

S.A.F.E. Homes



***“And the second is like, namely this,
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as
thyself. There is none other
commandment greater than these.”
Mark 12:31***

The Greatest Commandments

“And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment” (Mark 12:28-30).

Because Jesus knows all things and can see all things, He knew the scribe’s heart and could see the motive behind his question. He knew that he had pride in the fact that He kept the Commandments and laws that God gave Moses. Jesus saw that there was something missing in him.

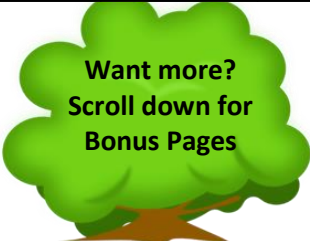
Loving God is more than knowing and obeying all His commandments. When we genuinely love someone, we are consumed with the constant thought of them and are drawn to them. We seek and make time to get to know them, to learn what they like or don’t like, and we are careful to please them, even sharing what we have with them. Likewise, we should love Jesus with everything in us and become consumed with thoughts of Him, and a strong desire to get to know Him better and strive to please him.

Jesus also knew that the only way we could love others the way He loves them would require us to *know* Him as Lord and to love Him with everything within us first. Then, and only then, can we give love back to both Him and others. This is referred to as “The Golden Rule,” to treat each other as we want to be treated. Will we show love or hate? Kindness or rudeness? Respect or disrespect? God’s love working in and through us will equip us to not only love in words, but in action. ***“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16).***

Family Prayer: “Dear Lord, teach us to love as You commanded in Your Word. Let Your love flow through us to love others as You do. In Jesus’ name, amen.”



Includes
Family
Activities



Want more?
Scroll down for
Bonus Pages



Have a brain-storming session on ways that you can love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength. What does that *really* look like? How can you love others as yourself? Gather supplies and create a poster to hang in your home with a family plan for fulfilling these commandments.

Let's talk

Discuss the different meanings of love. Is the world's definition of love the same as the Bible's definition? How difficult is it to treat others like you would want to be treated? How do you deal with someone who doesn't "deserve" to be treated nice?

This week let's make a conscious effort to be mindful of our treatment of others. Hold each other accountable. This means if someone is "caught" not fulfilling the commandment of God to love Him and love others, the correction is given and received in humility and the behavior adjusted accordingly. Let's be vessels that God's love can easily flow through!



Additional Challenges

What is a commandment?

Read Exodus 20:3-6

Complete the following. ..

_____ shalt have _____ other _____ before _____.

Thou shalt _____ make unto thee any graven _____, or any

_____ of any thing that is in _____ above, or that is in the

_____ beneath, or that is in the _____ under the earth.

What is a graven image?

Why should we not bow down or worship idols?

What word does the Lord use to describe Himself?

What will happen when we love God and keep His commandments?

Let us Keep God First in all that we do!

Puzzle Page

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**Unscramble each of the clue words.
Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.**

