



God's Best Rule

Preparation:

- Service Sheet outline or slide presentation with songs, prayers etc.
- For 'God's Best Rule' spinner: template, scissors, crayons, glue sticks, sticky tape and a lolly stick, straw or pencil
- For 'Hand and Heart' picture: paper, card, pens, scissors, crayons, glue sticks, string, sticky tape
- For 'I love you' biscuits activity: plain biscuits, icing, heart-shaped sweets and sprinkles, paper plates
- A variety of musical instruments for children

Introduction:

- Whatever our age, all of us live by rules, and even the youngest of children will already understand some of the rules and boundaries set by their family.
- In Exodus 20 we read the story of God giving Moses his rules for the best ways to live - the Ten Commandments. Here in Matthew 22 we find Jesus being questioned by the Pharisees about which is the greatest commandment - or the best rule - and his simple answer is to *love God and love others*.
- There is something special about knowing we are loved and the security that comes with that, and so it is very important that we seek to help families understand just how much we are all loved by God.
- Such love - as in all relationships - requires a response, and the best rule given by Jesus helps us to see that God wants us to love him with everything that we are - heart, energy, thoughts. God wants us to love others this way too - being kind and caring towards all people even if they are different from us.
- Most of us find it much easier to love God than to always love others; but, with his help, we need to try to always be kind and caring towards everyone.

Welcome:

Song in the tune: 'She'll be coming round the mountain'

*Oh, it's very good to see you here today,
Oh, it's very good to see you here today,
Oh, it's very good to see you, very good to see you,
Very good to see you here today.*

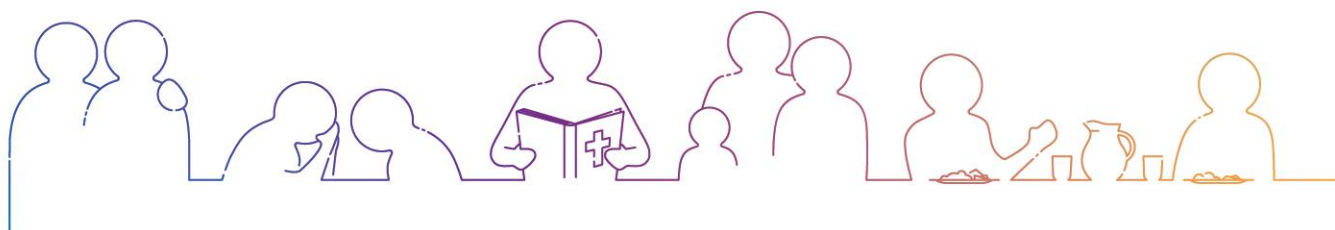
Bible Reading:

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus answered him, "Love the Lord your God with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, and with every thought that is within you.' This is the great and supreme commandment. And the second is like it in importance: 'You must love your friend in the same way you love yourself.'" (Matthew 22:36-39 TPT)



Love God
Love Others

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- Isn't it great to know we are loved? We know it because people who love us are kind, caring and sharing, they listen to us and help us. God loves us even more than our family and friends do, and he wants us to love him with all that we are - *'with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, and with every thought that is within you'*.
- God also wants us to love others this way too - even those who are different from us.
- This is God's best rule for us to live by - 'Love God - Love Others'.

Teach some simple actions to help the families remember the greatest commandment.

- 'This is God's best rule for us to live by' (*Thumbs up*)
- 'Love the Lord your God' (*Cross arms over chest*)
- 'With every passion of your heart,' (*Make a heart shape using forefingers and thumbs or put hands over heart*)
- 'With all the energy of your being,' (*Run on the spot or make strong arms action*)
- 'And with every thought that is within you.' (*Point forefingers to forehead*)
- 'And you must love your friend in the same way you love yourself.' (*Cross arms on chest then open out to front to include everyone*)

Prayer:

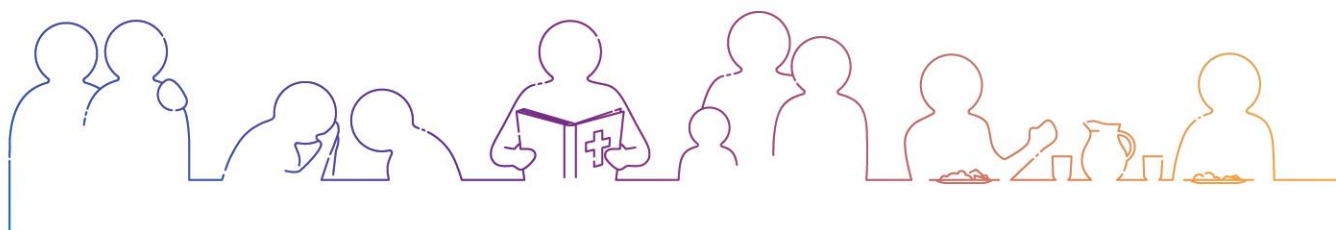
Dear Father God,
Thank you that you love me. (*Cross arms on chest*)
Help me to love you ... (*Hands together*)
With all my heart, (*Make a heart shape using forefingers and thumbs or put hands over heart*)
With all my energy, (*Run on the spot or make strong arms action*)
With all my thoughts, (*Point forefingers to forehead*)
And help me to love others. (*Cross arms on chest then open out to front to include everyone*)
This is your best rule for me to live by! (*Thumbs up*)
Amen.

Activity:

1. Craft: God's Best Rule spinner

You will need: template, scissors, crayons, glue sticks, sticky tape and a lolly stick, straw or pencil

- Help the children cut out the circles.
- Have them colour in the heart, the best rule and decorate if they want to.
- Tape the lolly stick to the back of one of the circles and then glue the backs of both circles together.
- Spin it around by rubbing your hands together - the 'best rule' should look like it's in the heart!





2. Craft: Hands and Heart Picture

You will need: paper, card, pens, scissors, crayons, glue sticks, string, sticky tape

- Fold the paper in half and draw around the child's hand ensuring that the end of the thumb and forefinger are right up against the fold. Carefully cut this out making sure the thumb and forefinger remain joined by the fold. (You may need to practise this beforehand.) Open this out with the fingers pointing downwards - there should be a heart shape created between the thumb and forefingers.
- Decorate the hands by colouring or adding stickers.
- Write on the left hand 'Love God' and on the right hand 'Love Others' - *this could be written on heart-shaped foam for the children to stick on*. Then write 'God's Best Rule!' across the thumbs.
- Add glue to the back of the hands and stick to a piece of card. Tape a piece of string or ribbon to the back so the picture can be hung up at home.
- Write the child's name on the front. *You could write the Bible reference on too (Matthew 22:37-39).*

3. Activity: 'I love you' biscuits

You will need: Plain biscuits, icing, heart-shaped sweets and sprinkles, paper plates, food bags
Beware of food allergies and hand hygiene when handling food items

- Give each child two biscuits to decorate with icing, heart-shaped sweets and sprinkles.
- Tell them that one biscuit is for them to eat (this could be done at snack time) and one is to give to someone they love.
- Have food bags available for children to take biscuits home as appropriate.

4. Game: God Says ...

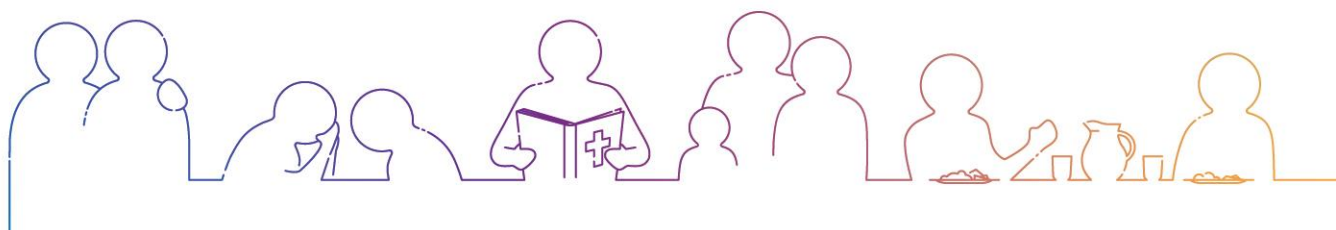
Demonstrate the actions beforehand and play a simple action game like Simon Says ...

- Love God - point up
- Heart - hands on heart
- Energy - run around
- Thoughts - point to head
- Love others - hug someone or shake hands (*fist or elbow bumps if required*)



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Theme Song:

Backing track and recorded versions available

*I can love God with all of me,
With all of my heart and energy,
With every thought that fills my mind,
I can know God is good and kind.*

*I can love friends as God loves me,
With all of my heart and energy,
With every thought that fills my mind,
I can love friends, be good and kind.*

*Thank you, God, for loving me,
For making me part of your family.
Help me love you and others too -
Your way is the best that I can do!*

Lyrics: Rachel Gotobed / Music: Dan Elson

Additional Songs:

- [‘I love that God loves Me’ \(Dance Fit Tots\)](#)
- [‘The Lion’s Roar’ \(Vineyard Kids\)](#)
- [‘Big Family of God’ \(Nick and Becky Drake\)](#)

Closing Prayer:

God is with us everywhere
And he hears our every prayer.
He will love me every day
And will help me live his way.
Thank you, God.
Amen.

*Large circle arms
Bring hands together
Cross arms over chest
Uncross arms, out to front together
Hands together*

