



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for April 18, 2010  
Released on Wednesday, April 14, 2010**

**"Love One Another"**

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 22:34-40

**Background Scripture:** Matthew 5:17-20; 22:34-40

**Memory Verse:** "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).

**Matthew 22:34-40**

34 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that love for God and for one another is the most important thing in God's mind.

**TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Wicked men tried to trick Jesus, but they could not do so.
2. Jesus taught that the most important part of God's law is loving God and that the second most important is loving others.

**PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Telling the Lesson, cut a large heart out of poster board. On one side print boldly "#1." On the other side print boldly "#2."

For Helping to Remember, bring a few large heart patterns, construction paper, pencils, safety scissors (blunt tip), and markers for each student.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student.

## **TEACHER'S NOTES:**

Time: A.D. 30

Place: Jerusalem

The teaching of Jesus found in this week's lesson was given during the last week of His earthly ministry after His "triumphant" entry into Jerusalem. One of the Pharisees asked Jesus which commandment He considered to be the greatest, not because he wanted to understand, much less observe that commandment, but to tempt, or trick, Jesus into saying something wrong.

Jesus answered the question directly, using the words of the most familiar Scripture in Judaism, the Shema (said by Jews daily as a prayer). This apparently was a typical view. Jesus' enemies probably had hoped He would contradict such standard Jewish dogma and look foolish. But Jesus turned the question against them by coupling it with a second command, thus showing how people fail to fulfill the first. The first was to love God with all our heart and soul and mind. The second was to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Thus Jesus escaped their trap and also showed that He understood the true essence of the law. The law was not about observing regulations. It was about loving God and loving our neighbors.

## **BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

Janie's mother was helping her study for a test in school. After they read a chapter together, Janie's mother would ask her, "Janie, what is the most important thing we read?"

Janie found that those "most important things" were almost always on the test. She was glad she learned to think about the most important things.

Jesus was having a test too. It was not a test in school. It was a test some religious men were giving Him to try to trap Him. They wanted Him to give some answer that they could argue about. They wanted to find fault with Him. They wanted to get Jesus into trouble.

## **TELLING THE LESSON:**

A religious man asked Jesus a question. He was a man who had studied all about God's law. He asked Jesus what was the greatest, or most important, commandment in the law.

No matter what commandment Jesus chose, the man could argue that some other commandment was just as important. He probably hoped to show that Jesus was not really smarter than any of the other Jewish teachers. He thought he had Jesus trapped. He thought that Jesus could not give any right answer.

However, Jesus understood God's law far better than the man thought He did. Jesus did not choose just one commandment. Instead, Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37,38). This is a command that sums up so many others. (Hold up the heart with the #1 on it.)

If we truly love God with all our heart, we will want to obey all the other commands that show Him our love.

The man had not asked Jesus what the second greatest command was, but Jesus told him anyway. The second greatest commandment "is like unto it," Jesus said. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matt. 22:39). (Hold up the heart with the #2 written on it.)

This one sums up all the commandments about how to treat others. If we truly love our

neighbor, we will not steal from him or lie about him, and we certainly will not kill him!

Jesus said that these two things are really what the law of God was all about - loving God and loving our neighbors. This was a very wise answer. Jesus got right to the heart of it all. No one could complain a bit about His answer.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

Love for God and love for others are still the two most important things for us. How can you show love to others? (Let the students respond, and let them act out some of their suggestions as role plays.)

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Let the children trace and cut two hearts out of construction paper. On one let them print "Love God." On the other let them print "Love People." Let them practice using these to review the lesson with one another.

### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

**"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).**

These are the words Jesus gave to explain the greatest commandment from God. The most important is that we should love God. We should love Him not just a little but with all our heart, soul, and mind. We should love Him with everything we have.

When we love God this much, it will not be hard to obey any of His commandments. We will want to obey them all because we love Him so much and because we want to please Him.

Loving God is the most important part of God's law. The other commands are just ways of showing that we love Him. Do you love God that much - with all your heart, soul, and mind?

### **CONCLUSION:**

The question posed to Jesus, in this week's lesson, was a simple one: "Which is the great commandment in the law?" For His answer, Jesus teaches that we are to love God with everything we are and have. This Jesus calls the "first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:38).

One's love will never stop with God. In order to love God, a person must love his neighbor. If he loves his neighbor, he will love God. The love that binds a community together is a love for God that is seen and felt in a person's love for his neighbor.

### **PRAYER:**

Dear God, we love and adore You. Help us to keep your commandments! Help us to love others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "**Jesus Includes Everyone**" and stresses that God invites everyone to come to Him through Jesus, His Son. Study Luke 14:7-24.

### **LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:**

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**WORD SEARCH**

**"Love One Another" (Matthew 22:34-40)**

**Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:**

TRICK

TEACH

GREATEST

SOUL

MIND

MASTER

LAW

JESUS

PHARISEES

COMMANDMENT

HEART

QUESTION

SECOND

FIRST

LOVE

NEIGHBOR

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

## Solution to Word Search

### "Love One Another" (Matthew 22:34-40)

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

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson