

Lesson Twenty-Six Preparation:

Mark 12:28-34 Greatest Commandment

Lesson Supplies

Catholic Children's Bible with table of contents page marked (page 3)

Journal for each family member and writing supplies

Videos cued up on your device

Objectives

- To know the Greatest Commandment
- To know the corporal and spiritual works of mercy
- To know what a virtue is.

Read

From the Bible: Mark 12:28-34

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

When someone asks him, "Which commandment in the Law is the greatest?" Jesus replies: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. and a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the prophets." The Decalogue [Ten Commandments] must be interpreted in light of this twofold yet single commandment of love, the fullness of the Law. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 2055)

From the *Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Read questions. [Q434-436](#) [Q377-390](#) This will take 10 minutes.

Watch

[Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy](#) 8:54 [What is Virtue](#) 4:08 [The greatest commandment](#) 2:44

Reflect

What do you most want for your kids? If you could articulate those desires in ten phrases, what would they be? Chances are, you already have established rules for your children with those goods at their heart. In the Ten Commandments, God gives us a glimpse into his heart by showing us what he values most and what he desires most for us. Reframed as goods to be protected, the Commandments challenge us to value a relationship with the Living God, respect for the sacred, rest and worship, marriage and family, life, sexuality, stewardship of our resources, truth, simplicity, and purity of heart.

Loving our neighbor is easy to understand, at least in principle. But how does a person love God? How do you grow in relationship with a Person you don't usually see or hear? You grow in friendship with God the same way all our human friendships grow: time spent together (prayer), learning about each other (studying the faith), getting to know their friends and family (fellow believers and the Saints), attending family functions (Mass), arguing at times (grappling with faith), and apologizing (confession).

God desires good things for you, and he wants a fulfilling relationship with you—just like you want good things for your kids and a fulfilling relationship with them. Those desires are at the heart of the Ten Commandments.

Lesson Twenty-Six:

Greatest Commandment: Mark 12:28-34

Lesson Summary

The greatest commandment is to love God above all else, and love your neighbor as yourself

There are 7 Spiritual and Corporate works of Mercy

A Virtue is a good moral habit

Pray

1. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
2. Who or what would you like to pray for today?
3. Creed and Hail Mary (*Catholic Children's Bible* page 1992)

Read

Greatest Commandment: Mark 12:28-34

- Read the passage slowly and out loud at least three times, maybe taking turns.
- Pay attention for a word or phrase that sticks out to you.
- In your journal, write about that word or phrase. Use some of the suggested journal prompts if you need help.

Reflect

In the above passage we see how important Mary is for our salvation, and while we honor her so much. She was asked by the Angel Gabriel to be the Mother of God. She could have said yes or no, and her answer would have eternal effects. Mary said yes, and the Second Person of the Trinity became Man in her womb. She became the Mother of God. Because of this she was immaculately conceived without sin, remains a perpetual virgin, and was assumed into heaven

Watch

[Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy](#) 8:54 [What is Virtue](#) 4:08
[The greatest commandment](#) 2:44

Discuss

- How does our family show that we love God?
- How do we show that we love others?
- What are some concrete things we can do to express greater love for God and greater love for others?

Live

- The Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are great ways to express love for God and neighbor. As a family, create a plan to live out these three practices more fully for the rest of Lent:
 - Prayer – How can we pray more as individuals and as a family?
 - Fasting – What can we give up or cut out for a few weeks to make more room for prayer and for family time?
 - Almsgiving – How can we serve others this Lent? Can we donate cloths, old toys, or other unused household items to Goodwill?

Bible History

Sometime this week, read *Love God Completely (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)*, pages 254-255 in the *Catholic Children's Bible*.

In this passage from the Old Testament, we hear Moses repeating the same words that Jesus later tells us is the Greatest Commandment there is: "Love the Lord with all your heart..."

Lesson Twenty-Six Supplemental Materials

The Greatest Commandment

Lesson Summary Statements

- The greatest commandment: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and all of your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.
- You must keep in mind Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud. Love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with truth, love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail (1 Corinthians 13)
- The ten commandments help us to love God and neighbor
- 7 Corporal works of mercy:
 - Feed the hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead
- 7 Spiritual works of mercy
 - Counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear wrongs patiently, pray for the living and the dead
- Virtue the habit of doing good and avoiding evil
- 3 theological virtues
 - Faith, Hope, and Love
- Four cardinal virtues
 - Prudence
 - Justice
 - Fortitude
 - Temperance

More Resources to Answer Your Questions

Videos

Websites

- [Catholic Answers](#)
- [Credible Catholic](#)
- [Formed.org](#)

Name: _____

Picking Up the Pieces

Cut out the tiles at the top of the page. Then place them in the chart at the bottom to complete Jesus' answer to the teacher's question: "Which commandment is the most important of all?" (Mark 12:28). Look in your Bible at Mark 12:30–31 to help you.

YOURSELF.	MIND,	LOVE	HEART,	NEIGHBOR
YOUR	LOVE	STRENGTH.	LOVE	SOUL,
GOD	YOU	AS		

	THE LORD	YOUR		WITH ALL
YOUR		WITH ALL	YOUR	
WITH ALL	YOUR		AND	WITH ALL
YOUR		♥		



Seek and Find: Look at pages 1556 and 1557 of your Bible. How many water jars do you see on the story pages?