

## **Lesson 6**

### **Loving God and Loving Others**

#### **Lesson Overview**

BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 22:36-40

MEMORY VERSE: “O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides you I Chronicles 17: 20a

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “We love because He first loved us”  
I John4:19

CATECHISM:

Introduction to the Ten Commandments:  
I am the Lord thy God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- know the Ten Commandments can be divided into two tables
- learn the First Table is about showing Love to God
- learn the Second Table is about showing love to our neighbors

MATERIALS: Bibles, Catechism, lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The lesson focusses on understanding the Ten Commandments as they are divided into two tables, one focusing on our love for God and the second in love for our neighbor.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What are some lists that we use in our life? What are the two divisions of the Ten Commandments? What are some ways we can show love to God? What are some ways we can show love to our neighbor?

ACTIVITY 1: A drawing activity or word list to illustrate the Two tables of the Law. If the students want to use words, they may need help with spelling. This may involve discussion about the discussion on ways to show love to God and love to our neighbor.

ACTIVITY 2: A code puzzle using our memory verse. Consider using this activity when working on the memory verse.

# TEACHER PREPARATION

## Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will lead you to accurately teach that the Ten Commandments teach how to love God and also love our neighbor which together covers every aspect of our lives.

## Prayer Preparation

- Thank God for the Law that shows us how to love God first and then our neighbor
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class
- Pray that the children will understand ways to show our love for God and then ways to show love for our neighbor

## Bible Background

Matthew 22: 36-40

Following the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus began speaking about the Law (Mt 5:17-38). He is restoring what had been lost over the years in the oral teachings of the rabbis. The Jews gave preference to the Law delivered by word of mouth, and they preferred the traditions of the elders over the written Law of Moses.

Throughout those years of oral teaching they had gradually eased the true meaning of the Law as originally intended by God when He gave the Law at Mt Sinai. Jesus addresses each of the commandments by saying, ‘You have heard...’ (5:21,27,31,33,38,43). He is referring to what the people had heard from the rabbis over the centuries. The Jews of His day had in many ways become separated from the written scriptures, and relied on the oral teaching of the rabbis. During those many years the teachers had “relaxed” the true meaning of the Law so it would be easier for them to appear righteous. They could say “I have never literally murdered anyone or committed adultery, therefore I am righteous under the Law.” So Jesus says, “But I say to you...” (5:22,28,34,44) and goes on to explain the intent of the law, and that it really begins in the heart, in the thoughts. So if they even had thoughts of hatred or lust as he says, they—and all people—are guilty under the Law.

The Jews had also compiled a list of 613 commandments of Moses, including the first ten, and had organized them by category (such as Love and Brotherhood, The Poor and Unfortunate, Treatment of Gentiles, Marriage, Divorce and Family, Dietary Laws, Business Practices, etc.)

In trying to observe all 613 laws, it was natural to think of some as “greater” than others. Even when we look at the commandments today, we sometimes wonder “which one is greater than another?” This man was a lawyer (22:35), an expert in the laws of Moses. From this “legal” standpoint, he asks Jesus which of these was the “great commandment in the Law” (22:36).

There is no “greater” or “lesser” commandment. James says “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all” (James 2:10). Breaking the Law is ultimately a matter of disobedience and disrespect for God and his Word.

And that is what Jesus points out when He says “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment” (Mt 22:37-38).

Jesus said He came to fulfill the Law (Mt 5:17). He loved the Father with a perfect love and did everything in obedience to Him. And being without sin, He was able to keep the law perfectly for us. In union with Christ, we have died to the law of sin and death and have been raised up with Him. The law no longer has power over us. Now the Law “the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. (Gal 3:24). The Law continues to show the believer what the fruit of the Christian life should look like. When we fail to “live righteously,” as we always do, the Law points out our sin and drives us back to Christ. Then for the lawyer’s sake, Jesus added that “The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets” (Mt 22:39-40).

Paul says “Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law” (Rom 10:13). John explains this further in his epistle when he says, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love....In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation(payment) for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 Jn 4:7-11). To “love one another” is a proof of God’s presence in His people.

## Learn the New Words

**table:** a list of words to help us remember or understand them better

**First Table of the Law:** Commandments 1-3, which explain how we can show love to God

**Second Table of the Law:** Commandments 4-10, which show us how to love our neighbor

**neighbor:** a person who lives near us, but also all the people we know, and even all the people in the whole world

## BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Let’s begin with prayer to thank the Lord for this special day!

**SHARING:** Ask students to share an example of someone showing love to another person this past week.

### Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. The second activity in this lesson may work well for working on the memory verse.

### Review the Recent Lessons

**What was God’s gift to His chosen people? Why did He give them this gift?** *He loved them, called them His treasured possession. These rules would help them live their lives to honor God. Their lives would show the nations around them that there is no other God like the I AM God*

# TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

## Introduce the Lesson

Today we are going to talk about loving God and loving people.

## Read the Lesson

Read the first two paragraphs. The Bible also has lists. Open a Bible to the very beginning pages. Do you see a list there? The List may be called "The Table of Contents" or "The Books of the Bible". This is a list of all the books of the Bible. It helps you know where each book is. The Bible also has other lists including a list of the disciples (Matthew 10:2-4). Galatians 5:22 has a list of "fruits of the Spirit" gifts from God to the believer.

Read the next paragraph. Help the students find the text in their Bible Read Matthew 22: 35-40 Note that Jesus was responding to a lawyer who asked Him which commandment was the greatest. The First table of the Law shows us how to love God. Have the students look at the Catechism, The first Three Commandments are about loving God.

What are some ways you can show love to God? If you have a white board in your class you could make a list of the students' answers. This may be helpful for the first student activity.

Read the next paragraph. **Who is our neighbor?** *Have students underline the last sentence of the paragraph.*

Read the next paragraph. Read Luke 6:31. **Ask students if they have heard of the Golden Rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."** Discuss how this verse is the same as the Golden Rule. What are ways you can help people in your life. Again making a list on the white board may help with the first student activity.

Read the last paragraph.

## Read the Catechism: Introduction to the Ten Commandments

I am the Lord thy God. AFLC Luther's Small Catechism page 3

## Repeat the Memory Verse

"O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides you I Chronicles 17: 20a

# APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

## Do the Activities Together

### Make a List

#### Activity 1

A drawing activity or word list to illustrate the Two tables of the Law. If the students want to use words, they may need help with spelling. This may involve discussion about the discussion on ways to show love to God and love to our neighbor.

**Activity 1**  
**MAKE A LIST**

Look at the two lists or tables. On the first table, write words or draw pictures that show love for God. On the second table, write words or draw pictures that show love for your neighbors.

**1 Love God**      **2 Love others**

Share your ideas with your classmates.

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### Secret Code

#### Activity 2

A code puzzle using our memory verse. Consider using this activity when working on the memory verse.

**Activity 2**  
**SECRET CODE**

A = ●	G = ◆	L = ☺	S = ♣
B = ★	H = ♥	N = ☒	T = ▲
D = ▲	I = ☼	O = ♪	U = ↑
F = ☞	K = ✕	R = ⚓	Y = ✨

O Lord, there is  
none like you  
nor is there any  
god besides you

Where is this found in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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# CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

## Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

## **Additional Teaching Options**

**Hymns and Songs:**

**Additional activities for a multi-age class:**