

# LOVE



## 40 Days of Letting Go

A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

This year during Lent we're letting go of the things that hold us back from truly experiencing God in this world. What do you need to let go in order to have room for the aliveness that Jesus offers? Can you let go of the idea that God is separate from the world and everything in it? Instead of letting your religious beliefs become barriers to relationship, what would change if your religious beliefs actually started knocking those barriers down? What would the world become if loving God and loving other people really meant the same thing?

### MARK 12:28-44

An "expert in the law" tests Jesus by asking him which commandment is most important. Jesus gives him two answers: love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself. Later Jesus watches as people put money into an offering box, and notices a poor widow contributing two small coins. He tells his disciples that she has given more than anyone, because those coins were all she had.

### TALK ABOUT THIS ...

To Jesus, loving God and loving your neighbor are one and the same. You love God by loving your neighbor. You love your neighbor by loving God. They cannot be separated. But don't we separate them all the time? Does that make our words of love for God sound hollow?



#### LOVE

Do you ever struggle to love your neighbor? How is loving your classmates, teammates, teachers and family the same thing as loving God?



#### PROGRESS

Are there any problems in your family, school or community that might be solved by putting compassion first? Are there big problems we could solve by intentionally caring about the other people involved?



#### SURPRISE

Is there ever a gap between what we say we believe and the way we really live? Why?

## FAITH<sup>5</sup> ... A BEDTIME ROUTINE FOR FAMILIES

SHARE your highs and lows from the day. READ the Bible story. TALK about how the Bible story relates to your highs and lows. PRAY for one another's highs and lows, and BLESS one another.

MORE INFORMATION: [faith5.org](http://faith5.org)