

# LESSON ELEVEN | MARK 12:18-13:37

## SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### WELCOME

Questions, questions  
2–3 mins.

### DRILL TIME

In the beginning  
3–5 mins.

### W.O.W!

Commandment  
3–5 mins.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline  
2–3 mins.

### BIBLE

#### INVESTIGATION

Mark 12:18-13:37  
20–30 mins.

### LESSON-AT-HOME

Mark 12:30  
3–5 mins.

## OVERVIEW

Mark 12 continues with more questioning of Jesus by the religious leaders. This time, the Sadducees ask an absurd question about marriage at the resurrection, even though they didn't believe in the doctrine of the resurrection. Jesus rebukes their lack of knowledge of the Scriptures and the unwillingness to believe in the power of God. Later, a teacher of the law asks a genuine question about the greatest commandment, giving Jesus the opportunity to give a summation of the commandments. By loving God and loving other people, one would obey all God's Law! Then it was Jesus' turn to ask a question about Himself: How could the son of David be David's Lord? In this way, He revealed His own Kingship and condemned the teaching of the religious leaders. Chapter Twelve ends with the story of the widow's offering. Out of her poverty, she gave much more to the kingdom than all the rich people.

Mark 13 presents Jesus' teaching on the end times as He completes His time on earth. He teaches the disciples about the signs of the end times. He also tells them the great pain and persecution they will have to experience. Finally, Jesus tells them (and us) to keep watch for His Second Coming. No one can predict His coming, so we must all keep watch!

## PREPARATION

Read over and meditate on Mark 12-13 this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

## TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

We continue to see Jesus interacting with various people who asked Him questions, since He was a great rabbi. Some questions were genuine, like the ones asked by the disciples and the rich young ruler. Others were just to test and trap Jesus, asked by people who were un-teachable. Pray for your children that they would ask questions of the Lord and His Word! God has given all of our children inquisitive minds. Our hope is that they would desire to inquire about the ways of the Lord. Never deny genuine questions that are asked to seek truth. We want to always encourage truth-seeking! As you answer your children's question, point them to the God of truth and His totally true Word!



## WELCOME

### **Greet the students. Welcome visitors.**

**Say:** *Do you ask your parents a lot of questions? I hope you do, because asking questions is a great way to learn. God has given us minds that question in order to learn right answers. Unfortunately, some people ask a question without really wanting to know the answer. As we have seen with the religious leaders in Jesus' day, sometimes questions are just tests or traps.*

*My hope is that your questions come with a teachable heart and a desire to learn the truth. We should come to God's Word with all of our questions, trusting that the Lord will give us answers!*



## DRILL TIME

*Now let's have our DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past.*

**Today's questions:** *When did God create the heavens and the earth? What did God create the heavens and earth out of? How did God create the heavens and the earth and everything in them? How long did it take God to create the heavens and the earth? What did God do on the seventh day?*

### **Ask for volunteers.**

#### **Answers:**

1. In the beginning.
2. Nothing.
3. He just spoke, and everything came to be.
4. Six days.
5. He rested from His work of Creation.

**Say:** *We learned all about the beginnings of our world when we studied the Book of Genesis. If there is a beginning of the world, there must also be an end to the world. In our Bible Investigation time, Jesus will teach about the end of time. The most important thing to know is that God is in control from beginning to end!*



Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is a familiar one. It is the word **COMMANDMENT**. Write the word on the board.

We learned all about COMMANDMENTS when we studied the Book of Exodus recently. How many COMMANDMENTS did God give Moses on Mt. Sinai? [Ten.]

When we use the word COMMANDMENT, we are most often thinking about the Ten COMMANDMENTS. But any law or rule or statute could be called a COMMANDMENT. Any time your parents give you a rule, we can call that a COMMANDMENT too.

Are COMMANDMENTS just suggestions for you to follow if you want to? [No.] Are they just guidelines that you can follow if you feel like it? [No.] When God gives a COMMANDMENT, He expects us to obey, doesn't He? As God's creation, it is our duty to follow all of our Creator's COMMANDMENTS.

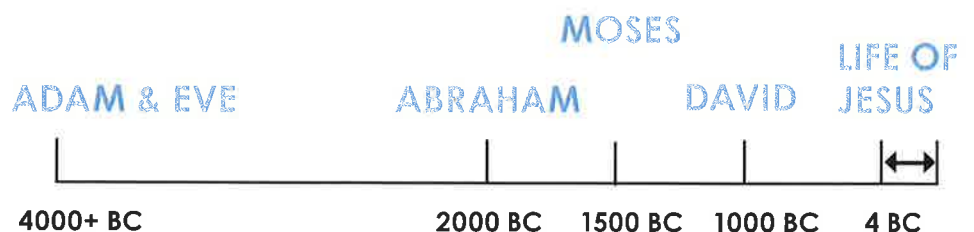
In our reading today, someone will ask Jesus about which COMMANDMENT is most important. What do you think Jesus' answer will be?



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

If necessary, draw this timeline on the board, and show the students when these events took place.

### This Week's Timeline





**Introduction:** *Where is Jesus now? [In Jerusalem.] Do you remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem? Allow answers. Jesus entered Jerusalem to cries of “Hosanna” and promptly showed His authority as King and Savior. We also saw how the religious leaders continue to question His authority, desiring ultimately to kill Jesus.*

*Let’s read what happens next. Read Mark 12:18-23.*

<sup>18</sup> And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, <sup>19</sup> “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. <sup>20</sup> There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. <sup>21</sup> And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. <sup>22</sup> And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. <sup>23</sup> In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife.”

**Discussion:** *What a crazy question! Do you think the Sadducees really wanted an answer? Did they really want to learn from Jesus? No way! The Sadducees were religious leaders who didn’t believe in resurrection—they didn’t believe there was life after death. So their question is simply an attempt to ridicule Jesus and make themselves look smart.*

*Listen to Jesus’ answer. Read verses 24-27.*

<sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? <sup>25</sup> For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup> And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? <sup>27</sup> He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong.”

**Discussion:** *Jesus goes right to the heart of the Sadducees. They are badly mistaken because they do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. They have no faith in God! Yet, they are supposed to be religious leaders and teachers of God’s Word. Instead, they have rejected the truth about God and His power over life and death.*





**Application:** *Just because a person knows a lot about the Bible doesn't mean he actually believes it. God's people must learn the Bible and actually believe it is true!*

*Now for another question. Read verse 28.*

<sup>28</sup> And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

**Discussion:** *There's our Word of the Week! Does this teacher of the law sound like he really wants to learn from Jesus? Maybe so. Which is the most important COMMANDMENT?*

*Let's hear Jesus' answer. Read verses 29-31.*

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

**Discussion:** *Do you understand how Jesus answered this question? He added together all of the COMMANDMENTS into two: Love God and love people. This is the perfect answer. It was as if Jesus said that ALL God's COMMANDMENTS are important and they will ALL be obeyed if we love God and other people.*

**Application:** *Sadly, we fail to obey God's COMMANDMENTS because we do not love God or other people perfectly. We love ourselves more than we love God or others. This is why we need Jesus to give us the grace to love!*

*Listen to the man's response. Read verses 32-34.*

<sup>32</sup> And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. <sup>33</sup> And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.



**Discussion:** *This man actually learned from Jesus' answer! Jesus saw that this man is beginning to understand God's kingdom.*

**Application:** *When you and I learn from Jesus, we can also grow in wisdom and understanding.*

*Now it's time for Jesus to ask a question. **Read verses 35-40.***

<sup>35</sup> And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, " 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet." ' <sup>37</sup> David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?" And the great throng heard him gladly. <sup>38</sup> And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces <sup>39</sup> and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, <sup>40</sup> who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

**Discussion:** *Jesus uses this question about David to teach the crowds two things. First, even though Jesus is properly called the Son of David, He is also David's Lord and King. Second, the teachers of the law were to be avoided because they weren't teaching the truth—they were just proud and greedy. Jesus was again showing the people that He is the Messiah who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!*

*Listen to what happens next. **Read verses 41-44.***

<sup>41</sup> And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. <sup>43</sup> And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. <sup>44</sup> For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

**Discussion:** *How could Jesus say that this widow gave more money to the church than all of the rich people? She only gave two coins while others put in large amounts of money! **Allow answers.** Jesus gives us the answer in verse 44. The widow gave ALL her money, while others just gave some of their money. The widow truly SACRIFICED herself for God!*



**Application:** *God wants ALL of you for Himself, not just a little bit. Giving your money in the church offering plate is a symbol of your willingness to give yourself to God. It isn't about how much you give, but about your commitment to give all of yourself to God for whatever He would call you to be and do.*

*Now, let's read in Mark 13. **Read Mark 13:1-4.***

<sup>1</sup> And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" <sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." <sup>3</sup> And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup> "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?"

**Discussion:** *The disciples thought that all of the beautiful buildings in Jerusalem would be around forever. Jesus says that there will come a time when Jerusalem will be destroyed. And, He teaches that the whole world will also come to an end. Of course, the disciples are curious about when this will happen!*

*Listen to what Jesus says. **Read verses 5-11.***

<sup>5</sup> And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup> And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains. <sup>9</sup> "But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. <sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. <sup>11</sup> And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

**Discussion:** *Things will get pretty bad, won't they? Wars, earthquakes, and famines are just the signs of the end. Did you hear how Jesus said that those who follow Him will be beaten and persecuted? This is the way the gospel goes out to the world.*



*Listen to the more. **Read verses 12-13.***

<sup>12</sup> And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. <sup>13</sup> And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

**Application:** *There's some good news amidst all of the pain that will happen in the lives of the disciples and in our own end times. God will save all who stand with Him to the end! If you follow Jesus, you have no reason to fear all of the bad things that happen in this world. He has given you ETERNAL LIFE!*

*Let's go to verse 20. **Read verses 20-31.***

<sup>20</sup> And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. <sup>21</sup> And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. <sup>22</sup> For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. <sup>23</sup> But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand. <sup>24</sup> "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup> And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup> "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

**Discussion:** *These are all things that Jesus says will happen before the end of the world. False Christs will deceive many. The sun will be darkened and the stars will fall. The good news is that Jesus will return in power to claim His people! The world will come to an end, but God does not.*

*Listen to the end of this chapter. **Read verses 32-37.***

<sup>32</sup> "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on





guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. <sup>35</sup> Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— <sup>36</sup> lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

**Conclusion:** *Who knows when Jesus will come back and the world will come to an end? [No one.] Even though some people think they know when the world will end, no one knows. So, what does Jesus say we must do about it? [Keep watch.] We keep watch by continuing to follow Jesus every day. We keep watch by obeying the great COMMANDMENT to love God and our neighbor. We keep watch by trusting God. Isn't it amazing that Jesus is returning for His people one day? Watch for it!*



## LESSON-AT-HOME

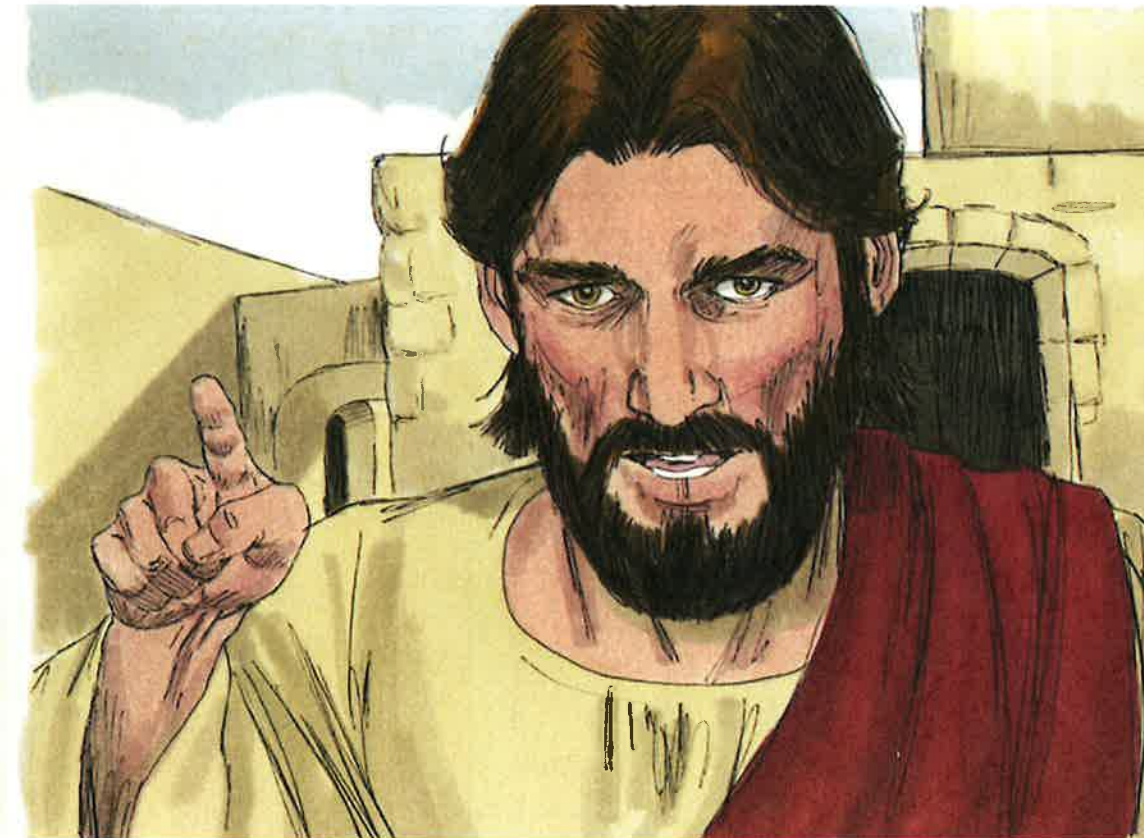
**Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Mark 12:30) together.**

### **Mark 12:30 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

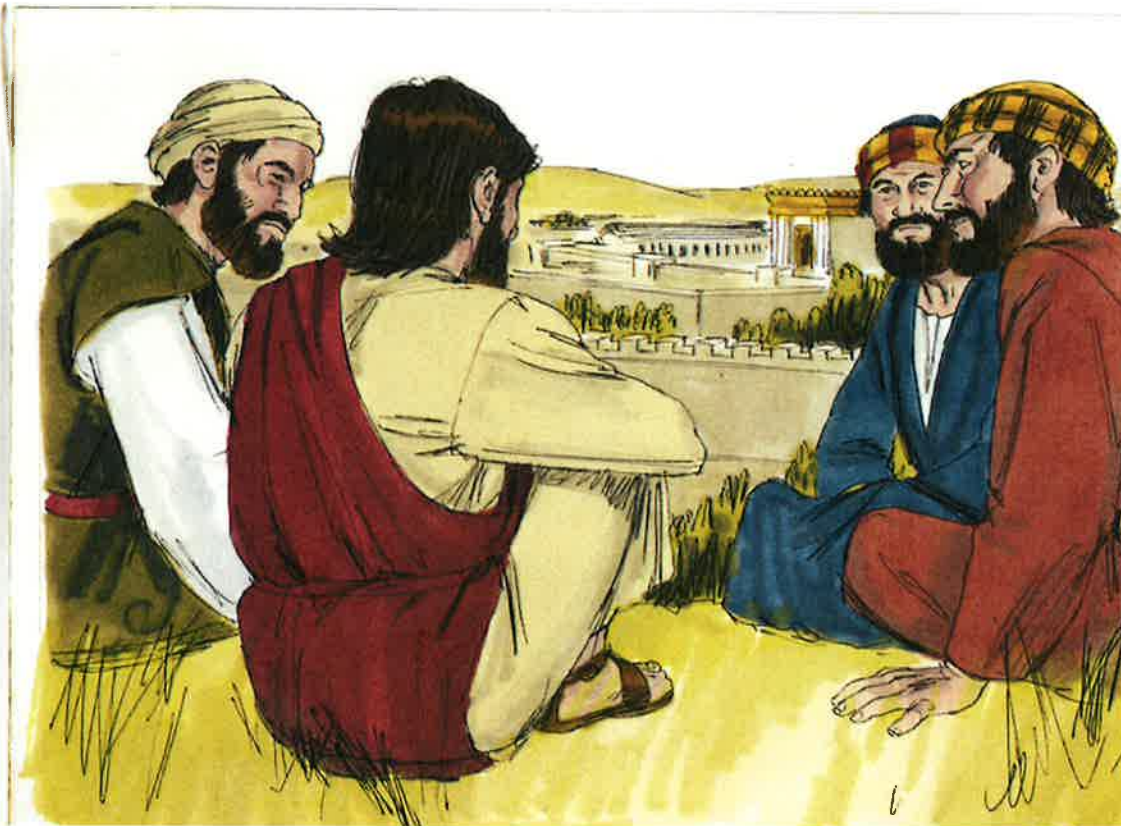
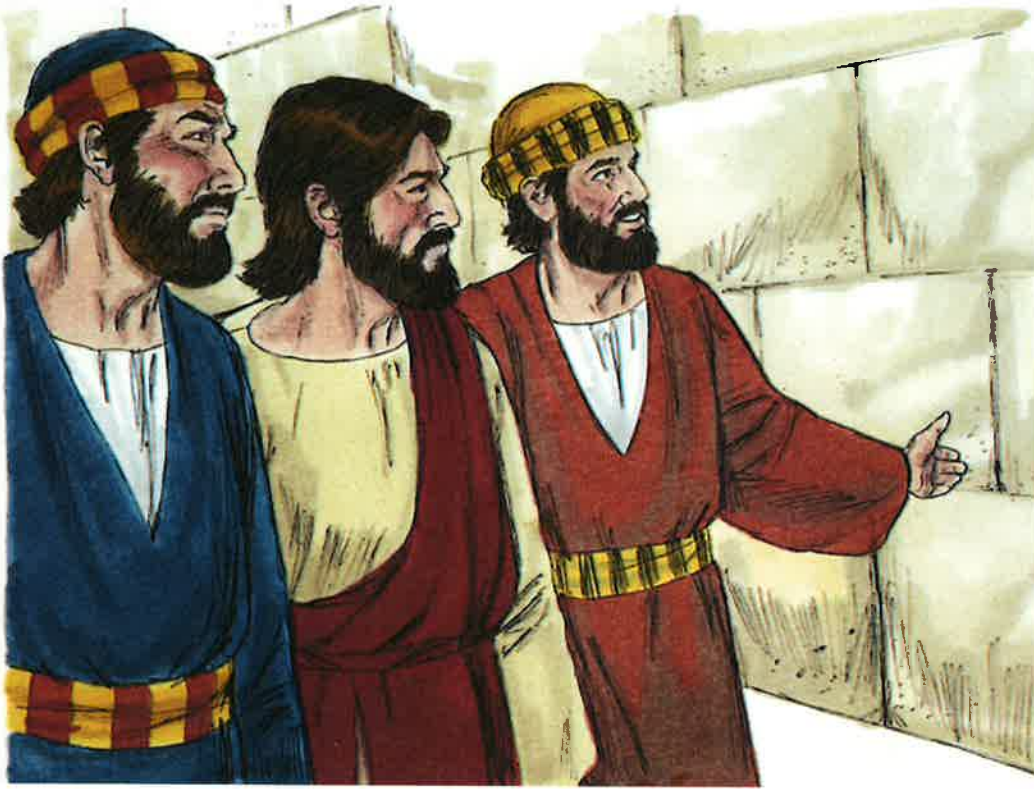
**Say:** *This is the first and greatest COMMANDMENT, according to Jesus. If we truly love God with all of ourselves and other people as ourselves, we will keep all the COMMANDMENTS. Yet, because of our sin, this is impossible! We need God's grace to love God and other people, don't we?*

**Direct the students' attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today's lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week. Close in prayer and dismiss the students.**













# Lesson-At-Home

## Bookmark

### Scripture Memory

Mark 12:30

*And you shall love the  
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your soul and with all  
your mind and with all  
your strength.*

### Lesson Review

Mark 12:18-13:37

*Sadducees reject the  
resurrection.*

*The Greatest  
COMMANDMENT.*

*The widow's sacrificial  
offering.*

*Watch for the Second  
Coming.*

# Year TWO

Investigating God's Word.  
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson Eleven

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