

Epic: A love story for the ages

Love is showing others how
much they matter to you.



MEMORY VERSE

"Here is what love is. It is
not that we loved God. It is
that he loved us and sent
his Son to give his life to
pay for our sins."

1 John 4:10, NIV



Weekly Cues

Bible Story

Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:34-40

What do you love?

Preteen

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



Morning Time

As your kid starts their day, share your
favorite memory from the past few months.



Meal Time

At a meal, ask your kid: "What are some
things that you love to do?"



Drive Time

While on the go, ask your kid: "What was
your favorite thing the past few months?"



Bed Time

Pray for each other: "God, help us to love the
people we encounter each day, and to show
them how good and kind you are by the way
we treat them."



PARENT CUE

Download the free Parent Cue app
AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES

Day 2

Read Matthew 22:34-40

Have you ever noticed that sometimes when you're reading the Bible, there are different Scripture references in parentheses? This is because the writer is referencing something that was previously mentioned in Scripture—usually it's a New Testament passage that is a quote from the Old Testament.

This is what is happening in Matthew 22:34-40. Jesus Himself is quoting some of the laws from the Old Testament as He answers the religious leader. That shows you just how important these passages are—that God gave us these truths twice!

Go back and look up the original passages Jesus is quoting: Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. Do you see any differences in them from Matthew 22:33-40?



Day 4

Love God by loving others.

We throw around the word "love" a lot in our world, don't we?

- I love your shirt!
- I love ice cream!
- I love sleeping in!



And, of course, many of the things we say we love, we probably do. But the kind of love Jesus was talking about in Matthew 22:33-40 definitely goes beyond your obsessions with cookies and cream fro-yo.

Get a small notebook and a pen to keep in your pocket today. All day today, pay attention to how many times you hear the word "love"—both coming out of your own mouth, or from others saying it. Keep a running tally of how many times you hear it, and also include on the paper what or who each person said they love.

Then take a couple of minutes to reflect on what you've written down—ideally with a parent, small group leader, or someone else who loves God. Talk about what kinds of things people say they love, what different kinds of love you think there are, and what it means to show the kind of love God shows us.

Day 3

Re-read the passage from yesterday, specifically Matthew 22:37 and 39.

Take a minute to reflect on which of these commands is the hardest for you to follow. Then ask God to help you with that by personalizing the prayer below.

Dear God, thank You for loving me and show me what love looks like when You sent Jesus to be our Savior. I want to love like You do.

(Choose one or both)

Help me to love You with all of my heart and soul and mind.

Help me to love other people like I love myself—and like You love me.

And at the end of the day, help me to love You by loving others. In Jesus' Name, I pray, amen.

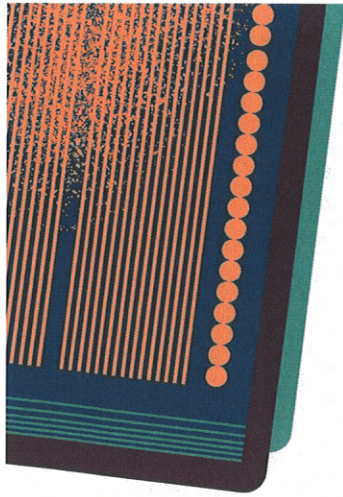
Day 5

What do you love?

Make a family "Love Board" this week that everyone can add to. It can be a dry erase board if you have one not in use—or it can simply be a piece of paper you hang with a pen on the refrigerator or in another common space. At the top of the board or paper write in big letters, "What do you love?"

Then ask your family to join you in contributing to the board all week. Ask them to write down anything they love (and you do it too!). It might be people, it might be things, it might be activities, or it could be kind things they see other people doing. Anything that they love is eligible for the board.

Ask everyone to either use a different color pen or marker for writing down the things they love or to sign their initial beside each thing they write down. You will need this information next week, so be sure and hold on to the paper or board when the week is up!



Love is showing others how much they matter to you.

DAY 1

Read 1 John 4:21

This month is all about love which is showing others how much they matter to you. And today's verse makes it pretty clear that God wants us to love others so much that it's a command.

So, what is a command? A command is an order given by someone in charge.

Catch a Command

Did you catch the command given by God in today's verse? Circle the correct answer below.

1. Give all your money to God.
2. Pray nine times a day.
3. Love your brother and sister.

God gives a simple command to love others. But just because it's "simple" doesn't mean it's easy. It's hard to show love when someone acts difficult or rude towards you.

But we don't love others because of what they do. We love others because of who God is. God IS love. We can show God love by showing love to others.

DAY 2

Read Matthew 22:37-39

One of the religious leaders asked Jesus, "What is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered simply.

1. Love God.
2. Love others.

As followers of Jesus, we are to love God above all else, with every part of ourselves—heart, soul, and mind. But Jesus followed that command with another one of equal importance: Love your neighbor as yourself. Loving others as much as you love yourself is NOT something you can do on your own. We need God's help.

Pray for Your Neighbor

Think of a "neighbor" you see most every day. Fill in the blank in the prayer below and then use it a guide as you talk to God.

Dear God, thank You for making (Person's name). I know You love them. Help me to show love this week. Each time I think of myself, help me to think of them too. Thanks for loving me always. In Jesus's name I pray, amen.

DAY 3

Read 1 John 4:7-8

Love is **SHOWING** others how much they matter to you. Love requires action. But we have God to help us show love.

Love One Another

Find one person in your world that could use a little love and think of one way you could show love right now. Write down your plan or talk with someone to help you come up with a plan to show love.

DAY 4

Read 1 John 4:16

If you haven't figured it out by now, God loves you. No one will love you as much as God loves you. You can depend on God's love for you.

Have you ever stuck your water bottle under the tap to fill it up and been distracted by something happening around you? What happens if you take your eyes off the bottle? It overflows, right?

When you understand just how much God loves you, then you can share that love with others. When love is what goes in, love is what flows out!

Love In Love Out

1. Grab an index card or scrap of paper.
2. Write LILO ("Love In Love Out") in big block letters.
3. Tape it to the side of your water bottle.
4. Remember this week that God loves you and that big love should come out in how you treat others this week. Because you love God by loving others.

Love God by
loving others.



What to Do:
Print one for every small group leader to use as reference.

"Full Poster" Activity Page
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Review Questions:

1. What question did the law expert ask Jesus?
 - a) What is the least important commandment?
 - b) What is the most important commandment?**

2. Is it more important to:
 - a) Score as many goals as you can in soccer?
 - b) Kick the ball to a friend so they get to score a goal?**

3. How many laws did the religious leaders ADD to God's laws?
 - a) 1,324 laws
 - b) 613 laws**

4. Is it more important to:
 - a) Use the right kind of pencil on your test?
 - b) Share a pencil with someone who doesn't have one?**

5. How many commandments did Jesus say were the most important?
 - a) 2**
 - b) 3

6. Is it more important to:
 - a) Work hard and try your best?**
 - b) Get A's on every test you take?

7. What were the two commandments that Jesus said were the most important?
 - a) Love God. Love others.**
 - b) Love God. Honor your parents.

8. Jesus reminded us that all of the laws are really based on these two commandments. He said if we are loving God and loving others, we will keep the other commandments. It's not about rules, it's about our:
 - a) toes
 - b) hearts**

What to Do:

Print one for each small group.

"Review Questions" Activity Page

August 2022, Week 1, Small Group 2-3

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THIS	IS	LOVE:	NOT	THAT
WE	LOVED	GOD,	BUT	THAT
HE	LOVED	US	AND	SENT
HIS	SON	AS	AN	ATONING
SACRIFICE	FOR	OUR	SINS.	1 JOHN
4:10	NIV			

What to Do:

Print and cut apart. Provide one copy for each small group.

"Verse Words, NIV" Activity Page

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