

Together @ Home

November 8th, 2020



Here are some activities you could do together as a family. Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together what Jesus said was "The Greatest Commandment."

You can find it in your Bible in:

Matthew 22:34-46

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank You that You want all of us to be able to live our best lives. Thank You for the rules that keep us safe and protected, and for the rules that remind us of the importance of caring for others, too.

We pray you will help us to remember Your Golden Rule to love You with our heart, soul, and mind, and to love others--treating everyone the way we want to be treated.

Thank you for the example of Jesus, who showed us how to truly love You and others. Help us to live like Him.

Amen.

Discussion

Questions for adults to ask children

What did Jesus say was the most important command of God? (Hint: Remember there are 2 parts!)

The story says we are to love God with three parts of ourselves. What are the three parts?

Questions to discuss together

*What do you think it means to love God...
with all of your heart?
with all of your soul?
with all of your mind?*

The two commandments Jesus spoke of are sometimes called the Golden Rule. Why do you think they have been given this name?

Why do you think these two commandments are so important to remember?

Jesus says that loving God and loving others is our "number one rule." But love isn't just a rule - it's a verb too! Love is something we do. What is one way your family can show love to God and others this week?

Family Activity 1

God gave his people rules and instructions about how to live their lives. Jesus said that all of these rules can be summed up in what we call the Golden Rule: Love God and Love Others.

Play a game of "Simon Says" together and think about how we can listen and follow instructions.

The person who is 'Simon' should give instructions for everybody else to follow, but the group should only obey the instructions if they are preceded by the phrase "Simon says".





A verse to remember

Matthew 22 v 37

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul,
and all your mind.”**

This verse from Matthew was Jesus’ answer to the question “Which command in the law is the most important?” – Jesus spoke these words and then went on to say you should “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” We can still learn from and live by these instructions just as Jesus did.

To learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Active Prayer

If you had to write rules or commandments for everybody in the world to follow what would they be? Perhaps you would make everybody recycle, stop bullying, tell everybody to share?

Spend some time together as a family coming up with your own set of rules for the world. Will you use any of the ones in the Bible like the Golden Rule?

Once you have written your rules, turn them into prayers – pray for a world where people demonstrate the values and kindness that are present in your commandments.

Challenge yourself to live by your rules/commandments this week and use them as a way to share God’s love with others.



Family Activity 2

If we have rules in our homes we might use a star chart to record good behavior. Why not use the star chart on the next page to challenge yourselves this week to demonstrate God’s love to others in 10 different ways!

Your family will need to work as a team to complete all the challenges! How many stars can you collect? Color them in when you complete a challenge!



Helping Older Children

Throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic there have been many ongoing changes to rules and guidance. It can be really hard to adjust to these shifts, to be able to meet with family one week but not the next.

Just like the rules God gave his people, these guidelines are there to protect us and to help us protect others. Why not work with your children to rewrite rules they are struggling with as ways that they are sharing God’s love?

e.g. I wear a mask to the store as a sign that I care about the wellbeing of others and because I know God’s heart for us is that we wouldn’t be sick.

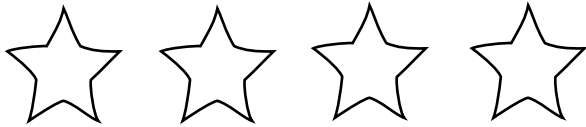
Although the rules and guidance may be changing, God’s heart and love never changes. We can see each rule as an opportunity to demonstrate God’s love to others.



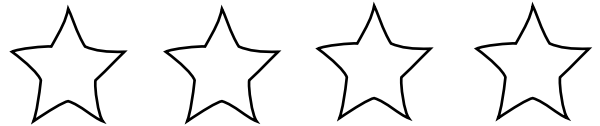
Super Star Chart!

How will your family share God's love this week?

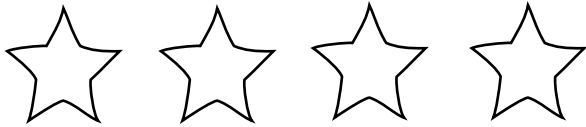
**Perform an act of kindness
for a friend at school!**



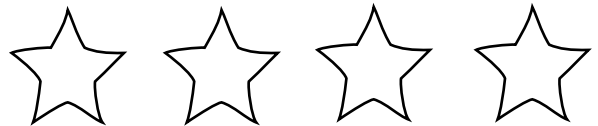
**Share a verse from the
Bible with somebody!**



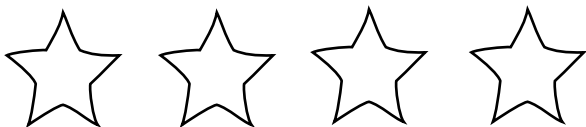
**Tell somebody that God
loves them!**



**Perform an act of kindness
for another parent!**



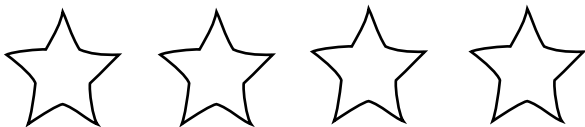
**Help a family member with
one of their chores!**



**Smile at everybody you see
on a journey!**



**Write or draw a message
of encouragement for
somebody in your family.**



**Ask somebody in your
church if you can pray for
them.**



**Perform an act of kindness
for somebody who lives on
your street!**

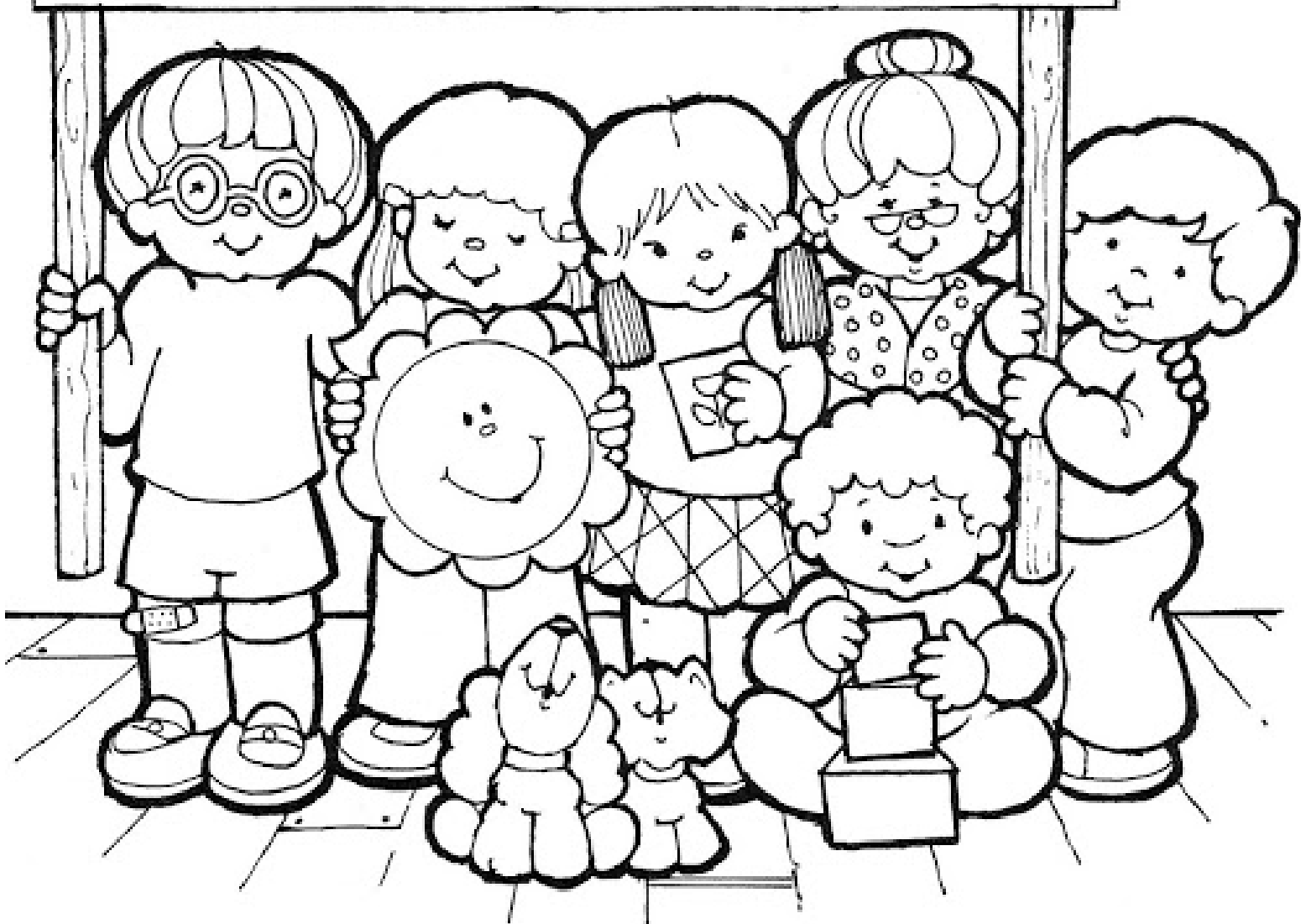


**Send a message of
encouragement to another
family!**



THE GOLDEN RULE

Do for others what
you want them to
do for you!



The Golden Rule Maze

Help Susie Find Her Puppy!

The Golden Rule is doing for others as we would have them do for us. If our pet was lost, wouldn't we want help finding him?

Let's help Susie (crying at the top of the maze) find her puppy (bottom right corner of the maze). He went looking for Susie when she went to school, and now he is lost.

Susie lives in the center house. Bring Susie and her puppy safely home.



Susie



Puppy

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The Greatest Commandment Puzzle

Review Jesus' teaching in Matthew 22:36-40 as you solve this puzzle. Look side-to-side and up-and-down to find each word in the word bank. Circle the words in the puzzle. (Hint: some letters are used more than once.)

COMMANDMENT
DEUTERONOMY
GOD
GREATEST
HEART
JESUS
LEVITICUS
LOVE
MATTHEW
MIND
NEIGHBOR
PRAYER
SHEMA
SOUL

W	L	E	L	N	O	G	V	E	L	O	V	E
D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y	B	E
C	V	A	U	I	S	D	E	G	A	O	D	F
M	I	N	D	G	G	R	E	A	T	E	S	T
J	T	I	S	H	E	M	A	R	T	S	O	H
E	I	T	L	B	O	V	E	D	H	U	U	E
S	C	S	1	O	J	O	H	N	E	4	L	A
U	U	1	P	R	A	Y	E	R	W	9	X	R
S	S	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E	N	T

Color the letters and numbers you did not use yellow. Read these yellow letters and numbers from left to right, beginning with the top row, to find a hidden Bible verse. Write the seven words of the Bible verse here:

_____ . (1 John 4:19)