

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

SPRING 2026

Unit 1, Session 2

CONNECTION POINT:

We pray for and forgive others, following the example of Jesus.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Forgiveness is not a popular topic. It's something we know we should do, and we know it's truly best for us, but we honestly just don't want to do it. Offering forgiveness to others is difficult because often they have hurt us in some way. Many times, we can feel as if others are undeserving and unworthy of our forgiveness, Jesus gives us the command not only to offer forgiveness to others but also to offer unlimited forgiveness.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to live out his or her faith.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-2,43-48; Mark 12:28-31

Live It Out: Lead your preschooler to clap and say the Weekly Verse: "Jesus said, 'Love other people.' Mark 12:31."

Jesus saw crowds, and He went up on a mountain. He sat down with His disciples and began to teach the people. Jesus taught that they should love other people, even when they act mean or unkind.

Another time, Jesus and some of the temple leaders were talking. A man heard them, and he wanted to ask Jesus a question.

He asked, "What is the most important commandment (law)?"

Jesus said, "There is one God. The most important commandment is to love God very much—with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second most important commandment," Jesus said, "is to love other people as much as you love yourself. These are the greatest commands."

KIDS

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-2,43-48; Mark 12:28-31

Live It Out: Review the Bible story. Ask if she has ill feelings against anyone at her school. Discuss what Jesus said about loving your enemies. Say together Mark 12:30-31.

Jesus began to teach His disciples and a crowd of people. Jesus told them, "You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who mistreat you. This will show that you are children of your Father in heaven."

Jesus told the crowd to love everyone, just as their heavenly Father loves all people.

Another time, a teacher of the law heard Jesus answer the religious leaders in a discussion. So he asked Jesus, "What is the greatest commandment?" Jesus answered, "The most important is 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Jesus said there is no other command greater than these.

Jesus taught that we should love God and love one another.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48

- Why is it important to obey God's command to forgive and pray for those who have wronged us?
- How does loving and forgiving our enemies reflect God's character and bring Him glory?
- What does Jesus mean when He says that we must be perfect like our heavenly Father is perfect?

Live It Out:

Jesus' view of forgiveness differs from the world's view. In fact, Jesus said to forgive our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. As a family, discuss who you may need to forgive or pray for. Be open to sharing if you personally have someone you need to forgive or pray for, and encourage your student to do the same.