

October 2021  
Ordinary Time  
Proper 26



# The Diocesan Sunday School Teacher



## Welcome

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Greetings My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Our theme for this week is: Love Is Greater Than Sacrifice.

Our lessons begin with Moses sharing the law by which all Jews were to live. In today's portion, they were commanded to follow the law, and to love God with their whole being.

The psalmist reminds us of the happiness that comes to those who obey the law and love God.

When one disobeyed the law, they offered animal sacrifices for sin. But in the letter to the Hebrews, we hear that Jesus our great high priest, has offered himself as the ultimate sacrifice, given once for our sins. God sent Jesus to save us because God loves us, and Jesus offers his life out of love for us. His sacrifice of love is greater than any animal sacrifice we could have given to cover our sins.

As Jesus engaged the scribe in the gospel, that religious scholar came to recognise, that loving God, and our neighbours as ourselves is the most important thing that we can do. When we love we do not seek to hurt each other, nor offend God, therefore, we would reduce the reasons for needing to offer sin sacrifices. However, when we fall short, we can look to Christ, our great high priest, to rescue us by the eternal sacrifice he made on our behalf.

Blessings,  
The Sunday School Team



## Collect & Readings

### Memory Verses:

St. Mark 12: 29-31  
The Greatest  
Commandments:

'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

### The Collect

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9  
Psalm 119:1-8  
Hebrews 9:11-14  
Mark 12:28-34

## *The First Lesson (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)*

Moses said: Now this is the commandment--the statutes and the ordinances--that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children's children, may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

### QUESTIONS:

Where was Moses and the people of Israel when the laws were given?

What would happen to the people if they obeyed the laws?

What were the things that the people were to do with the laws?

How do we observe the laws today?

### BIBLE STUDY: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Moses spoke the words of the laws to the Israelites gathered by the River Jordan, as they prepared to cross over into the Promised Land. If they were obedient they would be rewarded with long life, prosperity and growth in the land.

The Lord God alone is their God. The people were to serve God and God alone was to have exclusive claim on Israel's love and loyalty.

The laws that Moses was sharing were to be internalized (to be kept in their hearts) and to be taken personally (bound to their foreheads) and pervade every aspect of their lives (write and recite them).

### ACTIVITY:

Imagine that you were one of the children with your parents at the River Jordan waiting to cross over. Write a letter to Moses telling him how you have tried to follow God's instructions for living as God desires.

[The Ten Commandments Bible Video For Kids |](#)

## *Psalms 119:1-8*

- 1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, \* who walk in the law of the Lord!
- 2 Happy are they who observe his decrees \* and seek him with all their hearts!
- 3 Who never do any wrong, \* but always walk in his ways.
- 4 You laid down your commandments, \* that we should fully keep them.
- 5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct \* that I might keep your statutes!
- 6 Then I should not be put to shame, \* when I regard all your commandments.
- 7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, \* when I have learned your righteous judgments.
- 8 I will keep your statutes; \* do not utterly forsake me.



The psalmist reminds us of the happiness that surrounds the person who chooses to persevere in walking in the ways of the Lord and obeying the laws.

## *The Second Lesson (Hebrews 9:11-14)*

Christ has come as our great high priest and has offered himself as an unblemished sacrifice for all humanity. The single action of Christ frees us from the old purification methods of repeatedly sacrificing the blood of animals, and now we can live fully for God.

When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

### **BIBLE STUDY: Hebrews 9:11-14**

The writer to the Hebrews continues to teach about the superior nature of Christ our high priest.

Unlike human high priests, Christ was not limited to human trappings nor a human body, neither did he need to sacrifice goat and calf blood. Instead, Christ made a single sacrifice. He offered himself on a cross for all time and for all of humanity.

The old rituals of purification to clean our religion and behaviour had to be done over and over as we sinned each day. But now Christ has come and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice who is without any sin, and any kind of blemish. The sacrifice of Christ frees us from all the old ways of purification, and we can now put those aside. Through Christ we can now live fully for God.



Jesus told a religious scholar that love was the number one or greatest commandment.

We should love God with all that we are, our mind, heart and soul – our whole being, and love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

#### QUESTIONS:

What were some of the things used in the old purification rituals

Do we need to continue to offer these for our sins?

How does Christ save us?

#### ACTIVITY:

The Atonement Lamb Colouring Pages:

<http://www.anglicandioceseja.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/The-Atonement-Lamb-Colouring-Pages-Proper-26.pdf>

## *Gospel (St. Mark 12:28-34)*

One of the scribes came near and heard the Sadducees disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?”

Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’ —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

# St. Mark 12:28-34 Cont.



## BIBLE STUDY:

A religious scholar stood watching as Jesus answered representatives of the Sadducees. They were one of the Jewish religious groups; the others mentioned in scripture are the Pharisees, Essenes and the Zealots.

The scholar asked Jesus which commandment was the number one commandment. Our minds may have gone to the ten commandments or decalogue, but that is only a portion of the laws or commandments that the Jews obey.

The portion recited by Jesus forms part of the shema, or Jewish morning and evening prayers. A faithful Jew was to recite it daily, so that one day, they would experience the kingdom of God.

Jesus extended the requirements to include love of neighbour as one loves oneself. The scholar was so delighted with Jesus' answer that he exclaimed, that doing all that Jesus said, was better than any sacrifice or offering.

When we love, we do not hurt each other. If we love God and each other, then we would not sin against them, and have no need to offer sacrifices and offerings to cover the sins that we commit against them.

Jesus recognized that this religious scholar was headed in the right direction and commended him.

## QUESTIONS

Who does Jesus say that we are to love?

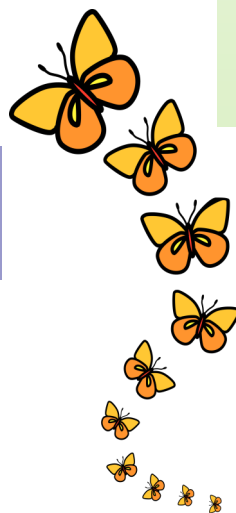
How do we show love to God?

Who is our neighbour?  
How do we show love to our neighbours?

How do we show love to ourselves?

## Activity: Word Search

St. Mark 12:28-34



C	O	M	P	A	N	Y	T	W	T	Y	Y	V	T
R	O	R	R	T	Y	G	Q	Z	D	D	V	N	E
I	I	M	O	Q	W	E	R	O	Y	C	A	D	A
F	Z	X	M	Q	Z	E	G	N	I	T	T	O	D
S	R	L	S	A	V	B	V	R	R	Y	U	I	A
E	I	O	H	A	N	D	P	O	W	E	R	B	R
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F	I	S	C	R	I	B	E	E	H	T	Y	C	A
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B	S	Y	O	A	R	I	L	Q	S	A	T	Y	S
V	H	T	O	S	F	N	A	W	E	T	E	I	N
Y	W	R	D	I	Z	Q	B	E	U	E	T	N	O
H	E	A	R	T	Y	W	R	Q	Q	S	U	B	I

Wisely Offerings Good Questions Dared Lord Important Law  
Scribe Sacrifices Jesus Kingdom Love God Commandments Heart

We hope you found this newsletter informative and useful.

Please feel free to share it with others.

We extend our thanks to all the persons who assisted in the preparation of this newsletter.

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