

City LG—August 7th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: L-O-V-E (Greatest Commandment) • *Matthew 22:34-40*

Today's Bottom Line: Love God by loving others.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.* 1 John 4:10 (NIRV)

REMINDER: Kids will need to be grouped into Small Groups to begin Service

WORSHIP: "Love's Running After" and "All of Me"

"Hi, everyone! (*Hold up Bible.*) This School year, we're going through the whole Bible—starting all the way back when God created the world. But before we get to that, I have a question for you..."

SLIDE: Question (What do you love?)

Take a few minutes to answer this question together as a group. Ready? GO!"

CG: Question Video (Runtime: 3:00)

"Great job everyone! Today, we're looking at what Jesus said that helps us understand the WHOLE Bible. It'll help us see how ALL of God's story is really an epic story of love."

"To set the stage for this amazing thing that Jesus said, we need to look back near the beginning of the Bible in the book of Exodus.

Flip the pages of the Bible to Exodus.

"This was long before Jesus was born. At the time, there were many different nations that worshipped different gods. But there was one nation that was different. It was the nation of God's people, called the Israelites. And they worshipped only ONE God."

Set the Bible down.

"After God had rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, God called Moses to a mountain called Mount Sinai. Out of a deep love, God gave Moses a set of ten rules—ten *commandments*—so the people would know how to live now that they were free.

"The ten commandments were:

Take your time as you do this. Use the printed script to help you remember each paraphrased commandment from Exodus 20:3-17.

"Don't put any other gods in place of me.

"Don't make statues of other gods to worship.

"Don't misuse the name of the Lord your God.

"Rest on the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

"Honor your father and mother.

"Do not murder.

"Keep your promises to your husband or wife.

"Do not steal.

"Do not lie.

"Do not be jealous or envious of what others have.

“There were ten commandments . . . and many additional laws, too.

“Some people looked for ways to get out of following the rules. Other people were so scared of breaking the rules that they spent their whole lives trying to live exactly the right way.

“There were 613 laws in total. And then religious leaders added even more of their OWN laws to keep people from breaking the 613 laws God gave!

“Oops. *(Pause.)* Over hundreds of years, the religious leaders did their very best to get every detail of every single rule just right. And they spent their time making sure everyone ELSE did, too.”

“But everything changed when Jesus was born—many, many years later. That’s what our video is all about today. Let’s watch!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:30)

“It wasn’t always easy for Jesus’ followers then—and it’s not always easy for us now. But with God’s help, we can live a life of love. Let’s learn this week’s Bottom Line!

CG: Bottom Line Video (Runtime: 1:00)

SLIDE: Bottom Line

“We can **[Bottom Line] love God by loving others.**

(Hold up Bible.) “As we make our way through the Bible this year, let’s not forget what Jesus said is MOST important of all—showing love. The whole Bible is a love story for the ages. And we’re just getting started!

“Let’s pray.”

PRAY: “Dear God, thank You for Jesus’ amazing teaching that reminds us what’s most important: loving You and loving other people. In fact, we can show how much we love You BY loving other people! Jesus made it so simple, but we know it isn’t easy. We need Your help to share love with the people You’ve put in our lives. Thank You for loving us so well. Please help us live with love because we know how wonderful it is to be loved by You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

(Hold up Bible.) “Some people think of the Bible as a rule book: do this, don’t do that. In the Bible, we do find rules from God, like the ten commandments, that teach us the best way to live. But then again, that isn’t the whole story.

“The Bible does have God’s good rules for our lives, but it also includes stories, letters, poems, and history. The Bible isn’t just one book. It’s a collection of lots of books that were written by lots of different writers over hundreds of years. It tells one EPIC love story about God’s love for people throughout history.

“That’s why it’s important that we start by seeing what Jesus said is most important. Jesus took all of God’s rules for our lives and made them very simple: love God and love others.

“Or, you could say it this way.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] Love God BY loving others.

“Say that with me.”

KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Love God by loving others.”

“We know how good it is to be loved by God. So we can then choose to SHARE God’s love with others. We can **treat others the way we want to be treated**. We can be kind to someone in need or cheer up someone who’s sad. We can take care of someone who’s sick or even forgive someone who hurt our feelings. There are lots of ways we can love others by showing them how much they matter to us!

“Remember, God showed us what love looks like in the first place. God sent us Jesus, and that was the most epic act of love the world has ever known! That’s what we find in our memory verse for this month, First John 4:10.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. (1 John 4:10, NIV)

OFFERING:

“As you may know, all this Summer we are raising money to dig water wells in the Country of Malawi. When you bring your offering in, you are helping many people in Malawi to have clean water to drink and cook with. So, if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now!”

CG: Malawi Wells Pictures