

## Family Worship at Home. October 31<sup>st</sup> 2021

### Mark 12:28-34 The Great Commandment

**Message:** Do you know the alphabet? Can you say it for me? Or maybe you can sing it! *Allow some time for your children to sing/say the alphabet. Wow, great work! I'm glad you know those letters. Why is the alphabet important?*

Well, these letters serve as the foundation for our language. You have to have letters to make sounds, and then when we put those letters and sounds together, we can make words. When we put words together, we can create sentences and communicate ideas. We can read whole books (*hold up book if using*), and we can write things for one another. We can read the most important book, God's Word, the Bible!

But we have to start with the alphabet! We have to have that as our foundation or the base before we can do anything else with language. You know, there are a lot of things in our lives that require some sort of first-step foundation. For instance, if you're building something, you need to put a foundation down first before you build the rest. If you're making a pizza, you start with the dough, and then put on the toppings. What about in our lives as Christians? What do you think might be the most important thing that Jesus said that we should follow?

Watch clip [Jesus reveals greatest commandment - YouTube](#) / or read story of the Greatest Commandment from a children's Bible.

This is something we see described often in the Bible. Jesus was once asked what the most important commandment is. The people asking Him actually wanted to trick Him, as they had hundreds of rules and commandments they had devised to make themselves look good. However, the response Jesus provided was to quote the Old Testament, saying that the most important thing we can do is to love God with all of who we are. We should love God with our heart, soul, mind and strength. Jesus said this is the greatest commandment. The second-greatest is to love our neighbor. Love God, and love one another. It's not too complicated. Jesus said all of the laws could be summed up by those simple elements. The most essential law is love!

This reminds me of another little letter trick... *Write out the words as you describe, or have the "JOY" acronym already written on paper, white board, or cardstock. We can have true joy when we follow what Christ says here. We should put Jesus first above all things (write "Jesus" on the paper), loving Him with all of who we are and seeking to serve Him in everything we do. Then, we put Others (write "others" vertically) next. Finally, we care for ourselves, but put Yourself (write "yourself") last... Turn paper to display. This is how we can have "JOY"! It's not always easy. Sometimes we might not want to put God first. We might not want to love those around us, especially if they aren't our favorite people or they aren't even very nice! But God can help us to do that.*

J  
O  
Y

Jesus  
Others  
Yourself

God wants us to love Him, because He knows that will bless our lives. And God loves US! He loved us before we were even born, and He will always love us no matter what we do. He wants what is best for us and promises to provide for us. What more can we do than give Him our heart, soul, mind, and strength? Love God, and love one another! Let's pray and thank God for His love, asking for His help in loving others.

Other Clips: [The Most Important Commandment - YouTube](#)  
[Heart, soul and mind - YouTube](#)

Songs: [Love One Another - YouTube](#)  
[Hillsong Kids Jr. - The Greatest Commandment \(Crazy Noise\) - YouTube](#)  
[Greatest commandment | Vlog 10 - YouTube](#)

### Activities: **HEART HUNT:**

Write words from today's Bible verse onto heart shape pieces of paper and hide them around the house. Once all the hearts are found put them into order and take turns saying the Bible verse alone and together as a class. Play game as often as you like.

<sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>31</sup> The second most important command is this: 'Love your neighbor<sup>[b]</sup> the same as you love yourself.'<sup>[c]</sup> These two commands are the most important."