

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

# The Greatest Commandment

from Matthew 22:34-46.

## Jesus tells us to love God and love our neighbors.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Law
- Commandment
- Sadducees
- Soul
- Pharisees
- Neighbor

According to Jewish tradition, there are laws and commands in the Old Testament. These laws tell us how to live and behave at home, at church, the temple, and at work. Jesus summed it all up for us in just two commandments.

## Read the whole story together in the Bible!

*Spark Story Bible* pages 308-311

*Spark Bible* page 1087

## Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us a guide to live by. We want our lives to be pleasing to you. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT



## Family Conversations

- 1 What is the greatest commandment?
- 2 Why do you think Jesus said the second greatest commandment is to "love your neighbor as yourself"?
- 3 Who was trying to trick Jesus?
- 4 Find a few riddles to ask each other. What makes a riddle difficult to answer?



## Eye Spark

Keep an eye out for Bibles this week. Each time you see a Bible, remember that everything in it is summed up in the two commandments Jesus talked about in Matthew 22.



## Ear Spark

Open your ears to buzzes this week. Whenever you hear an alarm clock, a kitchen timer, or buzzer of any type, stop and read Matthew 22:37 out loud. (Hint: write it on a note card and carry it with you.) In a few days you will have it memorized!

## LIVE IT

## For families to do together

Work together to make a neat family poster that can remind you of this great story. Print the greatest and second greatest commandment on a poster board using very large letters. Then, invite everyone in your family to help decorate it. Use markers, crayons, gel pens, stickers, whatever! Hang it in the kitchen or family room as a reminder of how God wants us to live.

## For younger kids

Is there someone at school you have trouble being kind to? Someone you don't get along with at church or in your neighborhood? Make a list of these "neighbors." Do your best to be kind to these neighbors this week and remember Jesus' great commandments.

## For older kids

With adult permission, use an online search engine to learn more about the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Who were these people? Compare how they were similar to and different from each other. Remember that they were neighbors.



# The Greatest Commandment



Jesus smiled. "Love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

# Always Love

The Pharisees were sometimes angry with Jesus, but Jesus always told them the right things about God's love. Find the seven hearts hidden in this picture of Jesus and the Pharisees.



# Unfold God's Love

Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbors as yourselves. As a reminder of the importance of love, make a string of folding hearts. (Using the space above or below the heart, you can also cut out another shape that reminds you of God's love.) First, fold your paper like an accordion on the dotted lines. Make sure the heart shape is on top. Then, cut around the heart shape, keeping the edges connected. Finally, unfold your set of hearts and decorate them to remind you of God's love!

