

LESSON 1

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Wants Us to Love Him and Love Others

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22; 25

GOD'S BIG STORY: An expert in the law asks Jesus which is the most important commandment, and Jesus says that the greatest commandment is to love God and the second is to love others.

Activity: Heart Cookies

Activity: Helpers

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Pass the Heart

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Heart Cookies

SUPPLIES: play dough, heart-shaped cookie cutters

Set out play dough and cookie cutters on a table.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here. Come see what we have today!

Encourage kids to create heart shapes and share them with friends. As they are playing, ask the kids what makes them feel loved. Ask what things they would like to share with someone they love.

Our hearts remind us of how we can show love for others! Today we'll learn in God's big story how God wants us to love Him and love others.

Activity: Helpers

SUPPLIES: dolls (1 per kid, plus 1 extra)

When we love others, we are also loving God. Let's play a game called *Helpers*. Let's pretend that this doll is your friend. Let's practice helping our friend.

Pass out dolls. Keep one doll for yourself. Call out situations and model how kids can show love to the doll. Here's a list of situations along with how kids can help:

- **Your friend is thirsty. Let's give her a drink of water.** (Pretend to give doll a drink of water.)
- **Your friend fell down. Let's give her a bandage.** (Pretend to put on a bandage.)
- **Your friend is sad. Let's give him a hug.** (Give doll a hug.)
- **Your friend spilled cereal on the floor. Let's help pick it up.** (Pretend to pick up cereal off floor.)
- **Your friend is hungry. Let's share your snack with her.** (Act out eating and sharing a snack with doll.)
- **Your friend is happy. Let's give him a high five.** (Give doll a high five.)

Those were some very loving things we did for our pretend friend! We'll learn today how Jesus said it's important to love God and love others. Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE HIM AND LOVE OTHERS.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD WANTS US—Point up.

TO LOVE HIM—Cross arms across chest.

AND LOVE OTHERS—Extend arms out, palms up.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Rooted Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we're learning about something in the Bible that Jesus said was very important—loving God and loving others! Love for God and love for others go together. Let's show our love for God by worshiping Him!

Play songs from the [Rooted Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Video](#)

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about Jesus and something very important that He said. Encourage the kids to say, "Jesus." **Let's find out from the Bible what Jesus said!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible or use the Script provided.

Gather kids together. **When I say love, put your hand on your heart.** Place hand over heart. **Let's hear God's big story today.**

Jesus taught about God's kingdom. He taught people how to love (place hand over heart) **others.**

One day a man asked Jesus to tell him the most important commandment—or rule—in God's law.

Jesus answered with Bible verses from the Old Testament. He said to love (place hand over heart) **God with all your heart and soul and mind. And He said, "Love** (place hand over heart) **your neighbor as yourself"** (Matthew 22:37, 39; Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18).

Jesus said that all of God's rules help us love (place hand over heart) **God and love** (place hand over heart) **others. We can show that we love** (place hand over heart) **God when we love** (place hand over heart) **other people.**

Love (place hand over heart) **for God and love** (place hand over heart) **for others go together. Jesus showed His love** (place hand over heart) **when He died on the cross so that we can be forgiven. When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, He forgives us!**

We show our love (place hand over heart) **for Jesus by loving** (place hand over heart) **and helping others. God wants us to love** (place hand over heart) **Him and love** (place hand over heart) **others.**

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. God, thank You for loving us so well! Help us find ways to love You and others this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you feel the love of God this week. May you be reminded of God's great, big love for you and others. And may you reflect that love to Him and those around you.

Activity: Pass the Heart

SUPPLIES: red construction paper (1 sheet), scissors (prep only), heart stickers (1 per kid, optional)

Before you begin, cut out a heart shape from the construction paper.

In God's big story today, we learned how God wants us to love Him and love others. Let's play a game called Pass the Heart to remember this truth.

Give the paper heart to a kid. Encourage that kid to repeat the Wonder Truth after you: **God wants us** (pause for kid to repeat) **to love Him** (pause for kid to repeat) **and love others** (pause for kid to repeat). Then tell that child to pass the heart to another kid in the room. Keep going until all the kids have had a chance to hold the heart and say the Wonder Truth. You can also give each child a heart sticker as a reminder to love God and love others.