

SPARK SUNDAY SCHOOL

ACTIVATE FAITH

UPPER ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION



Jesus Teaches: The Greatest Commandments

Lesson Focus: **Love God. Love Others.**

Scripture Reference: **Matthew 22:34-46**

Spark Story Bible Pg. 308

GATHER

Check In with your High & Low for today/this week.

In this lesson, we're going to hear about dancing and a big meal called a banquet.

Question: Have you ever met someone who came across as kind of a know-it-all?

Being really knowledgeable about something is great, but flaunting it over someone isn't so great.

There were folks around Jesus who were really smart about the Bible. The New Testament hadn't been put on paper yet, because it was still happening. But the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible, had been around for several thousand years. And there were people who dedicated their entire lives to knowing and living out what was in the Bible. They were really smart and knew their stuff! This group of people was called the Pharisees. Sometimes Jesus challenged people to look at God's word in the Bible in a different way.

Do your parents give you rules? Why do you think you have rules that you have to live by?

God's rules are like your parents' rules in many ways! But the rules were never meant to *be* God. Here's what I mean: Imagine your parents have a rule that you can't leave your home after 8:00 p.m. Sounds like a good rule, right? But imagine there was a fire in your home at 9:00 p.m. A firefighter showed up to rescue you. You wouldn't tell the firefighter, "Sorry, my mom doesn't let me leave home after 8:00 p.m., so I have to stay here. Thanks anyway!" No! That would be ridiculous, right? And that would be totally against the point that your mom was trying to make by giving you a rule to be home by 8:00 p.m. **So the rules are never meant to get in the way of our love for God or for one other.**

STORY

Let's see what Jesus says to the Pharisees when they challenge him about the rules. Open your Bibles to Matthew 22:34-46.

Read about Jesus Teaching Us the Greatest Commandment.

You can find this in the Spark Story Bible on Pg. 308-309

or look in the NRSV Matthew 22:34-46 or listen to the story online.

RESPOND

Check out these activities:

Fortunate Faith

Who Is My Neighbor?

Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Who is your neighbor? A neighbor can be a child, an old person, a family member, a friend—even an enemy. A neighbor is anyone that you meet!

...bor? That's your challenge...
...below. Grab a partner...

Laws Pharisees Followed

The laws the Pharisees followed were written to Jesus was born. You can find them in Leviticus.

MEMORY VERSE

Look up **Matthew 22:37** This is our Memory Verse for today.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

SEND

Responding to God's Word

*These are ways God uses us to come back for others!
Sometimes the best way to come back is to go out!*

To: _____ From: _____ Date: _____

I want to:

- ___ Rake, shovel, pull weeds, clean or haul recycling for a neighbor who can't.
- ___ Write "HDTSMFLG" (How does this show my love for God?) on your hand.
- ___ Recycle your old soles: check the local sporting goods store for a sneaker collection bin.
- ___ Go online to read about neighbors in another country.
- ___ Taste a food that is new to you
- ___ Write a special prayer for God
- ___ Write out the Memory Verse & doodle around it in your Faith Formation Journal
- ___ Write out the Memory Verse and place it somewhere you will see it often
- ___ Give you a big hug!
- ___ Invite you to worship with you (outside or online) or invite them to Sunday School with you
- ___ Pray for _____
- ___ Say "I'm sorry"
- ___ Read this story again in my Bible
- ___ My own idea: _____

PRAY

God, help us to love you and all humankind. Amen!