

Unit 11
Peak University Study Guide
FAITH: LOVING EVERYONE
Mark 12:28-34

Open with Praise Time: “Living the Word” – In what ways did your love for God direct your life and bless you this week?

Scripture: Mark 12:28-34

LESSON PLAN



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters.

Have someone draw a picture of true love. It can't have words, only pictures. Have them explain their drawing.

Transition: Love is the character of Christ, the nature of God, the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and therefore to be in Christ I have to have the character, the nature and the wisdom of true love saturating my life.

The Bottom Line: Jesus' wants us to fully understand the will of God for our lives. It is much simpler than we think.

Background: *The Pharisees and Herodians were arguing with Jesus, trying to trap Jesus over the issue of whether a believer should pay taxes to a corrupt government. That didn't work so the Sadducees try to throw a controversial issue at Him about marriage in heaven and whose wife this woman would be who has been married to 7 brothers. Each brother married the widow when his brother died to provide for the family. The irony is that the Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection of the dead, so it isn't even a genuine question.*

Read Mark 12:28

Matthew tells us (22:34) that the Pharisees had heard Jesus had outsmarted the Sadducees and silenced them. They had no more questions. They were probably embarrassed. So the Pharisees get together to take another shot at Jesus. This is when the teacher of the law overhears the arguments. The teachers of the law were sometimes Pharisees and sometimes not, but they hung out with them. They were the experts in Jewish Law, the scholars of the Jewish legal system.

1. What attracts this lawyer to the conversation?

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2. Does it appear that he is joining the crowd to trap Jesus or is he genuinely interested in Jesus' thoughts?

 **What happens to most people in a heated debate? How quickly do people take sides? Why?**

3. What does the teacher of the law ask Jesus?
4. Being a teacher of the law, shouldn't he already know that question?

 **What is the one question you would like to ask Jesus to get cleared up?**

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9

This was called the 'shema' named after the first Hebrew word in the sentence, 'hear.' The devout Jew would recite it at the beginning and end of each day. It was recited every Friday evening, the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath, to open the synagogue service. It was the John 3:16 of Judaism. Let's see how Jesus' uses the 'shema.'

Read Mark 12:29-31

5. What is the first of the 10 commandments?
6. How could Jesus say that the shema was greater than the first commandment that God is above everything and everyone?



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Have the tables discuss among themselves the grade they believe God would give them in obedience to this command. Have the table average their score to share. Why is it so hard to get an 'A' in this act of faith? (*Have the people break into four or five groups. Give them about 10 minutes, and then have them report their ideas.*)

Read Leviticus 19:18

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7. The teacher asks for the greatest commandment and Jesus gives him a second commandment as well. Why?

❶ Name some of the modern day sins that would be removed by loving God and our neighbor. (*List them on the board.*)

Read Mark 12:32-34

8. How does the teacher respond to Jesus answer?

❷ If this is so simple why do we have such a hard time loving our neighbor as ourselves?

9. What does Jesus think about the man's answer?



CARING TIME: SHARE AND PRAY

Share the bottom line: Jesus' wants us to fully understand the will of God for our lives. It is much simpler than we think. All we need is love. One little word, one little act and we have discovered the true meaning of life in the Spirit of our Creator.

Prayer: Pray at each table or as a group simply asking God to teach us better how to love Him and all His creation.