

WEEK TWELVE

THE GREATEST COMMANDS

BIG IDEA

The important ten are summarised

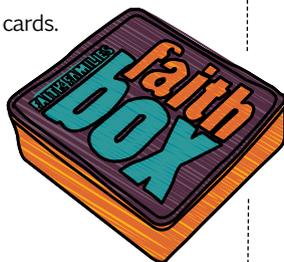
BY THE GREATEST TWO

PREP: *(Kids can help!)*

- Find two dice.
- Find a ball of wool or string to use to mark out a large triangle on the ground.
- Write on two envelopes. 'LOVE GOD' on the first one, and 'LOVE OTHER PEOPLE' on the second one.
- Cut out a paper heart from an A4 piece of paper.
- Buy a packet of treats.

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- The Commandment cards.
- The ball of string.
- Two dice.
- The two envelopes.
- The cut-out heart.
- Packet of treats.



INTRO

This is the last session on the Ten Commandments. We are going to see how many you have remembered. But first, we are going to have a race to get the commandments.

- Does anyone remember where the commandments were given to Moses? Mt Sinai! We are going to climb Mt Sinai to get them!

OUT OF THE BOX

Game: Climb Mount Sinai (pull the furniture back or do this outside)

- Mark out a large triangle, 3–5 metres across, with the string.
- Place the 10 Commandment cards in a basket at the top point.
- Divide the family into two teams and line up at the two bottom corners of your “Mount Sinai”.
- At the “ready, steady, go,” each team member must “climb” the mountain, retrieve a commandment card, then go back down with it and tag the next in line.
- On their next go, each team member must hop to the top and back, then crab walk and finally ‘commando crawl’, until all the commandment cards have been retrieved.
- Lay all the cards upside down on the table.

GAME

Find the Missing Commandment

- Take one card away without looking at it.

- Now turn the other nine cards up the correct way and see who can work out which commandment is missing.

Do this several times with different cards, letting different children guess.

- Now everyone work together to try to put all the commandments in the order of how important you think they are.

(Encourage the children to participate and help them explain the reason for their choices.)

READ

Today's story is about some people who were trying to put the Ten Commandments in order. They were finding it very difficult, so Jesus helped them.

“Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ‘Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the law?’”

Jesus replied, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.’”

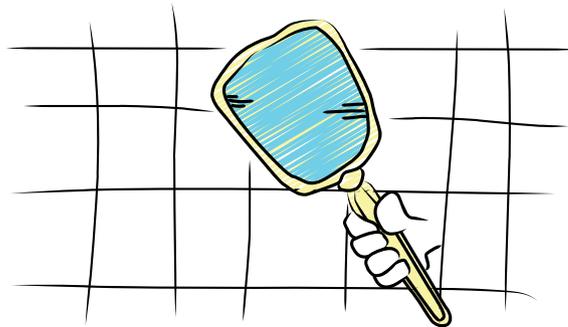
Matthew 22: 34-40 NIV

EXPLORE

So what did Jesus say are the most important commandments?

When we love God with all our heart and mind and soul and love our neighbour, we will be obeying all the other 10 Commandments.

When we look in a mirror we see a person's reflection. The Ten Commandments are really a reflection of what God is like. Because God is honest and true, He wants us to be honest and true also. Because God is the God of life, He says we must never kill or steal or do anything that is not loving.





WEEK TWELVE

OUT OF THE BOX

Take out the two envelopes that say 'LOVE GOD' and 'LOVE OTHER PEOPLE' and place them in front of all the other commandments you have tried to place in order of importance.

Leave the envelopes on the table.

- Take the 10 commandment cards and hand them out to everyone.

Take turns putting each commandment card into the envelope that you think it belongs in: LOVING GOD or LOVING OTHERS.

- Explain why you chose that envelope.

(E.g. If we love God we will not worship have other gods. If we love others we will not steal from them.)

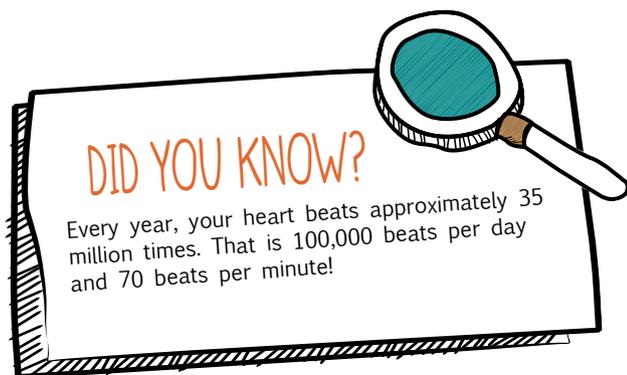
Questions:

- **Can you remember how Jesus said we should love God?**

(With your heart and soul and mind)

- **What do you think that means?**

When Jesus said to love God with all our HEART, he was not talking about our hearts that are busy pumping blood all around our bodies. He was talking about our will – the way we make decisions. It is the way we



choose to love God and others, even when we don't feel like it.

When Jesus said to love God with all our SOUL, he was talking about our unique selves – who we are and what we like and don't like. It is the way we love God in the way only we can love.

« LOVE IS THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS. »

- SHAWN LOVEJOY -

When Jesus said to love God with all our MIND, he was talking about the way we think and understand. It is the way we learn about God and the way He wants us to live.

PLAY

Ten Commandment Dice Game

- Take two dice and some treats from the Faith Box. Have turns throwing them and trying to recite the commandment that number represents.

If you roll a 3 and a 2, then you recite commandment number 5.

If you roll an 11, recite the first commandment: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

If you shake two 6s, recite the greatest commandment of all: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

If you get it right, you can choose a treat.

Remember – The best way to obey the Ten Commandments is to remember that LOVE is the most important thing of all.

PRAY

- Place the commandment cards on the table.
- Take the paper heart out of the Faith Box.
- Each family member prays, “*I love you Lord, help me obey you*” and then takes a commandment card and tucks it under their big paper heart.

LIVE

Make a LOVE JAR for this week (e.g. stick heart shapes on a jar or container). And every time someone sees another person obeying God’s commandments by doing something loving, put a treat in the heart jar. At the end of the week, share the treats.



OTHER IDEAS

- **Make a mobile** – Write the greatest commands on a piece of cardboard and tape it to a wire coat hanger. All the ten commandments will “hang on these two”. Cut 10 smaller shapes and draw or write a commandment on each. Tape a length of string to them and hang them from the bottom of the coat hanger.
- Do something thoughtful for a neighbour (e.g. bake biscuits or wash their car).
- Teach the Ten Commandments with fun easy hand signals! There are several versions online. One good one is: Ten Commandments Hand Motions on YouTube (<http://youtu.be/N8KDbIUACf4>).

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...

