

Welcome to faith formation support as we learn to **Love Like Jesus**.

**Theme for May:** Getting Started with the Way of Love

**SCRIPTURE:** The Greatest Commandment

*Mark 12:28-34*

One of the teachers of the Law of Moses came up while Jesus and the Sadducees were arguing. When he heard Jesus give a good answer, he asked him, “What is the most important commandment?” Jesus answered, “The most important one says: ‘People of Israel, you have only one Lord and God. You must love him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.’ The second most important commandment says: ‘Love others as much as you love yourself.’ No other commandment is more important than these.”

**Summary:** Someone asked Jesus, "What's the most important commandment?" Jesus answered, "Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself."

### **FOR ELEMENTARY AGED CHILDREN (5-10)**

#### **The Big Idea**

“Loving God isn’t just a feeling—it’s something we do with our whole life: what we care about, what we think about, what we choose, and how we act.”

You might say: “Jesus is telling us that loving God includes our hearts (what we love), our minds (what we think about), our strength (what we do), and our whole selves (who we are).”

#### **Dinner Conversation Starters**

Keep it simple and reflective—aim for conversation, not “right answers.”

- “What’s one way you showed love to someone today?”
- “What’s something you’re thankful to God for today?”
- “What’s something you spent a lot of time thinking about today?” (connect to “mind”)
- “What’s one thing you did with your energy or strength today that felt good or helpful?”
- “Was there a moment today where it was hard to choose love?”

You can also tie it directly to the scripture: “Which part is easiest for you—loving God with your heart, mind, or strength? Which is hardest?”

## **Prayer at Meals**

Dear God, thank you for this food and for caring for us. Help us love you with our whole hearts: in what we care about, with our minds: in what we think about, and with our strength: in what we do each day. Help us love others the same way. Amen.

## **Simple Activity Idea (Optional but Helpful)**

### **“Heart, Mind, Strength Check-In” (2 minutes)**

At dinner or before bed, go around and share:

- One thing you *loved* today (heart)
- One thing you *learned or thought about* (mind)
- One thing you *did* (strength)

This reinforces the scripture naturally without feeling like a lesson.

## **Bedtime Prayer**

*You can also ask them to make up their own prayers based on the scripture.*

Dear God, thank you for today. Thank you for the things we loved, learned, and did. Help us love you with our whole hearts, our whole minds, and all our strength. Forgive us when we forget to choose love, and help us try again tomorrow. Amen.