



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle A - XXX Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezequiel 22, 20-26; Psalm 17; 1Thessalonians 1, 5-10; Matthew 22, 34-40

The Great Commandment

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Reflection

Who were the Sadducees? They were a high-class Jewish sect with much power who did not believe in the resurrection. Jesus had reprimanded them saying He was a God of the living. **Who were the Pharisees?** They were another powerful Jewish sect, who enforced the laws strictly, yet did not follow them themselves. They did not recognize Jesus as God because they lacked love in their hearts. **What did they ask Jesus to test Him?** Which is the greatest commandment. **What did Jesus answer?** "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first



commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." **What word do you see in both?** Love! Love God and love your neighbor. This summarizes all the commandments. **How can we get close to God and love Him more dearly?** Pray often to grow in faith, hope, and love, thus changing our heart. **How does Jesus want us to love others?** As much as we love ourselves. We would never want someone to hurt us, but only to love, forgive, and help us. **Jesus showed us this love on the Cross. The vertical wood** unites heaven with earth; it shows us God's love for mankind and invites us to love Him back. And **the horizontal wood** sustains Jesus' arms, forming an embrace that hugs us and unites us as family, touching all with His great love and calling us to love in the same way.

Activity

On the following page, color and fill in the blank with Jesus' response. On the last page, cut and glue the commandments pertaining to loving God on the vertical wood and to loving neighbor on the horizontal one.

Prayer

Lord, help me to love as you love, extending my heart to the two horizons you show us. Show me how to love a little more each day, and so help build your Kingdom. Amen.

Song: Love One Another, Dakota Pyle, (*Ctrl Click*), <https://youtu.be/LYlkcoAflU4> (3-7 yrs.)

Love the Lord Your God with all your Strength, CJ and Friends, <https://youtu.be/vdMlxCdly-c> (8+ yrs.)

PPT: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1RclHYd8mMb4lZl_F_uK03LWOk9NIE8xU/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtfpof=true&sd=true



Which is the most important Commandment?

Mathew 22: 34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

Jesus responded:

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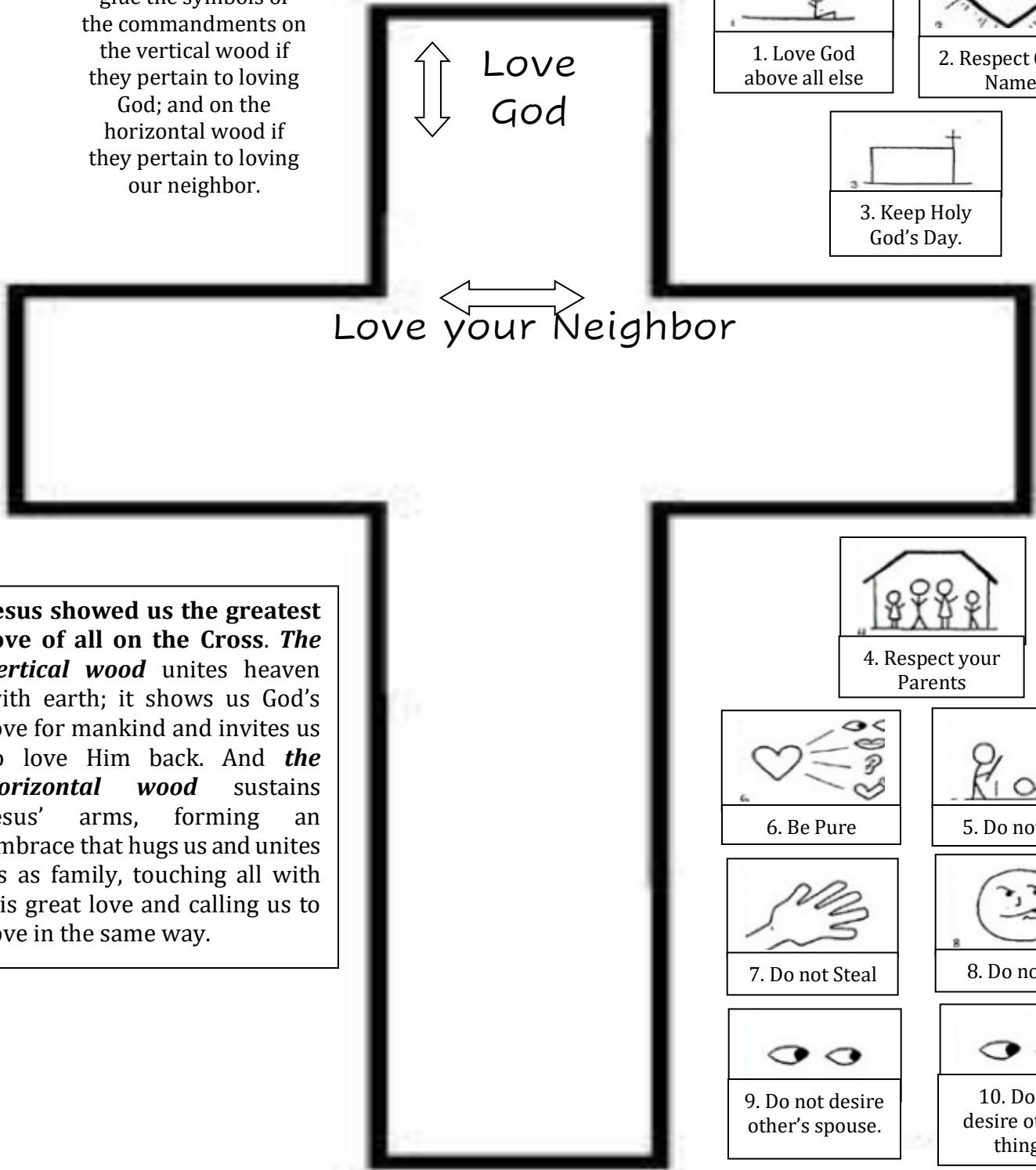
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Instructions: Cut and glue the symbols of the commandments on the vertical wood if they pertain to loving God; and on the horizontal wood if they pertain to loving our neighbor.



1. Love God above all else

2. Respect God's Name

3. Keep Holy God's Day.

4. Respect your Parents

6. Be Pure

5. Do not Kill

7. Do not Steal

8. Do not Lie

9. Do not desire other's spouse.

10. Do not desire other's things.

Jesus showed us the greatest love of all on the Cross. *The vertical wood* unites heaven with earth; it shows us God's love for mankind and invites us to love Him back. And *the horizontal wood* sustains Jesus' arms, forming an embrace that hugs us and unites us as family, touching all with His great love and calling us to love in the same way.

FLORIDA CENTER FOR PEACE

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