

Date: 11-4-18

Theme: The Two Most Important Rules

Scripture: Matthew 22: 34-46

(Note: In the *Whirl Story Bible* this Scripture passage is also listed as Mark 12: 28-34. The two passages are similar but not identical in translations that stick close to the original text. The sermon text for the day is actually Mark 12: 28-34.)

Materials and Preparation:

- a. Have makers on hand for the white board or use magic markers and the paper on the easel in the resource room.
- b. Two 5 to 6 foot lengths of mural paper (available on rolls in the resource room).
- c. You'll need a black magic marker. You might want to have a red or blue marker (in addition to the black marker) when it comes to writing on the "Love Mural."
- d. Masking tape (to mount the murals on the wall).
- e. The New Revised Standard Version of today's Bible text is copied for your convenience on page 3 below; it may be of interest to you as background information.

Vocabulary Words: rules, commandments

Objective: To help students understand the two most important rules to live by.

Opening: Have the students recite the Lord's Prayer (they may need to repeat each line after you)

Reading:

Do you have to follow any rules at home? Can you give an example? Do you have to follow any rules at school? Can you give an example? Why do we need to have rules?

Today we are going to learn about the two most important rules of all.

Read Matthew 22: 34-46 (*Whirl Story Bible* or *Spark Story Bible*)

Questions to discuss

As the class discusses the questions, write brief answers on the white board or use an easel (one is available in the resource room).

1. What are the two most important rules or commandments?
2. What does it mean to love God? How do we love God?
3. Why does Jesus say that we should love God with our *hearts*, our *souls*, and our *minds*?
4. Jesus says, "Love your neighbor." Who is your neighbor? Is it the person who lives next door?
5. Can we love people even if we don't like them?
6. Jesus says, "Love your neighbor AS YOURSELF." How can we love ourselves? (By taking good care of ourselves? What are some ways we can take care of ourselves?)

Activity: “Love Murals”

1. Have two students lie down on the sheets of mural paper. Draw an outline around them, including head, arms, hands, legs, and feet. Then tape the sheets of paper to the wall, using masking tape.
2. Draw ears, eyes, nose, mouth, fingers and a heart on the two figures.
3. Ask the following questions; as the students answer the questions, make brief notes on the murals (with arrows to the relevant body parts).
 - a. How can we love God or others with our mouths? (Singing hymns, praying, reading a story to others; speaking respectfully)
 - b. How can we love God or others with our eyes? (Reading the Bible—as we just did; looking out for children; enjoying and appreciating the beauty of God’s creation)
 - c. How can we love God or others with our ears? (Listening in church; listening to others when they talk)
 - d. How can we use our heads (minds) to love God or others? (Learning about Jesus; thinking of ways to help others)
 - e. How can we use our hearts to love God or others? (Praising God; telling your parents you love them)
 - f. How can we use our hands to love God or others? (Helping to clean up at home; picking up toys and clothes)
 - g. How can we use our feet to love God or others? (Appreciating God’s creation while hiking; moving quickly to help someone)

Closing: Ask the students to name one thing they could do in the coming week to love God and others. Offer a prayer that God would help us all remember that loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves are the two most important rules to live by.

Offering: Have students hold up the “Love Murals” before the congregation. Ask students a sample of the above questions, that is, some of (a) through (g), in front of the congregation. (The notes on the sheets of mural paper should help the students give specific answers, but be sure to have the students rehearse their answers before they give them in front of the congregation.)

Teachers: The New Revised Standard Version of today's Bible lesson is copied here for your convenience, as helpful background information. (The NRSV stays closer to the original Greek text than does the *Whirl Story Bible* or the *Spark Story Bible*.) I do not recommend having the students read from the NRSV but it may be of interest to you.

Matthew 22: 34-46 (NRSV) ³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." ⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? ⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.