

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19, 2023



# The Steadfast LOVE OF THE LORD

## PREPARE



BEFORE  
YOU BEGIN



## TALK TOGETHER

### WHAT DO YOU THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE IN OUR HOUSE IS?

We give you rules because we love you and want what is best for you. In the Bible, God tells us how to love Him and serve others. Do you know what the greatest commandment in the Bible is?

In the New Testament book of Mark, a man approached Jesus and asked Him what commandment was most important.

**Let's read Mark 12:28-31 to find out Jesus's answer!**

*AND ONE OF THE SCRIBES CAME UP AND HEARD THEM DISPUTING WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND SEEING THAT HE ANSWERED THEM WELL, ASKED HIM, "WHICH COMMANDMENT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL?" JESUS ANSWERED, "THE MOST IMPORTANT IS, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' THE SECOND IS THIS: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' THERE IS NO OTHER COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE.\**

**MARK 12:28-31**



### TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



### MORE TO EXPLORE

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



### THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



### COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



This wasn't the first time the Jews had heard this command. Many years before Jesus came to Earth, God gave this same command to Moses to share with the people in the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy. He told them to think about loving God when they woke up and before they went to sleep, and to discuss loving God with their families so they would remember to put the commandment into action.



But what does loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength mean? It means we should love God completely, with every part of us and in everything we do. We can show our love for God in everything we do, not just by going to church or saying our prayers. Here are some examples of everyday situations where we can choose to love God with our actions:



**THE NEXT TIME YOU ENJOY SWINGING ON A SWING SET, THANK GOD FOR THE GIFT OF PLAY.**

**THE NEXT TIME YOUR PARENT TELLS YOU IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP, RESPOND WITH A GOOD ATTITUDE.**

**THE NEXT TIME A FRIEND SAYS HURTFUL WORDS TO YOU, ANSWER WITH LOVE AND OFFER FORGIVENESS.**

There are many more ways we can love God through the things we do! Because of sin, however, it is not easy to love God all the time. But we can ask God to help us! God's love is so amazing it will never end. His love for us was so great, He sent Jesus to save us from our sins. And His love is something we can share with those around us. He shows His incredible love for us every day, and we have daily opportunities to love Him back!

No matter what highs or lows life brings your way, remember this — **God loves you.**

## GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING  
GOD CREATED  
WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED,  
AND SIN PASSED TO  
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN  
YOU AND ME.

REDEMPTION



THOUGH ALL OF  
US ARE SINNERS,  
CHRIST DIED  
FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL  
COME AGAIN.

### FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: MARK

This week's verse comes from the book of Mark. Mark is the second of four books known as the Gospels. The author of this book is a man named Mark, who worked with Jesus' disciple Peter. The book is written from Peter's perspective and presents the Good News about Jesus.

### OT-NT CONNECTION

Like we learned in this week's lesson, the command to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength shows up in the Old Testament too! **Let's read about it in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.**

- What are some examples from verse 7 of how important it is to remember to love God?
- What is one way you can love God today?

### HOW DO I ALWAYS SHOW MY LOVE FOR GOD?

Because we sin, we will not always show God our love for Him. At times, we will mess up and choose sin over loving God. Thankfully, God conquered sin and it does not control the lives of believers. **(Romans 6)** Instead, the Holy Spirit lives inside all believers and is there to lead us toward what is right. If we ask Him to help us love God, He will help us do that.

### CAN I EARN MY WAY TO HEAVEN BY LOVING GOD?

No! **John 14:6** tells us no one can be saved except through the gift of salvation that Jesus offers to all. After we accept Jesus as our Savior, the desire to love God will come naturally because the Holy Spirit is working in our lives. Our love for God is possible because He loved us first, not the other way around. **(1 John 4:19)**

### JOURNAL

God instructs His children to make loving Him the highest priority of their lives.

Gather art supplies such as paper, pencils, markers, paint, etc. and create artwork that reminds you of loving God.

This could be writing out the verse, creating a picture of something that reminds you of the verse or something else!

### READ



Did you know Mark isn't the only place in the New Testament Jesus talks about loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength? Look up **Matthew 22:37** and **Luke 10:27** to read the other New Testament accounts of Jesus citing the greatest commandment.

# ★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19, 2023

## ♥ MEMORIZE

**"AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH."**

**MARK 12:30**

**Q: HOW SHOULD I LOVE GOD?**

**A: WITH ALL MY HEART, SOUL, MIND AND STRENGTH.**

## FIND

This week's verse is found in the book of Mark. Help your child find the book of Mark. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there?

## SHARE

Tell your kids about a difficult time where you chose to love God instead of following the world.

What did that look like? How did your decision to love God impact you or those around you?

## WATCH



Help your child learn their verse by watching this week's Memory Melody video!

## PRAY

**DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR GREAT LOVE! HELP ME LOVE YOU AND THOSE YOU HAVE PLACED IN MY LIFE. AMEN.**

## CRAFT

Trace the outline of your child on a large piece of paper. After they color and decorate it, help them write, "I will love God will ALL of me!"

## SERVE



Help your child think of some chores and activities they do every day and how they can love God while doing them.

Write their ideas down on paper and hang them somewhere where they can see them. Use this reminder to help them remember to love God throughout their day.

## VISIT



Think about someone you know who is unable to get out of their home to see people.

Encourage your child to go with you to visit the person and share the love God has for you with them. Ask your child to come up with several conversation starters before you arrive.

Here are some ideas for your child:

- Share a story about something exciting you recently did.
- Ask the person to share a favorite memory from when they were your age.
- Share something with them you recently learned about the love of God.

## SING



Listen to this playlist throughout the series to celebrate The Steadfast Love of the Lord!

SCAN HERE TO LISTEN WHEREVER YOU ARE!



# COLORING PAGE

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**“AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD  
YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART  
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND  
WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH  
ALL YOUR STRENGTH.”**

**MARK 12:30**



**HOW SHOULD I LOVE GOD?**

**WITH ALL MY HEART, SOUL,  
MIND AND STRENGTH.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_