine" ([Matthew 25:40](#)). Who is Jesus talking about? (*people in need, such as people who are hungry, thirsty, a stranger, in need of clothes, sick, in prison*)
- Have you ever cared for someone in need? Share about it.
- When could it be hard for you to love someone?
- Do you think we can love God without loving others? Why or why not?

Loving God and loving others are a big deal. Jesus says that all the commandments in the Old Testament that help people honor God and live good lives are based on these two commandments (from [Matthew 22:40](#)). They go together—you can't have one without the other. Loving God and others are both the easiest and hardest things to do as we seek to follow Jesus. Let's talk with Jesus now and ask for His help.

Make It Inclusive: *If kids in your group struggle to answer open-ended questions, consider rewording questions into true/false format. For example, ask, "True or false? According to Jesus, we are to love God with our heart, soul, and mind."*

PRAYER TIME: OLDER KIDS

Ask if anyone would like to share a prayer request (both needs and celebrations) and write down those requests. Invite kids who are willing to pray aloud for another person's request. End the prayer time by asking Jesus for His help to find ways to love Him and love others this week.

RESPONDING IN WORSHIP: WAYS WE CAN LOVE

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, dry-erase marker, pencils (1 per kid), coloring utensils, clipboards (1 per kid, optional), kid-safe scissors (1 per younger kid, optional), glue sticks (optional), **T-Chart Sheet** (1 per kid, plus 1 more), **Responding in Worship Slide**, **Loving God and Others Sheet** (1 per younger kid, optional), [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, print one copy of the **T-Chart Sheet** for each kid, plus one for yourself. If available, clip each sheet to a clipboard. Be sure the whiteboard is located where all the kids can see it. In large letters, write "Ways We Can Love" at the top of the whiteboard. Below those words draw a large T-Chart. Above the left column of the chart write "God." Above the right column of the chart write "Others." Consider printing copies of the **Loving God and Others Sheet** for the younger kids in your group and kids with learning needs.

Display the **Responding in Worship Slide** and gather kids together. Give each kid a **T-Chart Sheet** and pencil.

God wants us to love Him and love others. But how? What are some ways that we can show love to God? Allow kids to give several responses and record them in the "God" column of the T-Chart on the whiteboard. If kids aren't sure, share an idea or two, like showing God love through singing worship songs, telling Him in prayer how amazing He is, obeying His commandments, repenting (telling Him we're sorry) when we've done something wrong, etc. **What are some ways that we can show love to others?** Let kids give some responses and record them in the "Others" column of the T-chart. Again, if needed, share an idea or two to get kids started, like sharing a favorite toy or device, helping a sibling with a household task, being a friend to someone who is lonely, standing up for someone who is being teased, etc.

On your sheet you'll notice the same two columns. Hold up a copy of the **T-Chart Sheet**. **This side** (point to the left column) **is space for you to write or draw ways you might want to show love to God.** **This side** (point to the right column) **is space for you to write or draw ways you might want to show love to others.** **In a moment, we'll play some music. Listen to the words and spend time thinking of ways you can show love to God and others. Are there things you haven't done yet that you want to try? There are no right or wrong answers. Just do your best to think about at least two ways you might want to show love to God and two ways you might want to show love to others this week.**

Consider showing kids the **Loving God and Others Sheet**, which has a lot of pictures of different ways we can show love to God and to others. Those who would like to can take a sheet, cut out pictures that represent ways they want to show love, and glue them onto their **T-Chart Sheets**. This option is especially helpful for younger kids who are early or pre-readers as well as kids who are neurodiverse or who have learning differences and needs.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

LESSON 1

NAC USA

Goals and Objectives

[IA 1, 3-10, 11, 13-20, 21, 23-30](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#)
[ID 2, 4, 6](#) [IE 1-3](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:

God Wants Us to Love Him and Love Others

SCRIPTURE:

[Matthew 22: 25](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:

An expert in the law asks Jesus which is the most important commandment, and Jesus says that the greatest commandment is to love God and the second is to love others.

WORD OF WONDER:

[Matthew 22:37-38](#)

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind." This is the first and most important commandment."



Lesson
PPT Slides



Lesson
PDF Slides



Lesson
Printables

ELEMENTARY

Make It Inclusive: Some kids might struggle to fill out their **T-Chart Sheets** on their own, even using the images on the **Loving God and Others Sheet**. As needed, pair kids with adult or teen leaders so they can dictate their ideas while the leaders write them down. This way every kid will have a completed sheet to take home!

Have coloring utensils available for kids who would like to draw their ideas rather than write. You may want to play "Love the Lord" from the [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids write and draw on their **T-Chart Sheets**. Be available to prompt kids with ideas or refer them to the whiteboard if they get stuck.

Teaching Tip (For Older Kids): Consider encouraging older kids to use this sheet as a chance to journal personal prayers to God, asking for His help in committing to seeking tangible ways to love Him and love others.

After several minutes or when most kids seem to have filled out their **T-Chart Sheets**, collect supplies and close out the response time with a simple prayer: **God, we've written and drawn ways we want to try to show our love to You and to others. Through Your Holy Spirit, please help us as we try these things this week. Thank You for loving us so well! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Disclaimer: We have permission from the publisher to use the Spotify music playlist solely for the purposes of the Sunday School hour, Vacation Bible School experiences, fellowship events, or for listening at home. Please note that this playlist is not to be used during the divine service or for any streamed or broadcasted occasion.

BLESSING YOUR KIDS

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Blessing Slide**. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May you feel the love of God so strongly this week. May you be reminded of God's immense love for you and others. And may you reflect that love to Him and those around you.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

ELEMENTARY

This additional game or activity is optional and can be used in the lesson where a movement break is needed. We've included teaching tips and tips to make the game and activity inclusive for all kids. Printables for the game and activity, if needed, are included in the printable link.

ROLLING THE LOVE

SUPPLIES: foam dodgeball, timer

Teaching Tip: *If you have a lot of kids, create groups of about 10 and have each group form their own circle to play. You'll need one foam dodgeball for each group.*

In this game, kids will attempt to roll a ball through someone else's legs. During the first round, kids will be out if the ball rolls through their legs. But during the second round, everyone will get to play the whole time!

Gather kids together and invite everyone to stand in a circle with their legs apart. Explain that the outside edge of each person's feet should touch the outside edges of their neighbors' feet. Demonstrate this stance for the kids.

Make It Inclusive: *If some kids in your group have limited mobility, make a circle out of chairs with the front legs of each chair touching the chair legs next to it. Then have kids play the game while seated in chairs rather than standing.*

In this game, we'll try to roll the ball through someone else's legs. Demonstrate this by trying to roll the ball through the legs of someone else in the circle. **For our first round, if the ball rolls through your legs, you are out. No one is allowed to block the ball, and you must stay in one spot as the ball rolls. The people who are out can stand outside the circle and cheer as the game continues. We will play for three minutes or until everyone but one person is out.** Hand the ball to a willing kid to start the game by rolling the ball toward someone else and start a three-minute timer. Every time a kid gets out, the circle should tighten so everyone's feet are touching their neighbors'. At the end of three minutes (or when there's only one person remaining), congratulate the winner (or winners!) and invite everyone back to the circle.

We're going to play again, but this time if the ball rolls through your feet, that's OK. You can just fetch the ball, return to your spot in the circle, and continue playing! Set the timer for three minutes and have kids play again, with everyone remaining in the circle the whole time.

What was the biggest difference between the first and second rounds of this game? Allow kids to share their thoughts. **Yes, in the first round, you were out if the ball rolled through your legs, but in the second round, you got to keep playing no matter what! Today in God's big story, we learned that love for God and love for others go hand in hand. However, sometimes we miss the mark and don't love and care for the people the way Jesus does. Yet even when we miss the mark, God's love for us is like the second round of the game—it doesn't end!**

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

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