

Love the Lord Your God

The Map (Lesson Point and Bible Verse)

Love God with your whole self.

"Love the Lord your God."
(Deuteronomy 6:5a, NIV)



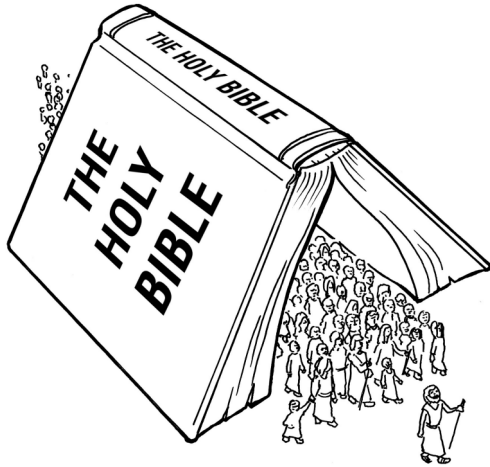
Treasures in the Desert (Object Lesson)

Place in the surprise box a
baseball, basketball, and football.

(Choose children, one at a time, to take out the balls from the box and lay them on a table.)
Do any of you play sports? Which sport do you participate in?

What would happen if you played on a baseball, basketball or football team half-heartedly and just goofed around? *(Cause your team to lose, or your coach might not want you to play anymore.)*

When you play a game, what does it take to win? *(Play hard, use all your strength, think about what you're doing, and give of your total self to the game.)*



Exploring God's Word (Bible Lesson)

Read from Deuteronomy 6:5
or share the story below.

Hold the Bible
as you share the story.

Loving God Completely

Preparation: Tag your Bible at Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:37. Be prepared to do motions for these words: "heart" (*Put open hand over heart.*), "soul" (*Wiggle fingers on both hands from head to knees.*), "mind" (*Point to head.*), "strength" (*Flex both arms*), and "whole" (*Wrap arms around body.*).

Story: There's not just ONE verse in the Bible which tells us to do it. There are TWO verses in the Bible which tell us how we are to love God.

How many verses are there? (*Two.*)

In the Old Testament, in Deuteronomy, (*Show open Bible.*) it says: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

That's one verse. How many verses are there in the Bible which tell us how we are to love God? (*Two.*)

The second verse is found in the New Testament, in the book of Matthew (*Show open Bible.*): "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

I am to love God with all my (*Do motions.*) heart, soul, mind, and strength. I am to love God with my (*Do motion.*) WHOLE self.

(Cont.)

What four ways are we to love God? (*Children say doing the motions: "Heart, soul, mind and strength."*)

I am to love God with my (*Do motion.*) WHOLE self. Repeat that after me doing the motion. (*I am to love God with my WHOLE self.*)

What four ways are we to love God? (*"Heart, soul, mind and strength."*)

I am to love God with my (*do motion*) WHOLE self. Repeat that after me again. (*I am to love God with my WHOLE self.*) One more time! (*I am to love God with my WHOLE self.*)



Sing Praise: Love the Lord Your God

(See Pg. 75 for Song Lyrics)



Wilderness Discussion **(Question and Answer Time)**

Use this time to talk about the story.

1. What is our heart? (*Our affection and how we feel about someone.*)
2. How do we show our love to God? (*By obeying Him and pleasing Him in all we do and by putting Him first in our lives.*)
3. What is our soul? (*What makes us alive -- living beings, our inner selves, and our personalities.*)
4. How can we use our minds to love God? (*By thinking things through, making wise choices, and studying about Him by reading the Bible.*)
5. How do we use our strength for loving God? (*When we do kind things for other people.*)



The Potter's Wheel

Art — Teacher-Directed Art
Craft — Teacher-Directed Craft

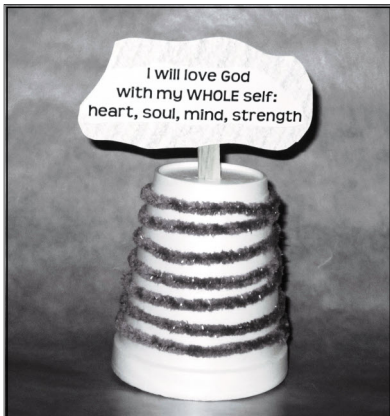


Self-Portrait ~ Art

Needed for Each Child: Body size paper, scissors, crayons, washable colored markers, glue, word strip with the lesson point: "Love God with your whole self."

Activity: Trace each child on paper and cut out. The children decorate their self-portrait and then glue on the word strip.

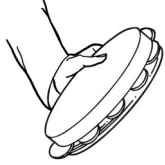
Lesson Reminder ~ Craft



Needed for Each Child: 3 1/2" Styrofoam cup, yarn, glue stick, craft stick, word strip (I will love God with my WHOLE self: heart, soul, mind, and strength.)

Activity: Children use a glue stick to coat the outside of the cup and then wrap yarn around it. The word strip is glued to the craft stick and inserted into the cup top.

Encourage the children to place this in their homes in a prominent place where they can be reminded often to love God with their whole selves: heart, soul, mind and strength.



Sing Praise: Love the Lord Your God

Play the song a few times in the classroom before introducing it to the children. This way, when it is introduced, they will have some recognition of the song.

Love the Lord Your God

Words and Music by Mary Rice Hopkins

Chorus:

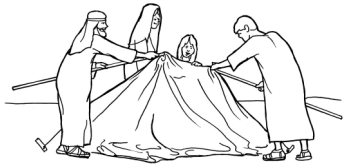
Love the Lord your God
Gotta love the Lord your God
With heart and soul and mind and strength,
Heart and soul and mind and strength,
Love the Lord your God
Gotta love the Lord your God

With my heart
With my mind
With my strength
I'm a gonna love Him, I'm a gonna love Him
I'm a gonna love, gonna love!

(Chorus)

For God's love is great
So strong no one can shake
It gives more than it takes
I'm a gonna love Him, I'm a gonna love Him
I'm a gonna love, gonna love!

(Chorus twice)



Setting Up Camp

(Large or Small Group Activity)



"Everyone Who" Game -- Scripture Memorization

Activity: Repeat the Bible verse together in unison three times. Then say: "Everyone who is wearing socks stand and say the Bible verse." "Everyone who likes ice cream stand and repeat the scripture." "Everyone who . . . has a pet, likes summer vacation, has brothers and/or sisters, has ever played soccer, likes to sing, dislikes spiders, or likes playing video games, stand and repeat the Bible verse."



Manna Time (Snack)

Provide a snack that will help emphasize the day's lesson. Be sure to check with parents about food allergies before serving snacks. Top food allergies include nuts, wheat and dairy products.



Needed for Each Child: Two 1" thick round banana slices, 5 straight pretzels, and mini M&M's.

Activity: To make an edible person, children use a pretzel for attaching the round banana head to the round banana body. Arms and legs are then inserted into the body. The mini M&M's candies can be used for eyes, nose and mouth. Tell the boys and girls: "*This is a reminder that we are to love God with our whole self -- heart, soul, mind and strength.*"



The Oasis (Closing Prayer)



This is a time to close up your lesson. Answer any questions that may have come up throughout the day. Have prayer together.

Dear Heavenly Father: Thank you for loving us. May we show our love for You by loving You with our whole self--heart, soul, mind and strength. And may we also show our love for You by loving and serving others with our time, talents, and resources.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.