



Week of Nov 5 - a

Scripture: Mt 22:34-40

Main Idea: The Sadducees had tried to trap Jesus, now the Pharisees will take a turn. They ask which is the greatest commandment in the law. Jesus summarizes all the Law and Prophets by telling them to love God with all heart, soul, and mind; and love your neighbor as yourself. No one could argue with this.

Questions

Preschool: Does God want us to love Him and everyone? What are ways you can show that you love someone?

Grade school: Do you love God? How do you know that? Do you have a best friend? Do you do things together? How much time do you spend talking to your friends? Do you talk to God? If you love God, you'll spend a lot of time with him! Prayer is how we talk to God. Do you pray as often as you talk to friends and family? And, if you love God, you will read your Bible and obey what Jesus teaches.

Teen: How do these two commandments summarize the law and the prophets? What does it tell you that God has always desired from his people?

Adult: The religious leaders had broken the Law into precepts and prohibitions, over 600 at the time of Jesus. When they accused Jesus of not following the Law, they were talking about one of these rules which man had made. Jesus was able to succinctly summarize the Law in two sentences. Do you think this lawyer saw the irony in a situation where he was trying to test Jesus, and Jesus replied that loving God and loving your neighbor (both God and neighbor included Jesus) were the foundation for all the other items they called Law? What do you think was the biggest hurdle for the leaders to believe in Jesus, their learning, their status in the Jewish world, or their preconceived notions of the Messiah? Or some other stumbling block?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For God to help us love him with all parts of us, and to love other people

November Memory Verse:

Philippians 4:6 (ESV)
do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



Week of Nov 5 - 6

Scripture: Mt 23:1-36

Main Idea: Jesus calls out the Jewish leaders for their various ways of hypocrisy. They looked the part of religious elites, but inwardly they were hard hearted. This is a great reminder for us that going through the motions and looking like a Christian is pointless if we don't have a heart for loving God and our neighbor.

Questions

Preschool: Do we make God happy by simply coming to church or does he expect us to live for Him everyday? What if you act good when you are at church, but act bad when you are home? Does God like that?

Grade school: Have you ever heard the phrase "practice what you preach" or "actions speak louder than words?" What do you think those two things mean? Jesus was warning people not to follow the ways of the hypocrite leaders. They were talking about obeying God, but not really doing what they said others should do. Jesus warned people not to be hypocrites. What does that mean? A hypocrite is someone who says one thing and does another. God wants us to be sincere. That means we mean what we say and do as we promise to do.

Teen: What was the motivation for the Jewish leaders' behavior? If you are seeking to please God, instead of pleasing people or gaining power, how would your behavior differ?

Adult: Have you heard a student say, "I only have to get a XX% on this test to get an A in the class?" Rather than focusing on learning what is presented for use later, they are looking for how little they can do to get an acceptable result. We humans sometimes fall into this trap as well. Do we want a result but also focus on not working for it? We won't talk about getting in shape but not wanting to work for it. Do we say we are Christians with our lips, but our actions or our attitude towards what we are doing say otherwise? Would Jesus pronounce woes or blessings on you?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For God to help us be genuine in our faith and not be hypocritical

November Memory Verse:

Philippians 4:6 (ESV)
do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.