

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 224: THE GREAT COMMANDMENT**  
**MARK 12:28-34**

One of the teachers of the law came to Jesus. He heard Jesus arguing with the Sadducees and the Pharisees. He saw that Jesus gave good answers to their questions. So he asked him, "Which of the commands is the most important?" Jesus answered, "The most important command is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord. (this means there is only one God, and it is the LORD our God!) And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second most important command is this: 'Love your neighbor the same as you love yourself.' These two commands are the most important." The man answered, "That was a good answer, Teacher. You are right in saying that God is the only Lord and that there is no other God. And you must love God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your strength. And you must love others the same as you love yourself. These commands are more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices we offer to God." Jesus saw that the man answered him wisely. So he said to him, "You are close to God's kingdom." And after that time, no one was brave enough to ask Jesus any more questions.

## 224. THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

MARK 12:28-34



"A scribe asked Jesus, 'Which is the first commandment of all?' "

Mark 12:28-34

## 224. THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

### MARK 12:28-34

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"To love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength  
And to love your neighbor as yourself, is more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

**MARK 12:33**

#### **Review Questions**

##### **True or False**

1. The most important of all commandments is this: Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God is one Lord.
2. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your songs.
3. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart.
4. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your works.
5. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your strength.

##### **Questions**

1. What is the most important commandment?
2. What is the second most important commandment? How should you love your neighbor?
3. Are there other commandments more important than these two?
4. When Jesus saw that the scribe answered very wisely, what did He tell him?
5. Was anyone brave enough to ask Jesus questions after He said these things to the scribe?

## Lesson 224 Discussion

### What Would You Ask?

Ask your class what question they would ask the Lord if they could only ask Him one question. What would their question be? Take time to allow your class to think of and ask their questions. You may even want to write them on the board and allow for some class discussion.

Follow up with answers from Scripture. If you are unsure of the answer to some of their questions (some of these might be really tough questions), do not be afraid to say that you do not know. Look it up yourself during the coming week and get back to the class on the following Sunday. Explain to the class that they heard a very important question that was asked of Jesus in their lesson today. We learned about the question and Jesus' answer today.

[Love is the fulfillment of the Law.](#)

### Getting to Know Your Neighbor

Give your class some time to get to know each other. Go around the class and have each child give their name and one reason why they love Jesus. Spend about five minutes doing this activity. To test them have each of them close their eyes and recite as many reasons that their fellow students gave that they can remember.

Reward the students who have remembered the most with the privilege of passing out small prizes.

Explain that if everyone got to know their neighbor, and loved them just as much as they loved themselves, there would be no more war, not crime and nobody would have to lock their doors at night, because everyone would love everyone else! Now, you can imagine why it is almost as important to love our neighbor as it is to love the LORD our God!

### IMPORTANT DISCUSSION TIME

Today you might be like the scribe. You know Jesus speaks the truth. You know He is truth. All you need to do now is to accept Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord and follow after Him. Being close to accepting is not good enough for salvation. You must be born again (John 3:3). If you think there are too many rules to follow Jesus, you are wrong. There are only two simple commands, first love God, and second, love your neighbor as yourself. How do we do that? We can live this life through the power of the Holy Spirit when we ask Jesus to come into our life. [Love is the fulfillment of the Law.](#)

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to love the Lord and love our neighbors. Give the children all an opportunity to respond to the gospel and ask Jesus in their heart if they have not done so yet.