

*First Parish Congregational Church
Sunday School for All Activities
March 22, 2020*

Mark 12:28-34

Main Point: Love God with your heart, soul, mind, & strength and love your neighbor as yourself.

REINFORCE

DIY STORY BIBLE

What you'll need:

Coloring page for this week (attached to the bottom of this document)

Three-prong folder (that they already have at church)

Students in the elementary school class are make their own story Bible as we navigate the Gospel of Mark! Each week students color a page that matches the story. If you would like me to send you printed copies of the coloring pages or any other printouts, please e-mail, text or call me: cedirector@fpc-ucc.org, 264-9261. When they are finished coloring their page, we will put it into their three-prong folder.

WHAT IS LOVE?

"We've talked a bit before about how when God tells us to love each other, the important part of that is to love people with our actions.

We are all in this together and we all need to receive help on a regular basis in our lives, too. So, we are to have compassion with those who are struggling because we also have compassion with ourselves, knowing that we, too, need help sometimes, as well.

Today we are going to help someone stand up, but as you do so, they are also going to help you stand up as well. This will be a fun way to think about how love and help always go both ways."

You may have done this with your class before, but it's a great way to get their whole selves involved in thinking about the idea of help and love always going both ways. We help others stand as they help us stand. Have kids find a partner, then sit on the floor back-to-back with their arms looped together. When they are both ready, they'll try to stand up together. Have them mix it up with different partners when they are done. ****We tried this at home and is pretty challenging, don't get discouraged if it doesn't work right away. Try starting out in a squat first if starting out sitting is too difficult. *****

CRAFT: THE LOVE CONNECTION

What you'll need:

Heart template (attached to the bottom of this document)

Red construction paper

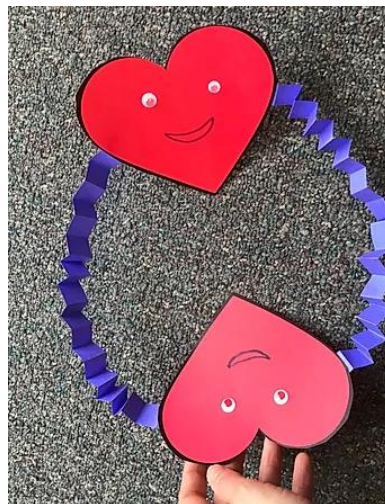
Another color construction paper

Googly eyes

Markers

Glue

Stapler



Ahead of time, print the heart templates out onto paper so that each student has one sheet with two hearts on it. Next, cut strips of the other color construction paper (the shorter side of the paper for shorter strips) so that each kid has 4 strips.

"Loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving our neighbor as ourselves are connected to each other. A big way we love God is by loving each other and taking care of each other - especially those with the most need in our communities and in our world. Our craft today is of heart people connected to each other to remind us of how our connection with each other reflects our connection with God."

First, they can decorate their hearts however they'd like, adding the googly eyes, the rest of a face, and anything else. Then they can cut their hearts out. Next, they'll fold all four of their strips of paper like an accordion and glue two strips on each heart like arms. Finally, they'll attach the arms together, either using more glue or a stapler to be more secure.

SERVE WITH LOVE – ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

LOVE CARDS

What you'll need:

Card stock

Markers/Crayons

Other decorations like stickers and glitter pens

"There are so many ways to love our neighbor as ourselves! As one example, today we are going to make bright and happy cards to send to kids who are in the hospital and have to stay there for a long time. These cards are going to try to bring a little more joy into their lives and remind them that they are not alone. Let's try to make the pictures on our cards be as bright and cheerful as we can, okay?"

For more information on how to make the cards and where to send them when you are done, go to Caitlin's Smiles website at: <http://www.caitlins-smiles.org/kits.php>

VIDEO ON STRENGTH – MIDDLE SCHOOLERS TO ADULT

"Jesus says that the most important law we are to follow is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, & strength. When he says this, he is actually quoting the Old Testament and a pretty important part of Jewish life. But do you think they spoke English in Israel back then? (pause for responses) No, they did not. Our Bible is translated from the original languages they were written in. Does anyone know which language our New Testament is translated from? (pause for any guesses) Ancient Greek. Does anyone want to guess at the original language of the Old Testament? (pause for any guesses) Hebrew. Hebrew was (and is today) the language of the Jewish people in Israel.

We are going to watch a short video on the original Hebrew word for 'strength' in the law that Jesus is talking about. It has some great insights into what Jesus is saying for our own lives."

Watch this video from The Bible Project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aaVy1AmFX4>

DISCIPLESHIP – ELEMENTARY OR MIDDLE SCHOOL

FAITH STORY PROMPTS

As kids are working on a project, you can tell them a story about your faith as it relates to our story about Jesus saying that the greatest law is to love God and love each other.

- Tell kids examples of how you have loved God with your heart, soul, mind, and strength. You could also tell examples of where you've seen other people do it.
- Talk about a time when you felt connected to God as you helped someone (reinforce that helping others is a way to love God).
- How do you feel when you don't love/help others well?

DISCIPLESHIP TAKEAWAY (TOOLS FOR YOUR CHRISTIAN TOOLBOX)

ELEMENTARY OR MIDDLE SCHOOL

"Jesus said that loving God and loving each other was the most important law of all of the hundreds of laws. That's a pretty big deal! As Christians, this guides our whole lives. Not just on Sundays or when we do service projects - loving God and each other is something we keep in mind as we talk to people, or as we decide what to do today, or what kind of person we want to grow up to be. It's a part of everything we do! Because it's so important we are going to try to memorize it so it will always be with you."

Work with the kids to have them memorize: 'Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, & strength and love your neighbor as yourself.' If it's not going well with your group, give them help by shortening it to: 'Love God and love each other!' If this is what you choose to use, have them say it with some enthusiasm.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT JESUS? (MIDDLE SCHOOLERS WORKING ON THIS IN CLASS)

What you'll need:

The big paper on your wall from last week

A Marker

"What do we know about Jesus based on the story today where he tells us that the most important thing we do is love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves?"

- Jesus knows the Jewish faith and laws really well
- Jesus knows what's really important about faith - loving God and loving each other

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

- What are some of the ways you all already love God with your heart, with your soul, with your mind, and with your strength?
- What are some of the ways you all already love your neighbor as yourself?
- Why do you think loving God and loving each other are so connected? (Because God loves us all the same so when we hurt people that God loves it hurts God. When others hurt us it hurts God. When we help others God feels as grateful as a parent when someone helps their child in need.)

Mark 12:28-34

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and love your neighbor as yourself



