

Hi Everyone.

Welcome to God's Garden. It's not just for kids. It really is amazing because everytime I plan a lesson for the children, I end up learning something new or reminding myself of something that I learned years ago but had forgotten. Remember the 10 Commandments? It seems so hard to follow all those "Thou Shalt Nots". Well Jesus fixes that for us in today's lesson. The craft also shows how the 10 can be meshed into 2 Commandments. Watch the God's Garden Video and hear William explain this to the children. I can imagine a collective sigh of relief from the Israelites when they heard Jesus that day. Imagine if the whole world could follow just these two commandments from Jesus.

Have a safe and happy Hallowe'en this week. Remember that the day after Hallowe'en is All Saints Day when we remember and celebrate all of our loved ones who have passed into paradise.

Blessings

Merilee Clarke

If you choose not to receive these emails please reply with No thanks.

Children's Activities for October 25

Theme; Love God and Others **KID'S TALK** **Scripture;** Matthew 22:34-46

I don't know for sure, but I think there have probably been more songs written about love than about anything else in the world. Here's a list of some of my favorites: "Love Makes the World Go Round," "Love and Marriage," and "When I Fall in Love."

Oh, I almost forgot one of the best love songs ever written. I'm sure all of you know this song! If you know it, sing along with me. But I also have a challenge for you: Every time you hear the word "love" on this song, make a heart shape out of your hands. (Demonstrate making a heart shape with your hands.) Here it goes:

*Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
They are weak but he is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

What a wonderful song about Jesus' love for us. In today's Bible lesson, Jesus teaches another very important lesson about love. I want you to help me again. Every time you hear the word "love," make a heart shape with your hands.

People were always amazed at the teachings of Jesus. One day a crowd was gathered around Jesus when a man who was an expert in religious law tried to trick Jesus with this question on the subject of the 10 Commandments that we learned about before Thanksgiving: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment?"

Jesus answered, "'**Love** (pause) the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,' this is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: '**Love** (pause) your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." In other words, Jesus was saying that if we could **love** (pause) God and **love** (pause) others, we would not have any trouble keeping the other 10 commandments.

Let's ask God to help us to **love** (pause) as we ought.

Dear God, help us to **love** (pause) You with all of our heart and to **love** (pause) our neighbors as we **love** (pause) ourselves. In Jesus' name, amen.

Let's Sing!!! Watch the God's Garden Video and sing along with us. Follow the actions cuz they're lots of fun.!

**Jesus Loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong.**

Singing na na na na na na na na

(Sing 4 x)

Jesus loves me when I'm good

When I'm doing what I should.

Jesus loves me when I'm bad

Even though it makes him sad.

Yes Jesus loves me

Yes Jesus loves me

Yes Jesus loves me

The Bible tells me so

See the last page for the directions on how to do the craft we will be showing you on the God's Garden video this week and have fun.

Loving God, Loving Each Other Group Activities

Sermon Title: ["All You Need Is Love"](#)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

SCAVENGER HUNT:

Write the word LOVE on slips of paper. Attach the slips to other items and hide them in a designated area. Tell the children the boundaries of the scavenger hunt area and give them a time limit as a team or as individuals as time and size of the group permits. Then let them hide the items for you to find.

HEART LACING:

The children will trace two identical hearts, cut them out and use markers and stickers to decorate them. Write the word LOVE several times on the back and front of their heart in both large and small letters. Punch holes around the edge of the heart and lace in and out of the holes with colorful yarn. Before closing the final holes with yarn, stuff some tissues into the heart to make it puffy.

LOVE BALLOONS:

Blow up many balloons before class time and place a slip of paper in each balloon with words from today's Bible verse or prayer. As the children break their balloon, they will begin to put the words in order on a poster board or on the table. (ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE) or (LOVE GOD AND LOVE EVERYONE ELSE)

LOVE MEMORY: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.

Write today's Bible verse can on a chalk board. Have the children recite the verse several times together and then the leader will begin erasing a word here and there as the children try to recite the verse without those words. See if any children can recite the verse with all the words erased and give a small prize to those who can recite the entire verse.

LOVE IN NOODLES:

Give the children construction paper and some type of small noodles to glue onto the paper to spell out GOD'S LOVE in noodles. As an alternative, a happy face made with noodles would be great on their paper as well!

Show the Love of Jesus
Coloring Page



I can show my friends that Jesus loves them.

The Greatest Commandment

Dot to Dot



Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV)

Greatest Commandment

Decoder

The Greatest Commandment

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
V	P	M	T	I	K	S	C	H	N	X	F	W	R	Y	L	Z	G	D	A	B	E	O	J	Q	U

- 16-23-14-19 _____
- 15-23-26-14-7-22-16-12 _____
- 9-22-20-14-4 _____
- 10-22-5-18-9-21-23-14 _____
- 16-23-1-22 _____
- 8-23-3-3-20-10-19-3-22-10-4 _____
- 18-14-22-20-4-22-7-4 _____
- 4-22-20-8-9-22-14 _____

GREATEST LORD	HEART COMMANDMENT	LOVE YOURSELF	NEIGHBOR TEACHER
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Greatest Commandment 08

Word Search

The Greatest Commandment

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'"

Matthew 22:37

Based on Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV)



F W T W C N G Y S H L J M D M
A M S Q E O V O O F Y O A R W
D H K U M L M J U V O R R U S
T E G E I Y H M L E D N J D O
J P R S N R O G A N Z K E R B
N H E T D L A U O N X J S V L
G A A I P I H C R Q D B U Q P
M R T O L R E R G S W M S R T
O I E N P S O Q U A E T E T G
H S S H L B H F L Z V L R N X
F E T B H O A O V R R E F D T
L E A G X I V N Q N P C M B J
B S I R F H W E O X Z O T Z W
O E A S T E O L E G N R T U T
N O Q W Q Y R G H E A R I N G

MIND

LAW

EXPERT

SOUL

PHARISEES

GREATEST

HEART

LORD

QUESTION

COMMANDMENT

NEIGHBOR

HEARING

JESUS

YOURSELF

LOVE

SECOND

These are the directions for the craft you will find on the God's Garden video this week. Have Fun!!!

You'll Need: • "Love God and Others" Red or White card paper
• Scissors, glue stick, pencil, ruler, markers, wool or string, tissues.

Get Ready: We are learning today about the two greatest commandments in Matthew 22—to love God first and to love others as yourself.

Younger kids TO DO; Make two hearts as large as you can on construction paper. Paper clip them together. Using a hole punch, punch holes around the edges of the joined hearts, one inch apart. Ask an adult to help you. Using string or wool, sew the two hearts together but before you completely finish do two things; Write 'God loves you' on one side and write the name of someone who needs to know this on the other side. Now stuff the heart with tissues to give it a puffy look and complete the sewing.

Older kids TO DO. • Using the same template as we used for the 10 commandments Oct. 4th, on construction paper, use any size paper, rectangle in shape. Fold lengthwise and using a circular object like a small plate, draw curved lines at the top of the rectangle and cut out • then cut the paper or card along the folded line. • use scissors to cut 5 to seven strips from the bottom to just below where the curve begins. • Weave the two shapes together, gently bending. • Once the heart is formed, glue the edges. Write the memory verse on the woven heart and give to someone you know who needs this message.