

## BIBLE STORY

### The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13

## MEMORY VERSE

**"Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith."**

Hebrews 12:2a, NIV

## BOTTOM LINE

**You can LIVE for God by loving others.**

## 1. REFLECTION

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Mirrors, "Reflect Cards" (Activity Page attached)

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Select one person to be the actor.
- Give everyone a mirror, except for the actor.
- Explain the game of charades. To play:
  - Have your back facing the actor.
  - Use the mirror to see the actor.
  - Actors will act out words from the "Reflect Cards" without making a sound.
  - Guess the "word"
  - Switch actors each round, making sure everyone gets a chance to be an actor.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you look in a mirror, what do you see? You see yourself, right? But in our game of charades, if you focused on yourself, you couldn't see the actor. It is like that when we want to LIVE for God. We have to look past ourselves and focus on ways to love others. When you look beyond yourselves, **you can LIVE for God by loving others.** But what does it look like to love others?"

Can anyone remember some of the ways Paul described love in our story today?

*(option - open a Bible to 1 Corinthians 13 and read verses 4-8a. Love is patient, kind, not selfish, not boastful, looks out for others, treats others with respect.)*

When we love others and put others before ourselves, we are actually reflecting God's love to them."

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## 2. LOOKING, LOOKING

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, "Looking, Looking Cards" (Activity Pages attached), mirrors, pencils

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a set of "Looking, Looking Cards," and a pencil.
- Lead kids to hold the cards up to the mirrors to "decode" the words and then write them on the bottom half of the card.
- When they finish, challenge them to put the cards in order. They can use their Bibles to help.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Hebrews 12:2 NIV says: *Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith.* God sent Jesus to show us how to have faith in God—how to trust Him. God also sent Jesus to show us how He wants us to live.

"One way God wants us to live is by loving others. We say it this way: you can LIVE for God by loving others. So, what are some ways that you can show God's love to others? (Pause.) Great ideas! So, remember: **you can LIVE for God by loving others.**"

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## PRAYER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Focus Notebooks (with 3D glasses) OR index cards; markers/pencils

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Focus Notebook or index card.
  - Encourage kids to use the 3D glasses and look on page 18 to read the Bottom Line for today.
  - Ask kids to turn to page 19 in their Focus Notebooks.
  - Ask kids to write on the top of page 19, "One way I can show love to someone this week is . . ."
- Note: If you have younger kids, you can pre-write it for them, or quickly write it for them in the moment.*
- Encourage kids to think of something they can do this week to love others.
  - Give kids the freedom to use words or drawings to finish the sentence.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you take a closer look at the people around you, you see ways **you can LIVE for God by loving others**. Maybe you love others by encouraging them with a kind note, or you love others by baking them cookies to let them know you were thinking of them. Maybe you show love to a friend by helping them with homework or show love to your sibling by spending time with them. Spend time this week looking for ways **you can LIVE for God by loving others**. Let's pray.

"God, You love us so much! Every one of us is important to You! Help us to see ways we can love others. Open our eyes to ways we can show people they matter to us and—more importantly—that they matter to You. Amen!"