

## First Communion Session 3.5 of 4

Today's Chapter focuses entirely on the Greatest Commandment as Jesus taught it: to love God and to love others as we love ourselves. In teaching this commandment, Jesus summarized and simplified the Law of God in terms that anyone, even a child, can understand. This demonstrates his insight and brilliance as a teacher. Of course Jesus makes clear that this love includes the Ten Commandments and other teachings of God's Law. (See Matthew 23:23-24)

This chapter also introduces the term *Sacred Scriptures* and alternative for *the Word of God* and *the Bible*. We look to Scripture for our knowledge and understanding of God and his plan for us. If we want to follow Jesus, we will listen to his Word in Scripture and then love as he loved.

Major points of this lesson are

- We follow Jesus by loving God and others
- We learn about love in Sacred Scripture
- We can ask for forgiveness in the Sacrament of reconciliation when we fail to love fully.

On page 1 of your worksheets for this lesson, pray together the prayer to begin. Invite your child to think of all the people they love and maybe even make a list. Now expand on the list and ask who else does Jesus love?

Help your child find Mark 12:28-34 in his/her Bible (pages 1554-1555) and read the scripture together. Go over pages 1556 and 1557 together in the Bible as well. Some good discussion questions are

1. Who came to Jesus with a question?
2. What question did the teacher ask?
3. Jesus replied with 2 important commandments. What was the first one?
4. What is the 2nd important commandment?

Do page 2 and 3 from the workbook pages.

Activity-

On the inside of your 10 Commandments booklet that you received from Session 11 of our Family Catechesis sessions, turn to the last 2 pages. They are blank. On the page on the left, write in bold letters "LOVE GOD" and then continue below that with "with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength".

On the right page in bold, big letters, write "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR", then continue below that in normal letters, "as you love yourself".

Turn then to the page before those and and print in big beautiful letters "THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT"

Go over the 4th workbook page together and complete any activities.

Finish with the Pray It! at the bottom of the page.