

Table of Contents

Welcome!	4
Chapter 1 God's Love	5
Chapter 2 Loving God	13
Chapter 3 Refusing to Love	21
Chapter 4 Loving Choices	29
Chapter 5 Returning to Love	37
Chapter 6 Celebrating God's Love	45
Chapter 7 Showing Love	53
Chapter 8 Living Reconciliation	61
A Little Catechism	69
We Believe	70
We Celebrate	74
We Live	85
We Pray	88
Glossary	90
Music Lyrics	91





Loving God

You are my God. Show me what you want me to do.

Psalms 143:10

Mom's Rule

Eric jumped into the back seat of his mom's car. He couldn't wait to get to his first soccer practice. Eric was so excited!

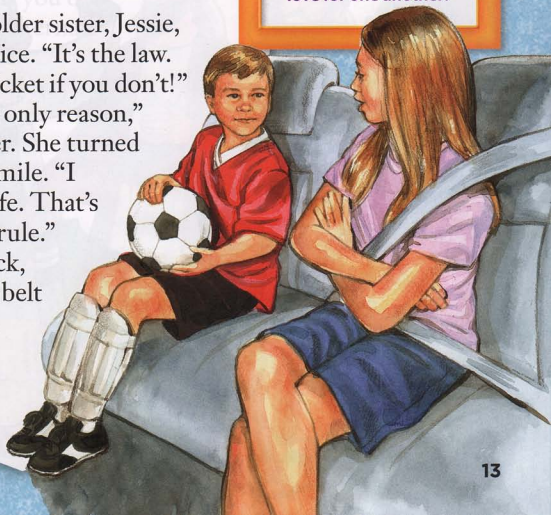
"You know the rule: Buckle your seat belt," Eric's mom said, before she started the car.

"Yeah," Eric's older sister, Jessie, said in a bossy voice. "It's the law. Mom will get a ticket if you don't!"

"That's not the only reason," said Eric's mother. She turned and gave Eric a smile. "I want you to be safe. That's why we have the rule."

Eric smiled back, buckling his seat belt with a loud click.

- Why did Eric's mom have a rule about safety belts?
- What are some rules that your family has?
- How do rules show our love for one another?



What Must I Do?

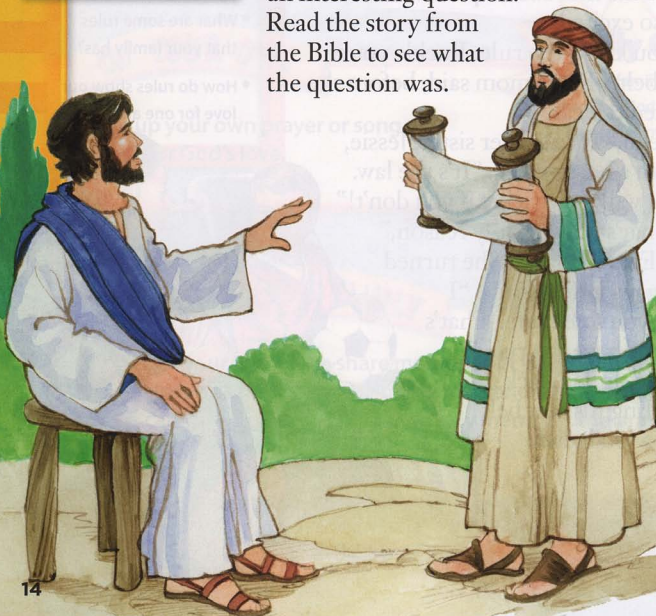
WORD OF GOD

Lord, you give
peace of mind to all
who love your Law.

Psalms 119:165

Following rules is not always easy to do. Sometimes it seems like there are too many rules. A man who lived in the time of Jesus must have felt that way. One day, as Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem and teaching along the way, he met a man who asked him an interesting question.

Read the story from the Bible to see what the question was.



LET'S TALK

An expert in the Law of Moses stood up and asked Jesus a question.

“Teacher,” he said. “What must I do to have eternal life?”

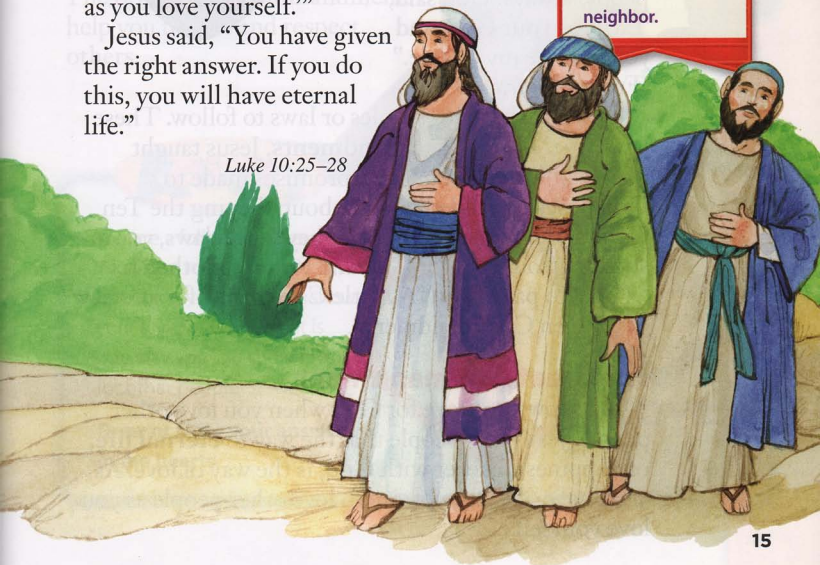
Jesus answered, “What is written in the Scriptures? How do you understand them?”

The man replied, “The Scriptures say ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.’ They also say, ‘Love your neighbors as much as you love yourself.’”

Jesus said, “You have given the right answer. If you do this, you will have eternal life.”

Luke 10:25–28

- What does the Scripture say about loving God?
- What does it say about loving your neighbor? Who is your neighbor?
- Give an example of how you can show love to your neighbor.



Loving God

God wants all people to be happy forever. Long ago, God made a holy promise or **covenant** with his people. He promised to be with his people always. God said, "I will be your God, and you shall be my people."
(From *Leviticus* 26:12)



God gave his people rules or laws to follow. These laws are the **Ten Commandments**. Jesus taught people how to live up to the promises made to God. Jesus reminded people about obeying the Ten Commandments. When you obey God's laws, you are showing your love for God and for one another.

Turn to page 85 in "A Little Catechism" for a review of the Ten Commandments.

The Great Commandment

You show your love for God when you love other people. Jesus told people that the way to **eternal life**, or happiness forever with God, is the way of love. As a follower of Jesus, you are to love other people as you love yourself.

This teaching of Jesus about love is called the **Great Commandment**:

Love God above all things, and love your neighbor as you love yourself.

You do what the Great Commandment tells you to do when you live the Ten Commandments. The first three commandments help you to love and respect God. The other seven commandments help you to love and respect others.

THIS WE BELIEVE

God has made a covenant with us. We show our love and thankfulness by following God's law.



Activity

You are a follower of Jesus Christ. You listen to his words. What is one thing you can do to show your love for God? What is one way you can show love for other people?

Draw or write your answers in the hearts.

GOD

LOVE

Walking the Way of Love

Remember the words of the Great Commandment:

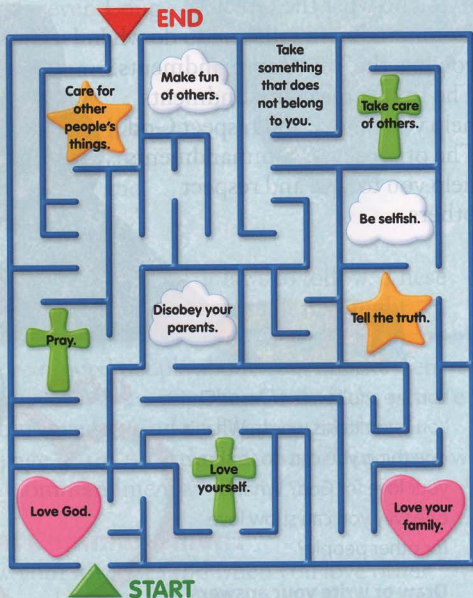
Follow the path that takes you down the path of love.

PARISH CONNECTIONS

When you go to Mass on Sunday, you are obeying the third commandment.

CATHOLIC PRACTICES

Many Catholics bow their heads when they say the name of Jesus in prayer. This honors the second commandment.



What happens when you do not follow the way of love?



Give Us Light

All: Lord, give us light to walk the way of love.

Leader: The Law of the Lord is perfect;
it gives us new life.
His teachings last forever,
and they give wisdom to his people.

All: Lord, give us light to walk the way of love.

Leader: The Lord's instruction is right;
it makes our hearts glad.
His commands shine brightly,
they give us light.

All: Lord, give us light to walk the way of love.

Leader: Let our words and our thoughts
be pleasing to you, Lord,
because you are our mighty rock
and our protector.

All: Lord, give us light to walk the way of love.

Based on *Psalms* 19:7,8,14



Family Note

Dear Family,

I learned that long ago God made a covenant, or holy promise. God gave his people the Ten Commandments. I learned that God wants me to love him and to love other people. This is the Great Commandment. I can show my love by obeying the Ten Commandments and following the teachings of Jesus. If I show my love in this way, God promises I will be happy with him forever.

ON YOUR OWN

Make a calendar for the week. At the end of each day, draw one heart on the calendar for each loving action you did for God or for others.

Try to fill your calendar with hearts!

Family Chat

Talk about ways family members follow the Great Commandment every day.

WITH YOUR FAMILY

Make up a list of family commandments that will help you show love for God and for one another. Decorate the list, and display it where family members can see it.

