

Explore It

FOR LEADERS

JANUARY
—
SESSION 01

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS

Matthew 22:34-40 The most important command

Each child will need:

→ Scissors, pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

→ Scissors, pens/pencils and paper

Start It

● **Say:** Today we will be exploring how we can love God and love others. Watch the clip and think about which of Kid President's sayings you'd like to hear the most.

Video

Screen share: *Kid President's 20 things we should say more often* by SoulPancake (3 mins 31 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5yCOSHeYn4>

Discuss the children's ideas together.

(For those who are interested, a corn dog is a sausage, usually a hot dog, on a stick that has been coated in a thick layer of cornmeal batter and deep fried. Feel free to have a discussion about whether anyone has tried a corndog, or would like to receive one as a gift as Kid President suggests.)

Sing It

Today's song is based around the words of Jesus in Matthew 22:34-40.

'Love one another' by Yancy and Little Praise Party (2 mins 43 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47Kf90d7Tf8>

Tell It

● **Say:** In the Old Testament of the Bible there is a set of very important rules that God gave to the Jewish people.

Ask:

→ What are these important rules called?

→ Can you remember any of them?

Video

Screen share: *The Ten Commandments* by BBC Bitesize Key Stage 2 (1 min 38 secs)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z687tfr>

Screen share: Show the children a list of the Ten Commandments (taken from the BBC clip).

1. Worship God and no other.
2. Don't worship false idols.
3. Don't use God's name to do wrong.
4. Keep the Sabbath holy.
5. Respect your mother and father.
6. Do not murder anyone.
7. Don't steal someone's wife or husband.
8. Do not steal.
9. Don't tell lies about anyone.
10. Don't want anything that belongs to others.

Discuss

Clear up any misunderstandings of what the Ten Commandments mean. Are there any that they think are tricky to follow?

🗨️ **Say:** We now need to fast forward a few hundred years (about fifteen hundred years) to the New Testament where we find Jesus teaching the people. The religious leaders would often try to catch Jesus out and test his understanding of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible), but Jesus always knew exactly what to say.

Screen share: Matthew 22:34-40 (ICB)

'The Pharisees learned that the Sadducees could not argue with Jesus' answers to them. So the Pharisees met together. One Pharisee was an expert in the law of Moses. That Pharisee asked Jesus a question to test him. The Pharisee asked, "Teacher, which command in the law is the most important?"

Jesus answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.' This is the first and most important command. And the second command is like the first: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands.'"

🗨️ **Say:** Jesus told the people that they should love God and love others. He took the Ten Commandments and summed them up so they were easier to understand. Jesus told the people to love God and love others.

Screen share: Show the Ten Commandments to the children.

Ask: Which ones talk about loving God and which ones talk about loving others?

Decide on a stamp or a colour for each concept, and ask the children to show their opinion by stamping it on the Ten Commandments, then discuss as a group.

🗨️ **Say:** The Salvation Army is listening to the words of Jesus carefully. We are a church that wants to do everything we can to love God and love others even more than we do now.

Action It

🗨️ **Say:** Jesus wanted all his followers to love God and love others. In the book of Acts we discover how the early Church made that happen.

Video

What is the Church? by Life Kids (2 mins 19 sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rms6KePjIZ8>

🗨️ **Say:** The clip reminded us that Church is not a building – it's the people. We're going to think of all the ways the Church can love God and love others. Here's how the early Church tried to do it.

Screen share: Acts 2:42-47

'They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching. And they continued to share, to break bread, and to pray together.

The apostles were doing many miracles and signs. And everyone felt great respect for God. All the believers stayed together. They shared everything. They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those people who needed it. The believers met together in the Temple every day. They all had the same purpose. They broke bread in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God, and all the people liked them. More and more people were being saved every day; the Lord was adding those people to the group of believers.'

Love God, love others

Show the children how to fold a piece of paper in two and draw half a heart (try and make it really big). Unfold the paper, cut out the heart and then ask the children to write 'Love God' at the top of one half of the heart and 'Love Others' at the top of the other.

Using the clip and Scripture for ideas, spend time discussing ways the Church can love God and love others. Encourage the children to write or draw their ideas on their sheet.

Pray It

● **Say:** As a church and charity, The Salvation Army wants to love God and love others even more than we do now. You are an important part of making that happen.

Have a look at the list you created showing ways to love God and love others. Ask God to help you to focus on one to try over the coming week and ask for strength to make it happen.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.