

# Lesson: The Two Greatest Commandments

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April 14, 2020

*Jesus tells us to love God and others if we want to follow God's commandments. Includes a teaching guide, class activity, craft, and optional service project.*

**Needed:** white board or large paper to write on, drawing paper and crayons or colored pencils

## Intro Activity: Top Ten

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As a class, have students think of their Top Ten favorite things in a particular category. As students call out answers, write them down on the board. Not everyone will agree on every answer, which is part of the fun.

Categories could include Top Ten Movies, Video Games, Animals, Foods, Places, etc.

Make two or three Top Ten lists. Then, transition into the lesson by saying that God also gave us His Top Ten by giving us the Ten Commandments.

## Lesson

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Ask students, Does anyone remember why God gives us rules? (God gives us rules because He loves us. The rules He gives us are meant to protect us and others.)

Does anyone remember what some of God's top ten 10 big rules are?

- 1 and 2.** We can only have one God, the real God. We can't have any idols or things that are more important to us than God.
- 3.** We have to use His name respectfully. We can't use God's name unless we're talking to Him or about Him.
- 4.** We have to keep the Sabbath. We need to have one day a week that is special to us for worshiping and learning about God. It's also important for us to rest on that day.
- 5.** We have to honor and respect our parents and grandparents.
- 6.** We can't kill or hurt any other person.
- 7.** When we get married, our husband or our wife has to be the most important person to us, and we can't have any other boyfriends or girlfriends.

**8.** We can't steal. We have to work for or ask for what we want.

**9.** We can't tell lies about other people.

**10.** We have to be happy and content with the things that we have instead of always wanting what other people have.

That's a lot of rules for us to follow, isn't it?

What if we could just follow two rules instead? Would that make it easier?

Let's look up those two rules.

(Have a student read Deuteronomy 6:5 , quoted here in the NIV.)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

What is this rule telling us to do? (To love God with all our heart and our soul and our strength. In other words, to love God with everything that we have.)

If we love God with all of our heart and all of our soul and all of our strength, will we have any other gods that we worship? (No.)

Will we use God's name in the wrong way if we really love Him? (No, we will only use God's name respectfully.)

If we love God with everything that we have, will we want to take time to worship and learn about Him on the Sabbath? (Yes.)

So this rule, “Love God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength” is a good summary of the first four rules. If we love God, we will automatically keep the first four rules.

Let's look at the second rule.

(Have another student read Leviticus 19:18 , NIV.)

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.”

What is this rule telling us to do? (Love other people as we love ourselves.)

So, first is to love God. Second is to love other people. If we love our parents, for example, will we honor and respect them or will we be disrespectful to them? (We will honor and respect them.)

And if we love other people, will we kill or hurt them? (No.)

If we love our husband or our wife when we get married, will we hurt their feelings by having other boyfriends and girlfriends? (No. We will only love our husband or wife in that way.)

If we love other people, will we steal from them or get jealous of them if they have something we don't? (No. We will love them and be happy for them that they have nice things.)

If we love other people, will we tell lies about them? (No. That would hurt their feelings.)

So, this second rule, "Love your neighbor as yourself," is a good way to remember the other six big rules God has for us. Because if we love other people the way God wants us to, we won't do anything bad to them.

So remember, "Love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you can do that – loving God and loving other people – you will be following God's other rules automatically.

## **Craft: Loving God**

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Give students drawing supplies and instruct them to draw three pictures on one sheet of paper. The first picture will be of them loving God with all their heart. The second, with all their soul. The third, with all their strength. Have students write the Bible verse somewhere on their picture.

## **Service Project: Loving Others**

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Lead students in a short service project. It could be serving a snack to an adult class, cleaning or organizing something around the church, preparing the sanctuary for worship, doing a task for the church office, picking up trash or raking leaves outside, etc. Explain that when you help other people, you're showing them love.

## **Closing Prayer**

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Father God, thank You for the good rules You gave us. Help us to love You and to love other people like You want us to so that we're always following Your rules. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

*This lesson is included in my book, [The Lord's Top Ten: Children's Sunday School Lessons on the Ten Commandments](#).*



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# “The Greatest Commandment” Bible Craft Ideas on Matthew 22:34-46

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Just Love! Craft Ideas for “The Greatest Commandment”

This week’s Gospel lesson focuses on the importance of making the main thing the main thing. When asked about the “most important” commandment, Jesus emphasized the simplest of explanations: love God, and love others. As we communicate this to students, here are a few crafts to remember how essential it is to love one another. A couple of wear-able features keep in mind loving God with all we have, and a game incorporation adds to the craft-worthy fun!

## Additional Suggestions:

- Create a hanging collage or mobile of sorts with hearts and strings.
- Make a wind sock/streamer with a large heart in the center.
- Using a long sheet of paper, make a heart-shaped envelope for prayer requests.

## Verses or Captions to Consider...

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. -Matthew 22:37-39*

*Aim for the Heart... Love Wins!*

*Love God with all your mind!*

*The Greatest Commandment... LOVE*

*Everything hangs on Love!*



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# Craft one: “Hide it in your Heart Necklace”

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## You will need:

- Scissors
- Construction paper
- String/ribbon
- Markers or decorating materials
- Hole punch



## Procedure:

1. Cut out several hearts from paper, in varying sizes and colors.
2. Write out the Bible verse, placing a few words on each heart.
3. Punch a hole in each heart.
4. String the hearts through a ribbon or pipe cleaner to create a necklace or decoration. Wear or hang it to remember the verse and message it conveys!



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# Craft Two: “Love with all Your Mind” Headband

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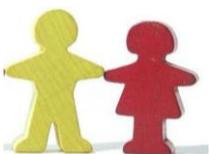
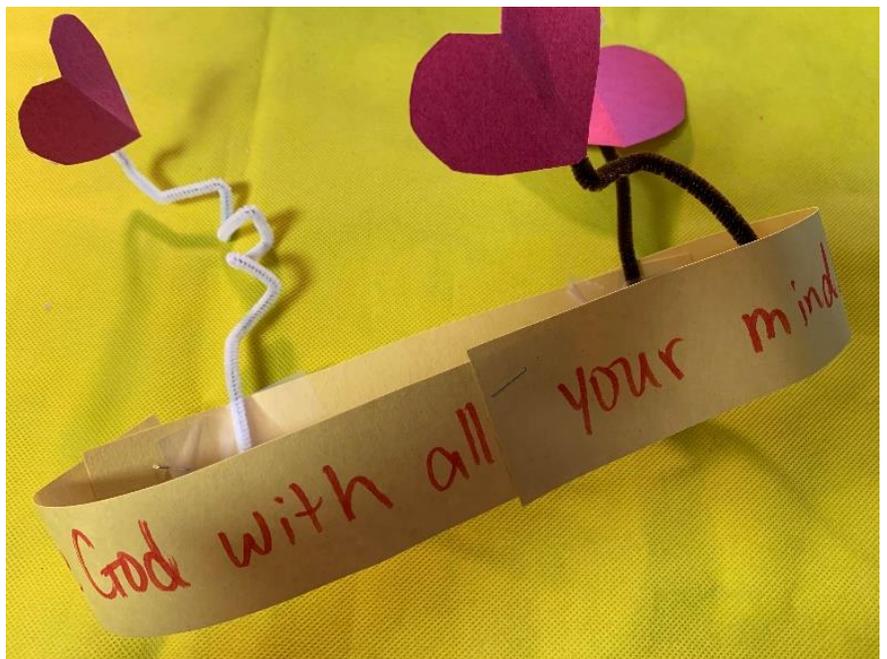
## You will need:

- Scissors
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Glue and/or tape
- Decorative materials (markers, crayons, stickers)
- String, pipe cleaner, etc. (optional)
- Hole Punch
- Stapler



## Procedure:

1. Cut strips of paper out, and attach them together to be long enough for a headband.
2. Write a verse or caption on the headband. Staple together to secure.
3. Cut out several hearts to decorate the headband.
4. Attach the hearts to the headband using twisted pipe cleaners or ribbons.
5. Add extra decorations (stickers, glitter, etc.) if desired. Wear and remember to love God “with all your mind”!



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# Craft Three: “Aim for Love” Target Game

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## You will need:

- Paper plates (large or small)
- Scissors
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Glue and/or tape
- Decorative materials (markers, crayons, stickers)
- String, pipe cleaner, etc. (optional)
- “Ammunition” (pom-pom, balloon, etc.)



## Procedure:

1. Design your “dart board” on a small or large paper plate.
2. Attach a paper heart (or a few of them in different sizes) to the plate.
3. Add extra decorations, verses, and captions, if desired.
4. Use a ribbon or pipe cleaner to hang up the “board”.
5. Gather small soft items to throw at the board. Options include pom-poms, cotton balls, pieces of paper, balloons, etc. Use a rubber band or popsicle stick to launch items at the target in attempt to hit the smallest heart.





These craft ideas were prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#), who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO. She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May 2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader.

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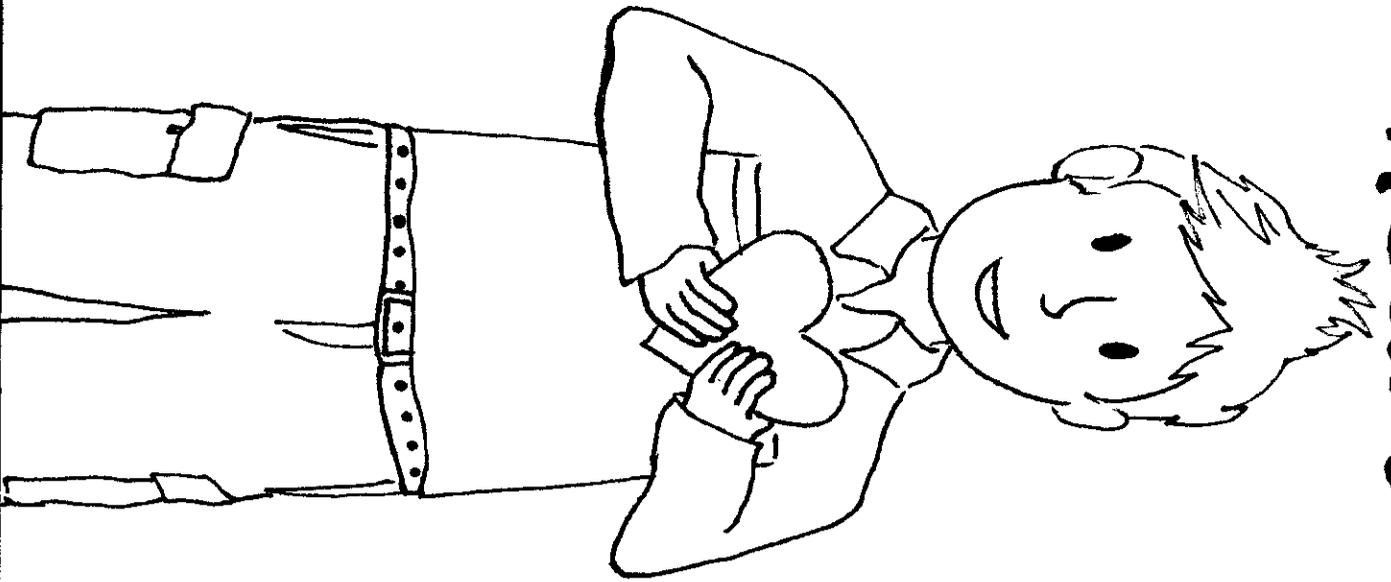
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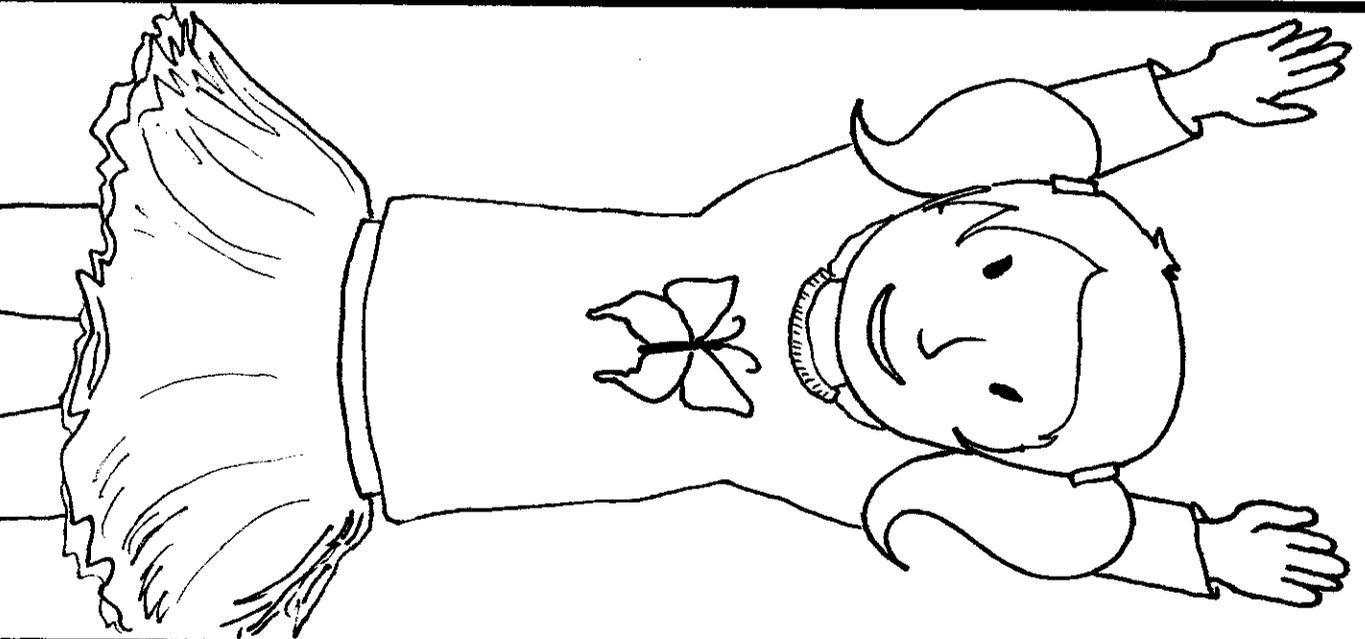
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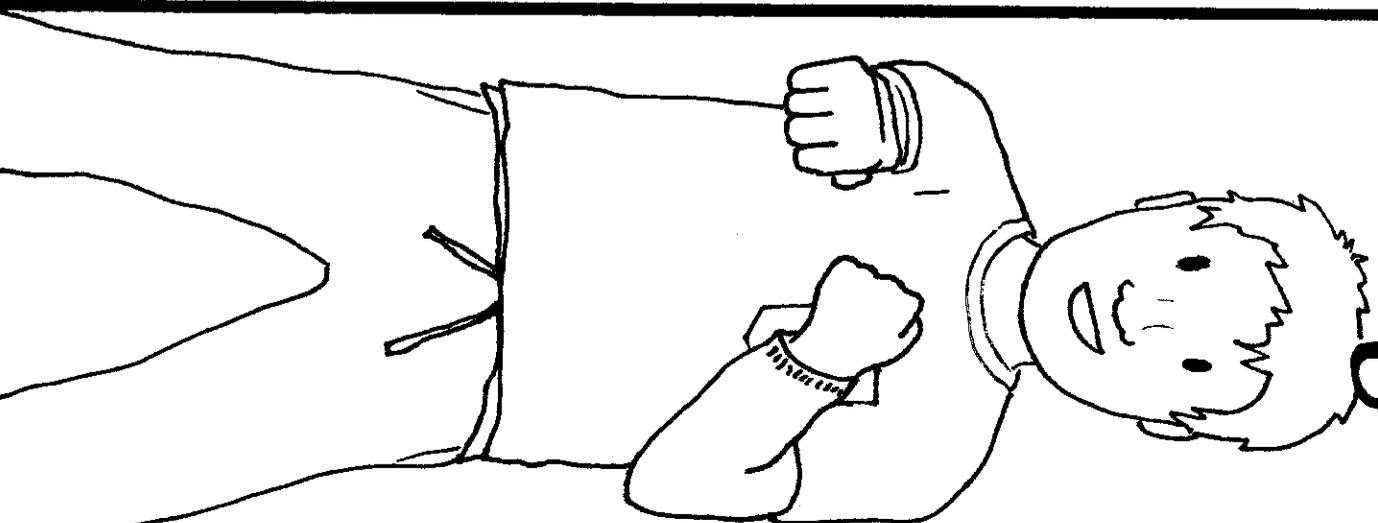
♥ heart ♥



✿ Soul ✿



☀ might ☀



Mandy Grace '11

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