



Family Church 22 March 2020

Hey Everyone!

Welcome to Family Church 😊. We're really excited that for the next few weeks, we get to hang out in families asking Big Questions to get to know God better.

Every week we will **READ, SING, PRAY, PLAY**. Choose the ideas for teaching and activities that suit your family, and find a time to do them together. Have a great time!

We are continuing with Questions and Answers from our New City Catechism. And the Question and Answer that we are looking at today is:

Q: How does God want me to live?

A: God wants us to live life loving God with everything we've got and loving our neighbour as we would love ourselves. Or simply 'To love God and to love other people'.

Before you start

Pray:

Dear God, thank you that we get to know you, and that we can get to know you together. Help us to listen, learn and love because of what you say. AMEN.

Think:

- What is the rule in your house you like the most? Which one do you find the hardest?
- Why do you think we have rules?

Ideas

- Just talk about your house rules
- Brainstorm some family rules. Write them on a piece of paper and have children choose their favourite. Mark with a smiley face.
- Have a family vote on which is the BEST and why (giving reasons).

Read

Matthew 22:36–40 (International Children’s Bible)

³⁶ [One day, a religious teacher] asked [Jesus], “Teacher, which command in the law is the most important?”

³⁷ Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and most important command. ³⁹ And the second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands.”

Stop and ask:

- Who does Jesus say God wants us to love *most*?
- What needs to come first in my life? Why?
 - Having friends
 - Doing fun things
 - Going to school
 - Playing sport
 - Getting to know and love God
- What do you think Jesus means when he says “Love your neighbour as you love yourself”?
 - How can you show love to someone in your family today?
 - How can you show love to someone even when you don’t see them?
- Has anyone ever been able to fulfil these commands? Who?
- How do God’s rules change: what I think, what I say, what I do?

Bonus questions (especially for older kids):

- What would be missing if Jesus hadn’t said one of the commands? (i.e. if he had only said “Love God” or only “Love your neighbour”)
- What is good about God’s rules? What sometimes makes them hard to keep?
- Do you want to follow these commands? Why or why not?
- Do God’s commands show us that he is a loving God or an unloving God?

Sing

For younger kids:

Colin Buchanan: Love the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4c8vvRMyE4>

CJ and Friends: Love the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdMlxCdIY-c>

For older kids:

10,000 reasons https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRI0E

Pray

Dear God,
We praise you because you are good.
You know the best way for us to live.
Thank you for telling us how to live your way:
to love you and to love other people.
Please help us to love you with our whole self.
Help us to remember how much you love us
and help us to love other people just as you have loved us.
Please help us to look for ways to care for others
in our family and in our community this week.
Amen.

Play

Activity 1 (Primary): Purposeful act of kindness

- Choose a friend from kids church to show love to. Choose one:
 - Call them on the phone (with a parent) and ask if you can pray for them
 - Write a card to them and ask your parents to send it
 - Write a Facebook post with your parents in the St Mark's group to encourage someone at church

Activity 2 (Preschool): Thank you and Building

- Wash your hands, then go around the house looking for things to be thankful to God for.

- For each thing, pray: "Thank you God for _____"
- Build lego houses together. Explain that like the bottom of the house holds it up, these two rules God gives us make our lives stand up strong like a house.
- Find a plant. Talk about how soil makes plants grow up into a healthy, fully grown plant. Explain that through loving God and loving neighbour, God grows us into people who are like Him.

Activity 3 (All ages): A handy reminder

- Get a big piece of paper and draw the outline of everyone's hand in your family. Label each hand. Write down five ways to love God and five ways to love others on the rest of the paper. Draw a star or put a sticker in each person's hand every time someone does one of these things to love God or love others this week.