Lesson 2: I Will Love God (1st Commandment)

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn that God wants us to love Him completely by studying Matthew 22:36-38 & Mark 12:28-30
- 2) Understand the benefits of putting God first; John 3:16-17, 15:5, Philippians 4:19, Romans 8:31
- 3) Determine different ways we can show our love for and to God.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Lesson Review Visual Aids one for teacher to share at the beginning of each class
- Put God First Activity Sheets one set per student
- Large Easel or Piece of Paper one for class to share
- Marker to share

Optional:

Masking Tape – for teacher

Snack:

- Heart-shaped Fruit (like strawberries)
- Napkins
- Water/Cup

a few for each student

one per student

one per student

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at the picture, name what happened for the lesson we have already studied, and what we learned from that lesson.





Lesson 1: We should stay focused on Jesus. We do so by 1) getting rid of things that stop us from focusing 2) we work in all things with Jesus in mind, and 3) we think of Jesus throughout the day.

2) I Will Love the Lord

15 minutes

Before Class: Have a large sheet of paper with a marker or an easel to use to write for the class to see.



Say: Today we are going to focus our eyes on God. We are going to learn what the greatest commandment is and what that means for us today. Does anyone know what the greatest commandment is? Let students answer.

Let's turn to Mark 12:28-30 and find out. Help students as needed, provide Bibles for those who do not have one. Read the verses.

Mark 12:28-30

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

What did Jesus say is the greatest commandment? Love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Matthew also records this in his gospel as well	
In a row draw on the easel a large heart	, then cloud , and finally an
arm with a big muscle.	

Point to the heart and say: When we love God with our heart, that means we love Him with all our emotional ability and with our attitudes – It's spending time with Him in prayer, study, and meditation. It is wanting to be with Him and learn from Him. It is enjoying spending time worshiping Him and praising Him for all the good things He does for you. It is being honest to God with our feelings, fears, joys, and life.

It's wanting to please God and make Him happy because He deserves it!

Point to the cloud and inside the cloud write "soul" say: our soul is our inner being, our spiritual side. Everyone has one but some deny it, some ignore it, and some don't understand how our soul really works because they do not learn what God wants. When we love God with all our soul, we love Him and put Him first – even before ourselves. We acknowledge our need to connect with God and that He provides us an eternal soul to be with Him forever in heaven! It is learning how to care for our souls and taking the time to do so, so we know what pleases God, what is obedience to God, and how to love God. Our bodies will decay and die, but our souls are the most important thing as that is what lives on after we die. That is what connects us with God. All animals have a mind, emotions, and strength. But only humans have a soul.

Point to the caption and write in it "mind" say: **our mind is how and what we think.** What do we fill our mind with? Do we focus on God? Do we renew our mind daily and dedicate our thoughts and attitudes toward pleasing God? It is concentrating on Him and His will, purpose, Word and plans for us. It is making the effort to go to worship on Sunday, Bible lessons, saying "no" to bad things, etc.

Point to the muscle and write in it "strength" say: Our strength is our energy, time, effort. It requires us to take care of ourselves and get proper rest, exercise and to eat healthy so we have the strength to serve God in various ways – helping others, doing our best in school, obeying parents, studying the Bible, etc.

If we aren't taking care of ourselves properly, then we cannot serve God properly because we won't have the strength.

What happens if you don't get a good night's sleep? Wake up with no energy, grumpy, etc.

How would that affect loving God with all our strength? We wouldn't be able to do our best and we might sin in that we are grumpy towards others because we are tired.

What happens if we don't eat well? We get tired, sick, overweight, grumpy, etc.

How would that affect loving God with all our strength? We wouldn't have the energy, we might not be able to help because we'd be too unhealthy, tired, or sick, etc.

What happens if we don't get exercise to stay strong? We can't do physical things that need to be done.

How would that affect loving God with all our strength – for example helping someone move? We might not be able to help because we'd be too weak to carry boxes, too low on energy to be able to work for long.

Loving God with all our strength is using actions - singing, serving, giving, sharing, etc.

Do you see how loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength takes dedication, care, persistence and balancing our health, family, friends, and most importantly God? In order to be our best for God we need to take care of ourselves properly, not over eat, not eat bad food, not stay up late, not be lazy. We need to focus on Jesus, read the Bible to build our mind and soul, we need to pray to build our relationship with God and fill our heart with love for Him...

Jesus teaches us how to love God completely – with our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Our entire life, character, attitude, and behaviors must focus on loving God. Under each category on the paper, let's list ways we can love God with their heart (heart), soul (cloud), mind (caption), and strength (muscle). Ask students to raise hands and write one or two ways to love under each category. See above for ideas if needed.

Why are each of these an important way to love God? Let students answer Does God love us this greatly? Let students answer – turn to John 3:16-17 if they need help in answering.

Why do you think it is so important for us to love God so completely? Why do you think it is important to express our love to God in different ways? Not just with words but through our actions and feelings?

Loving God completely means honoring Him, obeying and following Him, learning about God and studying His Word and keeping God as the ultimate focus of our lives. Not just when we are worshiping Him at Sunday services, but all the time.

3) Put God First Activity Sheet

20-30 minutes

Hand out one set of the activity sheet to each student. Wait to hand out pencils until you have gone through the directions.

Today we are learning about putting God first. There are many ways we can do that. Some of them are listed in the word search on this activity sheet. These include words that we can use to describe actions we should have towards God that are loving. As well, it includes words that we can use to describe how we should love others. By loving others we also love God by obeying His words which say we should love others. There are two activities on the first page. Let's take some time to work on them. You can start with the word search or you can do the next activity that is a break the code game. Use the code at the top to find out what the greatest commandment is. For instance if you see two pictures under a line you look for the first picture at the top going across, then

Use the code to find out what the greatest commandment is.

| State |

the second picture shows you what row of letters you can pick from. Match the two pictures

together to find the letter you should write down on that line. Continue going until you have cracked the code!

Before we begin I am going to ask us all to look at the word search and read the words at the bottom aloud so we all know what loving words we are looking for. Then we can all start. You can start with the word search or the break the code.

When students are done, ask for a volunteer to read the break the code phrase out loud. Then help any student who made a mistake to fix it, then have them turn the page.

Read the back page aloud together. Read a verse, have them circle the benefit(s) of that verse for people who put God first and then let them draw a picture that relates to the verse. Help as needed.

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Answers:

Eternal Life, Salvation

Bear Fruit – Do Good, have a purpose, be useful and beneficial to God Our needs will all be met – food, clothing, shelter, love, care, etc. God will be for us – take care of us, help us, protect, guide us, lead us.

4) Learning to Love God Completely Lesson Review

5 minutes

Say: What did we learn today? Let students answer.

How do we love God completely? With all our heart, mind, soul and strength.

What are some of the benefits of putting God first? Eternal life, salvation, God's care, bearing fruit – meaning being useful, having a purpose, finding meaning in our lives, etc.

What are some ways we can express our love for God today? Sing songs of praise, pray, serving and helping others, obeying Him, loving Jesus, forgiving others, etc.

Optional questions to ask:

What did you like best about today's Bible reading?

What questions do you have about today's lesson?

5) Optional: Hop Game

5-10 minutes

Before class gather masking tape and marker.

During class put four lines of tape on the floor in a line so that students can hop to each one (approximately 2 feet apart).

For each line write: Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength.

Say to students: **Let's line up in a row in front of the taped pieces. Can someone read the words on the tape?** Let students answer.

Remember the Scripture we have been studying today? I want you to take turns hopping from each word, saying them as you go. Starting with "I will love God with all my....heart, soul, mind, and strength!" Let each student take a turn, helping as needed, reminding them to start with the phrase "I will love God with all my..." You can let students go again if time.

6) I Will Follow Songs

5-10 minutes

If time choose songs that relate to this lesson from the "I Will Follow Songs" sheets.

7) Optional: Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **John 14:6** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: "*I am the way*" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point ahead when you say "the way", point to their Bibles when they say "truth", etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

8) Optional - Snack: Heart Shaped Fruit

5 minutes

*Before Class: Prepare fruit pieces in heart shapes. You can cut a strawberry in half from top to bottom to create two heart shape pieces.

Hand out a few pieces to each student, ensuring you check for allergies first. Say, **this snack is to remind us about our lesson today**. **Raise your hand if you remember what our lesson was about?** We are to love God and put Him first with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. **As we eat our snack, let's think of ways we can love God and put Him first.** Let students come up with answers. Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands if needed. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking. What did they like best about today's Bible reading? What questions do they have about today's lesson?

9) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank You Lord for all You provide us. Thank You for Your Son who died so we can live for eternity with You in Heaven. Forgive us when we sin and help us to learn Your words by looking in the Bible. Help us to take the time to devote and dedicate our lives to You, with all our mind, soul, heart and strength. For You are worthy, good, awesome and loving towards us. Give us wisdom Lord so we can serve others and You, even now at our young age. Pray for those who could not be here today, and pray for those here who have special issues in their life. Be with them, guide, comfort, and bless them. Help us to stay focused on Jesus and make the right choices this week. In Jesus' name, amen.