Jesus spends most of Tuesday and Wednesday teaching in the Temple courts and answering the questions of the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus covered many different important topics, some of them even pointing to His coming death and resurrection. It was during this time that the Pharisees (the teachers of the Law) and the Sadducees (priests and keepers of the Temple) conspired to try to trick Jesus into giving answers that would lead to his arrest and eventual execution.

There was one question that none of the Pharisees seemed to agree on, though: which of God’s commandments was the greatest commandment? It was the very question that they asked Jesus so they could trap Him and use His answer against Him as a way to get the crowds in Jerusalem to move against Him,

Jesus, in His wisdom, sees this trap for exactly what it is and offers the Pharisees an answer that is more accurate than any of them had anticipated. It was an answer that none of them could argue with.
There are four different Greek terms used in the New Testament for our word love: **eros** (romantic), **storge** (familial), **philia** (brotherly), and **agape** (sacrificial).

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” *(Matthew 22:34-40)*

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. *(Deuteronomy 6:4-9)*
1. Read Deuteronomy 6:5:
   What does loving God with all of your heart look like?

   What does loving God with all of your soul look like?

   What does loving God with all of your mind look like?

2. Read Leviticus 19:18:
   What does loving your neighbor look like?

   What are three definite actions you can begin taking NOW to satisfy these two commandments?

3. Jesus compares these two commandments and says that they are similar. How is loving God similar to loving your neighbor?

   What in your life can you change to better satisfy these two commandments?