

Lesson 16: A Loving Church

— EXPLORE —

Mark 12:28-34

— REFLECT —

What About...?

What are some social issues in our community or world to which Christians should apply the house rules of “love God” and “love your neighbor”? Brainstorm as many as possible.

Choose three of these issues, and write a few sentences reflecting on the difference it would make if we were to apply love to that situation.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

— CREATE —

A Church Built on Love

Follow the directions on page 66.

— NEXT —

Ideas to Try This Week

At home: Talk with your family and create a list of all of your family rules. Then assign each rule to one of two categories: love God or love others. Do you have any family rules that don't fit in either category? Do you notice any family rules that are missing?

At school: Jesus tells us to love our neighbor: This week at school love your lunch neighbor. Sit at a table you would typically avoid and get to know someone who is different from you and your friends. What does this experience teach you about yourself? What does it teach you about God?

In your community: Jesus reminds us we love God when we love others. Find an organization in your community that you can volunteer with and help make a positive impact on the world around you (a food pantry, mentoring program, park cleanup, and so forth). How does this act of loving others impact the way you love God?

— MY IDEAS —

— READ MORE —

More about what it means to love others—Luke 10:25-37

More about what it means for the church to love others—Acts 2:41-47

More about what it means that God is love—1 John (the whole thing)