

## Love Matters Most

Grades 3-4: Week One

### The Great Commandment - Matthew 22:35-40 (ICB)

Jesus' ministry or work lasted only 3½ years. During this time He was popular with His followers, but many who didn't follow Jesus doubted Him and were against His teachings. Two groups of people who doubted Jesus' teachings were the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees were big rule-followers. The problem was that they followed the religious rules and laws so closely that they forgot the *most* important law, the law about love. They didn't always care about others; only about making sure everyone followed the rules. For the Pharisees, it was all about how they looked on the outside and not the inside. This bothered Jesus. He thought they were hypocrites. A hypocrite is someone who says one thing and does something different. There were also these guys called the Sadducees. They were priests who only believed in written law and didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God.

One particular Pharisee was an expert at the Law. (The Law is taught in the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.) This Pharisee asked Jesus a question. He wanted to know which commandment from the Law was the greatest and most important. Jesus answered him by saying, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second command is like the first: love your neighbor as you love yourself. All of the other laws written by prophets depend on these two commands." After listening to Jesus that day, these religious leaders didn't dare ask Him another question. They were astonished by His wisdom and knowledge.

## Best Friends Forever

### Store It

I may speak in different languages  
of men or even angels.  
but if I do not have love, then I am only a noisy  
bell or a ringing cymbal.

I Corinthians 13: 1 (ICB)

### The Big Idea

Love matters most. The religious Pharisee knew all of the laws, but had forgotten how to show love to others. He wanted to trick Jesus to see if He would say anything against the Law. Jesus knew the man was trying to trick Him, and so Jesus challenged him with the greatest commandment, which was to do two things: to love God, and to love others. Jesus knew the religious leader was an expert at rules, but Jesus wanted him to be an expert at loving others! Jesus is the ultimate example of a BFF because He always did everything in the most loving way.

### Let's Apply It!

How can we love like Jesus? It is not easy to do. Love is a feeling *and* an action. The key to being a BFF is not just telling someone you love them but *showing* them as well. Remember that Jesus said that we need to love others just as much as we love ourselves. How can we show love to others? That is a challenge that we get to live out daily! Being loving is more important than being popular, famous, smart or the best athlete. God wants you to love Him with all of your heart, soul and mind, and to love others. A BFF knows that love matters most.

## LET'S CONNECT

I HAVE A...

PRAYER REQUEST

QUESTION

COMMENT

Please write your prayer requests, questions and/or comments on the back.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks for coming  
this weekend!  
We hope you had  
a great time.  
We will see you soon!



## Live It Out CHALLENGE!

Jesus says that LOVE MATTERS MOST!

He says that it is the greatest commandment. This week, think about how you can love God and others better.

Write down how you showed God that you loved Him, and how you showed others that you loved them. How did it feel to show others that LOVE MATTERS MOST? Bring it back to church next week and share it with a leader.



## BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

A <3 SERIES BASED ON 1 CORINTHIANS 13: 1,4-7

