

Love God, Love others

**Bible verses:**

Matthew 22:34-40

The most important command

**Aim:**

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

**Today's fruit:**

Love



In our session today we explore how Jesus answered a question that was meant to be tricky.

The Pharisees desperately wanted to catch Jesus out, so they asked him to name the greatest commandment. We will discover how Jesus answered this question and think about how we can love God with all of our heart, soul and mind.

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.

Each child will need:

- *Memory verse* wristband
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Love*
- *Matthew 22* - optional



Start it

Start with a movie quiz, mostly Disney and Pixar. The answers provided below are for the first 20 questions; after this the questions get trickier especially as movies have different titles internationally, so we would recommend not going beyond this.

Video

Guess the Disney movie by the emoji by Quiz Blitz (10:44) Stop by 4:24.

Questions 1–10 (2:21)

Questions 1–20 (4:24)

1. *Ratatouille*
2. *Up*
3. *Encanto*
4. *Frozen*
5. *Pirates of the Caribbean*
6. *The Little Mermaid*
7. *Spiderman: Across the Spideverse*
8. *Hercules*
9. *Kung Fu Panda* (DreamWorks Animation)
10. *Finding Nemo*
11. *The Princess and the Frog*
12. *Brave*
13. *Finding Dory*
14. *Luca*
15. *Sleeping Beauty*
16. *Beauty and the Beast*
17. *Zootopia* (*Zootropolis* in the UK and Ireland)
18. *Coco*
19. *Toy Story*
20. *Aladdin*



Ask the children to discuss all the different examples of love shown in films, including in the quiz. You may also like to discuss the different kinds of loving relationships shown in these films.



Sing it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month gives us examples of how we can love others.

Give each child a memory verse wristband and share the memory verse together.

Memory verse

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

(Ephesians 4:32 *NIV*)

Say:

We’re going to sing a song based on Ephesians 4:32 to help us learn our memory verse.

Song

‘Be kind and compassionate’ by Slugs and Bugs (3:05)

Share it

Ask:

In our session last week we talked about a phrase that we use in The Salvation Army. Can you remember what it is? If so, share it with the group.

Say:

We use the phrase ‘Love God, love others’ to remind us of the two greatest commandments ever given by Jesus. Watch the clip to find out exactly what Jesus said about these commandments.

Video

Daily Gospel reading video St Matthew 22:34-40 (English) by WOG (0:40)

Ask:

Which two groups of people had tried to question Jesus?

Say:

At the very beginning of the clip it mentions the Sadducees and the Pharisees. The Sadducees were a Jewish group who focused on the written laws found in the Torah, the Jewish holy book and the first five books of the Bible. They had tried to question Jesus to catch him out but had failed.

Say:

In our story today, the Pharisees wanted to take their turn to question Jesus. The Pharisees were another Jewish group of scholars and community leaders, who also cared deeply about following the rules of the Torah perfectly. Unlike the Sadducees, they had additional rules that had been passed down through the generations through one person telling another. Both groups really didn’t like what Jesus had to say about Jewish Law.



Ask:

Why do you think the Sadducees and Pharisees were so unhappy with Jesus?

Say:

Now that we understand more about the two groups questioning Jesus, let's read the start of our story again.

Read:

'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?"'

(Matthew 22:34-36 ICB)

Ask:

Why do you think the Pharisees asked Jesus to name the most important commandment? What were they trying to do?

Say:

The Pharisees constantly tried and failed to catch Jesus out. When asked for the most important command in the law, this is how Jesus answered.

Read:

"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.'

(Matthew 22:37-40 ICB)

Give the children a piece of paper and pens/pencils. Ask them to create two pictures / mind maps to help them remember the two greatest commandments. You may want to display the *Matthew 22* poster, which shows verses 37-39, for them to use as a reminder.

Once the children have completed their pictures, they can share them with the rest of the group.

Read:

"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.'

(Matthew 22:37-40 ICB)

Say:

When Jesus says that we must love God, it refers to something much deeper than a simple feeling. It demonstrates a love that impacts every part of our lives, from the decisions we make to how we act.

Say:

The Sadducees focused on following every Jewish law that was written down. On top of that, the Pharisees followed extra laws that were passed down through each generation. Yet Jesus said that all these laws depended on two important commands that can be summed up in the phrase 'Love God, love others'.

Action it

Explain to the children they are going to be doing a reflective discussion. Using a clip from The Salvation Army in Australia, the children can watch and discuss key questions raised by Jesus' command to love God and love others. Use the timings below to watch each section of the clip, see how the children respond to the question, and discuss it with your group.

Video

Kids and the greatest commandment by Salvos Studios (3:47)

Watch 0:00-1:22 (... all you need to know to follow God and live a good life.)

Ask:

Why is this the most important verse?

Watch 1:22-1:49 (... but also part of my personality.)

Ask:

What is your soul?

Watch 1:49-2:31 (That's why we should love God every time.)

Ask:

What does it mean to love God with all of your heart?

Watch 2:31-2:58 (Homework is the first thing to be done, sadly.)

Ask:

What are some of the rules you follow?

Watch: 2:58-end.

Ask:

If you could make one rule for the world, what would it be?

Say:

Jesus said that the two greatest rules to live by were to love God and love others.

Ask:

- Are there people you know who love God with all their heart, soul and mind?
- How can you tell and what could you learn from them?



Say:

In The Salvation Army, on 4 May we celebrate Candidates Sunday. This Salvation Army event encourages people to think about how they can show their love for God by answering his call on their lives. Some people may decide to show they love God with all their heart, soul and mind, by becoming Salvation Army officers.

**Pray it****Ask:**

- When you think about loving God with all of your heart, all of your soul and all of your mind, what does it make you think about?
- What could you say to God about it?

Say:

We're going to take some time to pray to God and tell him how much we love him. As you pray, ask God to show you how you can love him with all of your heart, all of your soul and all of your mind.

You can organise this prayer time in whichever way suits your group the best. They may feel confident enough to pray out loud or may want to write their prayers down. Alternatively, you could have a time of quiet reflection or share the following song, 'I love you, Lord' with the group.

Listen

'I love you, Lord' (Yancy and Little Praise Party official kids worship music video) by YancynotNancy (3:20)

Display the *Love* sign.

Say:

Jesus said that the two greatest commandments were to love God and love others. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we can ask God to grow the fruit of love in our hearts every day. As you spend time with friends and family this week, ask God to help you show his love in everything you say and do.

**Explore it**

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.

Love God, Love others

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Matthew 22:34-40



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



Today's fruit:
Love



Think

This month's memory verse invites us to be kind and compassionate to each other. List at least ten ways you could show others kindness and compassion this week. Choose a few actions on your list to try out with friends and family.



Watch

Watch the clip all about love with someone at home and discuss it together.

Watch: The Definition of Love (Fruit of the Spirit Devotional for Kids) - Bible Stories for Kids (2:52)



Song for the week

'Be kind and compassionate' by Slugs and Bugs



Memory verse

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

(Ephesians 4:32 NIV)



Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

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Children
& Youth