



Bible Story: The Greatest (Greatest Commandment) • **Matthew 22:36-40**

Bottom Line: Love God. Love others.

Memory Verse: *Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.* Luke 16:10a (NIV)

Life App: Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

Bible Story [Talk About God | Bible Story]

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Read **Matthew 22:36-40**

Review Questions:

1. Who is someone in your world who may need to be shown love? (*Allow kids to respond.*)
2. How many rules did Jesus pick as the most important? (*two*)
3. Why did Jesus pick only two rules out of the 613? (*because He said that all of the other rules are based off of those two*)
4. How can you love God and love others this week? (*Allow kids to respond.*)

Greatest Commandment [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: Bible marked at Matthew 22

What You Do:

- Read Matthew 22: 37-39.
- Ask a few guiding questions to encourage kids' involvement such as: What did Jesus say is the most important commandment? (*to love God; to love God with all your heart; etc.*) What did He say is like it? (*love your neighbor as you love yourself*)
- Unpack that loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind means to love God with EVERYTHING we have.
- Emphasize that Jesus said loving others is just as important as loving God, and that when we love others, we also show God that we love HIM!
- Call out scenarios (see below) that are examples of showing love to God or NOT showing love.
- Also add scenarios that are relevant for your kids.
- If the scenario shows love, instruct kids to stand and make a "heart" with their arms by touching their fingertips together over their heads.
- If the scenario DOESN'T show love, instruct kids to sit down.
 - You share your cookie with your friend.
 - You make your bed even before your foster mom tells you.
 - You sing songs to God.

- When your dad says that it's time to come inside, you complain and whine.
 - You take time to play with your younger sibling.
 - You make the wise choice.
 - You keep playing your video game after your mom says it's time to stop.
 - You let someone else go first.
 - You yell at someone and call them names.
 - You say, "I'm sorry."
 - You read your Bible.
 - You say, "I love you!"
- Keep interest high by maintaining an engaging presence and varying your pace.

What You Say:

"If we want to follow Jesus, we have a responsibility to love God and love others. And you know what? When we love others, we also show God that we love HIM! We can say it this way: **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.**

"So how can YOU love God and love others this week? *(If kids are stuck for ideas, ask prompting questions such as: How could you love your friends? Could you share with them? Could you let them choose first? How could you love your foster mom and dad? Could you do your chores the first time they ask? Could you give them a hug? How could you love your brother or sister? Could you let them play with you?)* Great ideas! So, remember: **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.**"

Discussion Questions *[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]*
[For Older Kids]

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- What's one benefit of being responsible?
- What's one consequence of not doing what is expected of you?
- Why should a Jesus follower be known as a person who is responsible?
- Would you say that loving God and loving others is an expectation God has of those who say they follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- What's one way you could show more love for God this next week? How about for others?

"Today we learned about the greatest what? *(Commandment)* Which things did Jesus say are the most important commandments? *(basically, love God and love others)* How is loving God and loving others showing responsibility? *(To follow Jesus, we have a responsibility to follow His commandments. God wants us to take care of each other and treat everybody with kindness, love, and respect.)*

"God says that it's also super important that we show responsibility because we're showing the people in our lives how we love them. As a matter of fact, God says that the greatest thing we can do is love God and love others. That means that we should do all the things we're responsible for because that's one way we show that we love the people God has put in our life.

Close in prayer:

"Dear God, we are so thankful for the great responsibility You give us to love. You put Your people and things around us every day and trust us to take care of them. That's such a big deal! Please help us see the many opportunities we have to **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.** Help us stand up and say yes to the chance to care for others and create a ripple effect of love in the world around us!"