

## 10. Love God

A lawyer asked Jesus, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?"

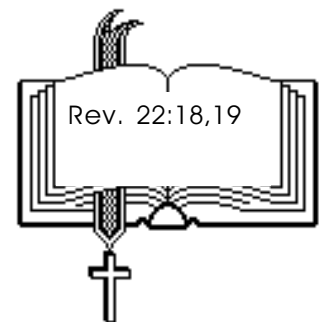
Jesus replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."

Jesus went on to say, "And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matt. 22:36-39). We have been learning how we should treat people in the first nine lessons of *Developing Christian Character*.



We will learn about loving God in today's lesson. The love we must have for God is not just the good feeling we have inside when we care about a friend. It isn't the frilly love that goes with sending a valentine. It is so much more.

Turn in your Bibles to 1 John 2:3-5. After you read this passage, talk about what it means to love God. Can anyone in the class quote John 14:15? Jesus was saying the same thing in this verse.



We show God we love Him by obeying the Bible. This means: (1) Do what God says. (2) Do not add to or take away from God's commands. (3) Do not do what God says not to do. (For example, do not steal.)

## To Help Us Understand



"Jeff," Mom called sternly, "Get in here right this minute and put your ball and glove away. Haven't I told you to keep it put up?"

"I'm sorry, Mom," Jeff replied. As he threw the ball into the glove, Jeff asked, "Do we keep God's commandments the same way we keep our things?"

"No, Jeff," Mom answered. "You are thinking about John 14:15, when Jesus said, 'If ye love me, keep my commandments.' Jesus was telling us we show our love for God by obeying what the Bible says."

"Yeah, I think that's what Mrs. Bailey was telling us Wednesday night in class. She said there are three ways we can disobey God. One way is to do bad things God tells us not to do. Like when a person robs a bank. The second way is when we don't do what God tells us to do. That is like when a person stays home from Bible class to watch TV. But I forget the third thing."

Mom helped Jeff remember by saying, "The third way we disobey is when we add to God's Word, or take away from God's Word. The Bible says in Acts 20:7 that the early Christians met on the first day of the week to take communion. But some people try to change that and say we only need to take communion once every three months, or some other number of times."

In today's lesson we learned three ways we must "keep" God's commandments. Read each of the ways again. Then put the correct number by the lettered sentences. Some may have two correct answers.

- (1) Do what God says.
- (2) Do not add to or take away from God's commands.
- (3) Do not do what God says not to do.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. Attend worship services. Do not stay home to watch TV and miss worship services.
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. Do not kill.
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. Be kind.
- \_\_\_\_\_ D. Sing to worship God. Do not add musical instruments.
- \_\_\_\_\_ E. Take communion on Sunday, not Thursday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ F. Love your enemies and pray for them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ G. When someone tells you they are sorry for doing something mean, forgive them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ H. Obey your parents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I. If you earn money, give part of it to God.



It's fun to go to a ball game. But we need to remember to put God first in our lives. We can go to games when there are no church services. But we should not miss services to go to a game. If we must choose only one thing, we should choose God.

If we really love God, we will want to obey Him. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God..." (Matt. 6:33). We want to live in heaven with God forever, so we must obey Him.

Fill in the missing words from these verses taken from what is often called the Sermon on the Mount. Each letter which is in brackets must be placed on one of the lines below. When you are finished the word will spell something God wants us to seek. By doing these things, we show that we love God. All passages are found in Matthew. The numbers indicate the chapter and verse.

**5:14,** "Ye are the light of the \_ \_ [ ] \_ \_ . A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

**5:16,** "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and \_ \_ \_ \_ [ ] \_ \_ your Father which is in heaven."

**5:22,** "But I say unto you, That whosoever is \_ \_ [ ] \_ \_ with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment."

**5:44,** "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that [ ] \_ \_ \_ you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

**5:45,** "That ye may be the children of your \_ \_ [ ] \_ \_ \_ which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the [ ] \_ \_ \_ and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

**6:6,** "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy \_ \_ [ ] \_ \_ \_ , and when thou hast shut thy door, pray unto thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

**6:19,** "Lay not up for yourselves \_ \_ \_ \_ [ ] \_ \_ \_ upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and [ ] \_ \_ \_ \_ ."

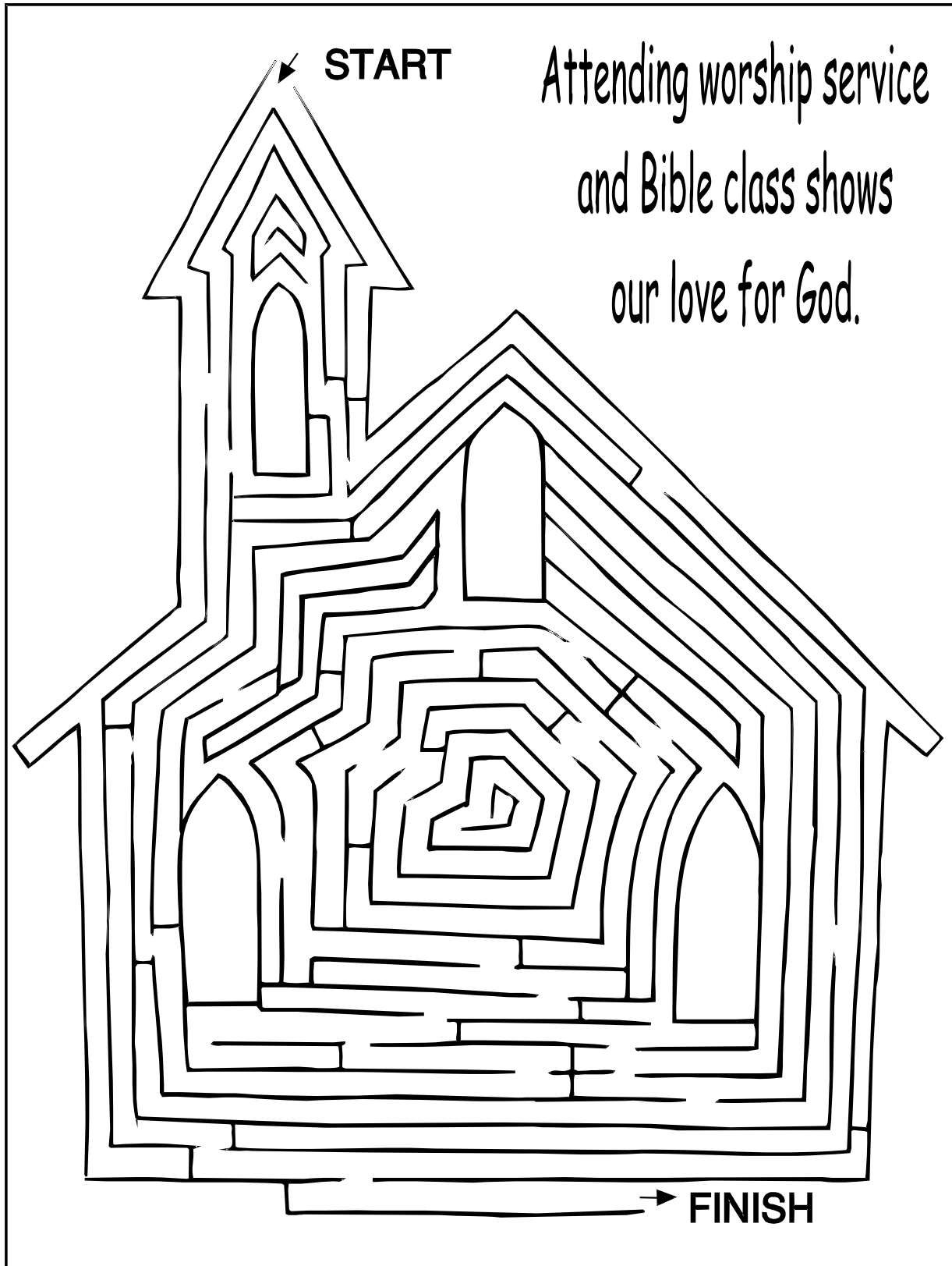
**6:26,** "Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, yet your \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ [ ] \_ \_ Father feedeth them. Are ye not much \_ [ ] \_ \_ \_ \_ than they?"

**6:31,** "Therefore, take no thought, [ ] \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?"

**7:11,** "If ye then, being evil, now how to give good \_ \_ \_ \_ [ ] \_ \_ unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

We are to seek \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

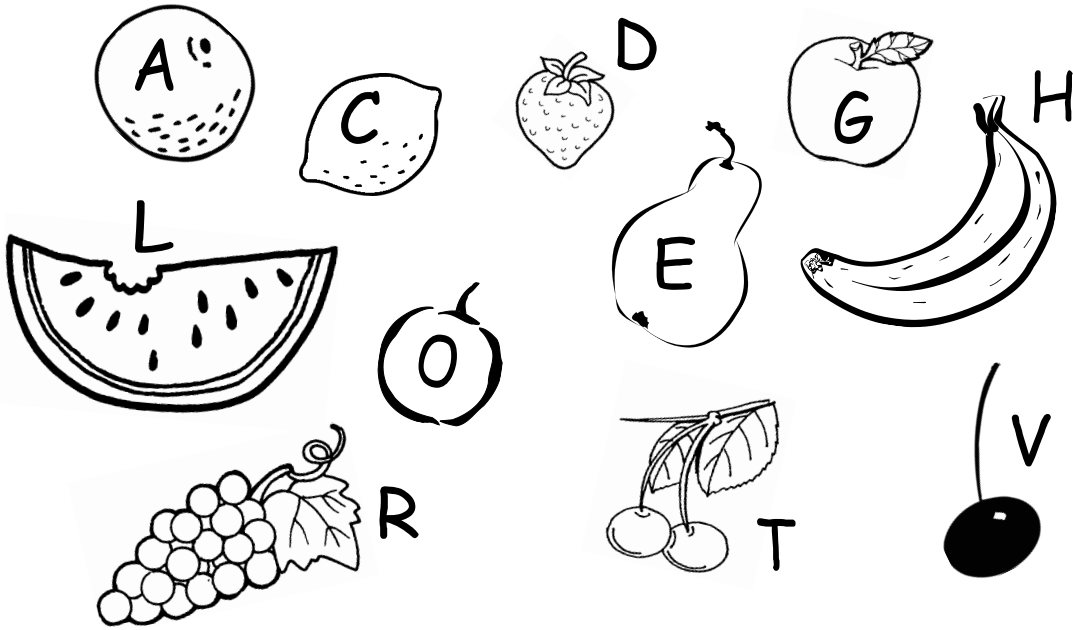
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Love is a fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

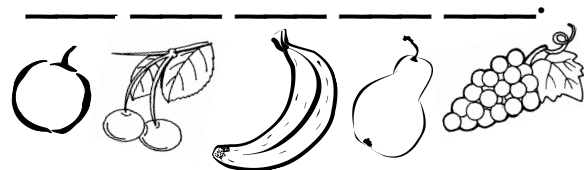
Use the fruit to finish the sentence below.



We should \_\_\_\_\_



and \_\_\_\_\_



(Matt. 22:36-39)

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There are different kinds of love. The love God has for us is the strongest kind of love. We should love God more than we love anything or anyone else.

