

great expectations

WEEK 4

Read MATTHEW 22:36-37

What is the greatest song of all time? _____
Who is the greatest athlete of all time? _____
What is the greatest movie ever made? _____
What is the greatest game ever played? _____

Now go and ask someone else the same questions and see what their responses are. They're probably very different from yours, especially if you asked a parent or someone older than you. It's hard to determine what is actually "greatest"—everyone has different opinions. But Jesus was perfect and always spoke the truth. So if He said something was the greatest, you'd better believe it was true!

Go back and read the verse again and answer this question (and for extra fun, go back and quiz your friend/parent on this question too):

What is the greatest commandment in the Bible? _____

THANK God for sending Jesus to teach us about the greatest things in life.

Day 1

Day 2

Read EXODUS 20:1-3

It seems kind of silly that God had to even *give* that command to the Israelites, that they wouldn't worship any other gods. This is the God who had just brought them out of slavery and was taking them to the Promised Land. This is a God who seems worthy of all our love, right? But God still had to remind His people that He was first in their lives. If the Israelites had to be reminded just after being freed from slavery, we will probably need some reminding ourselves!

Set out the timer that you got at church (or if you didn't get one, use a watch or other clock to set a timer at home) as a visual reminder to put God first. Every time you see the timer has run out, stop and thank God for something you love about Him. Then flip the timer back over and repeat every time you notice it throughout the day.

ASK God to help you remember that HE is number one.



GO HOME

Read PROVERBS 3:5-6

Take one of your toys and hide it somewhere in your room—somewhere that no one could find it easily. Then draw a quick map to direct someone to the toy. Next, go get a parent, sibling, or friend and give them one minute to find the toy all by themselves. When they can't find it, give them the map and time them again to see how long it takes them to find it.

Being responsible seems like it would go hand-in-hand with being in charge and doing things your way, doesn't it? But really the most responsible thing we can do is to let God be first and let Him direct us—give us clues—on how to live our lives. We can save ourselves a lot of trouble if we follow His direction instead of trying to always do it on our own.

LOOK for ways to trust God with all your heart and follow His lead.

Read MATTHEW 10:37

It's one thing to put God ahead of ourselves, or all our stuff, but it feels really strange to think that we should love Him more than our parents or our brother or sister, doesn't it? Here's the thing, though: when we love God more than anything, then we start loving LIKE God. And God's love is perfect and unconditional. We will love others more when we love God the most!

But what does that look like? Did you know that if you have a large pile of big rocks, small rocks and sand that should fit in a bucket, that if you put the sand and small rocks in first, you won't have enough room to fit the big rocks? But if you put the big rocks in first, then the smaller rocks, and lastly the sand, will all fit just fine! It's all about the order, and getting the big things in first. If you have a bucket and can find some rocks and dirt or sand, try it out! You'll be shocked to see how much more you can fit if you get the big things in first.

KNOW that there's nothing more responsible than putting God first.