

OCTOBER 25, 2020



Children's Message

LOVE • LECTIONARY 30

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST • YEAR A

TODAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 📖 • Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 📖 • Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 📖 • Psalm 1 📖
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 • **Matthew 22:34-46**

Select one of these options to create a children's message to fit kids' interests and gifts and your congregation's size and sanctuary features. You can finish your time together with the prayer.

READ THE STORY

Place a bookmark on page 254 in the Whirl Story Bible. Read the story. Wonder about why the Pharisees were always trying to trick Jesus. Talk about who your neighbor is. What are some ways you can love your neighbor? What are some ways you can love God?

WONDER ABOUT THE STORY

As a group, sort the Ten Commandments under the two kinds of love Jesus talks about: "Loving God" and "Loving Neighbor." Have kid-friendly versions of the commandments written in large print on strips of paper that can be easily arranged under the two headings. Make the lists on the floor or use tape and stick them vertically so everyone can see.

SEE THE STORY

Hold up your hand with fingers spread wide. Using five fingers, review and memorize Jesus' message. The thumb is *Love God*. First, second, and third fingers are *with your heart, soul, and mind*. Pinky is *Love Your Neighbor*.

SHARE THE STORY

Have a treasure hunt through the sanctuary to find paper hearts of all colors. (Make sure you have time to prepare and place them before the service.) Write "Love God" on one side of the heart and "Love Neighbor" on the other side. Ask kids to find them and then share them with people in the congregation.

ENTER THE OLD TESTAMENT STORIES

If you're reading Deuteronomy 34:1-12 today . . . Talk about all the stories the group can collectively remember about Moses. Hold up some visual cues, such as a baby in a basket, a picture of the burning bush, and sandals. Remind them that Moses had an important job—to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let God's people go.

If you're reading Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 today . . . Ask the kids what kinds of rules they have to follow in school or during activities. Why are there rules? Safety? Kindness? Order? Why would God have rules for us? How might they help us live well? How might they help keep us safe? Encourage us to be kind? Give some order to our days?

WONDER ABOUT THE SEASON

It's the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation! If your congregation is celebrating Reformation Sunday, make sure you note what is different in the sanctuary. Red is the color of celebration and it symbolizes the Holy Spirit! Talk about why you celebrate this day in the church year. What does *reform* mean, and how is your church community reforming?

PRAYER

Fold your arms over your heart and give thanks for the love of God and the love of others. If you have time, look online to learn how to sign this prayer in American Sign Language (ASL). *Thank you, love, God, and people* are the signs you would need.

