

Love God, Love others



Bible verses:
Matthew 22:34-40



Aim:
To explore Jesus' command to
love God and love each other



Today's fruit:
Love



Memory verse

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'

(Ephesians 4:32 *NIV*)

Resource: *Four symbols poster*

- What is your favourite rule to follow?
- What is your least favourite rule?
- Why do we have rules?
- What might this symbol (show one at a time) represent from our Bible story?
- How can we love God with our ... heart/mind/soul/strength?



Start it

The whole Bible reflects the story of God's love for his people. Jesus reminds us that the most important thing we can do is to love God and love others.



Sing It

'Together' (songs for school) by Worship for Everyone (2:43)

'Wonderful Lord' (official video) by Doug Horley (3:13)



Share it

Share a child-friendly version of Matthew 22:34-40 (eg Biblegateway.com *ERV/EASY*) or watch the following clip.

Love God and neighbour (St Bart's kids talk: week three of priorities of Jesus) by St Bart's Toowoomba (2:01)

Sit in a circle and, using the Four symbols poster, ask the group to share together:

- What rules do you follow? (eg at home, at school, with friends ...)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Teach the children the simple sentence: 'We love God, because ...'. Repeat it a few times all together. Ask the children to think of how they can finish that sentence and an action to go with it. You could give some examples, eg 'We love God because ... God made the world!' Once the children have thought how they want to finish the sentence, ask everyone to say the first part together, and then encourage

- the group to take it in turns to finish the sentence one at a time using the actions.
- Gather in the middle of the room (if you're limited by space do thumbs up/down). Ask a series of questions and ask the children to respond by running to the true side or false side of the room. Begin the questions with 'Jesus said ...' and then add various endings, eg Jesus said ... Love God / Be unkind / Care for the world / Care for others / Eat lots of sweets ...
 - Outline the words 'Love God' on a large piece of paper. Ask the children to fill the letters any ways they wish, eg finger painting, collage, colouring in, drawing heart, drawings of themselves ...
 - Play a game of *Simon says*, using the phrase, 'Love God with all of your ...' If you don't say 'Love God' then they can't do the action. Complete the phrase with: heart, mind, soul or strength. Perhaps agree as a group what these actions might be. You could also add in fun ideas like, your feet, nose, jumps, wiggles ...