

Children's Lesson for teachers

Life of Christ

The most important command Matthew 22: 34-40

Younger Verse

Love the Lord your God with all your heart. Matthew 22:37

Older Verse

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Matthew 22:37

Lesson Goals

Tell how you can love God this week
Share what the most important command in the Bible is

Welcome Time

Ask the kids if someone asked them what is the most important command or law in the Bible, what would they say? (wait for answers) Let's see what Jesus said...

Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson.

Bible Story

*Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

One day while Jesus was answering many questions, a group of people asked Jesus, "Which command or rule is most important of all?"

Jesus answered, "Love the Lord our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. The second is this: Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

These 2 commands come from our Bible. The first one is in Deuteronomy 6:5 and the second is Leviticus 19:18. Let's turn quickly and look them up ourselves. It is fun to find verses in the Bible!

What about you? Do you love God with EVERYTHING you have—your heart, soul, and strength? Do you care more about what God thinks or what others say about you? Do you try to think "What would Jesus do?" or do you try to show off and get attention from others?

What is Jesus trying to tell us here? (wait for answers) What can we learn from this lesson? How can we do it this week?

What about you? Do you know how you can go to Heaven? It's by believing in Jesus and trusting Him with everything you are. Would you like to do this?

Do you love your neighbor? Jesus did not mean that we are to be nice only to the person that lives next door to us. Jesus meant that we must love others even when they may not be very nice to us. That's hard to do! Jesus shows us that it can be done.

There were mean people who hurt Jesus and caused Jesus to be nailed to a cross. Jesus had done nothing wrong, but He was punished. How did Jesus treat these hurtful people? Jesus asked God to forgive them! That's right. Jesus was a neighbor to the people who were mean to Him. Jesus cared for them and wanted them to change their ways. He wanted them to follow God and love God most of all. Do you love God? Do you love oth-

ers? Jesus can help you follow these two important commands.

Learning Activities

Use activities that will help the lesson “sink in.” Talk about what it means to love God and love others.

Memory Verse Activities

Try singing songs that go with the verse today.

Prayer Time

Ask each child to pray for their “neighbor.” Explain that a neighbor does not have to be the person that lives next door. Thank God that He loves us.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Remember to pass out snacks! The kids will enjoy goodies after the lesson.

Planning for November 9th
The Day and Time not known
Matthew 24:36-46

Preschool Lesson
On
The greatest things to do

Teachers: Make a heart-shaped sack puppet to tell the story today.

Hi Kids! I want to share with you something that happened to Jesus one day.

Jesus was talking to people when one man asked Him a very, very important question. He asked Jesus what the most important rule in the Bible was.

Jesus told the man that the most important rule was to love God with their heart.

Then, Jesus told the man that there was another important rule to obey. Jesus told him that he must love other people just like he loves himself!

Jesus wants us to know that we should love God, love others, and love ourselves. How can we show that we love God? (Let them think of answers)

How can we show that we care for others?

This week, let's try to show others that we love God and that we love them!

Take time to sing this fun song to the tune of "We wish you a Merry Christmas."

Let's all Lo—ve our God (3 times)
Just like Jesus said.

Let's all Lo—ve each other (3 times)
Just like Jesus said.

Let's all pray for each other (3 times)
Just like Jesus said.

Hands-On Activities
For
How to Find things in the Bible
The greatest commandments

Here is a fun way to help the kids see how important it is not to forget the most important things. Stop by a fast food store and get napkins, condiments, etc but do not buy a hamburger (or other item). Now as you are sharing, tell the kids that you bought a hamburger to eat and show them the bag. Now, pull out the napkin, condiments, etc. and realize that you do not have the hamburger. Share how you forget the most important thing! Explain that God wants us to remember the most important thing—to Love God and love our neighbors. He does not want us to forget it! (courtesy of Sermons4Kids)

Practice finding Deut. 6:5 and Lev. 19:18 in the Bible. You may want to have a Bible open to the Table of Contents so that they can begin to learn where the books are located. This can be lots of fun!

Ask older kids why they think Jesus picked these two commands as the most important. Ask them if they would want someone to love them with only 1/2 a heart? Share that God wants us to love Him with every part of who we are. We should not love Him only sometimes or when we're at church.

Do an object lesson to help the kids see how we must love God with all of ourselves. Bring an electronic device to class. Share that you will let someone use it—except you will take out the batteries (or another part of the device). Obviously the device will not work. Share how you must have the whole thing for it to work. Explain that in the same way, God wants all of us, not just part of us.

It's not Valentine's Day, but you can still have fun making Valentines cards and giving them to friends. Write "Love God and others." on the cards.