



## CHILDREN BROCHURE

### MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

**S. – Seek & Submit**  
**H. – Hear & Heed**  
**I. – Imagine & Insight**  
**F. – Focus & Function**  
**T. – Totally Transformed**

## S.H.I.F.T.

**Age: 13 yrs. & Over**

**August 29**

**Sing with me:**

*They will know we are Christians by our love.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EBSHVUTH0U>

**Memory Verse Mark12: 30 (NIV)**

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

**Scripture:** Mark 12: 28 – 34

**Read with me:**

### **The Greatest Commandment**

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

32 “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33 To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

### **Let us talk about it.**

In today’s lesson we are going to learn what Jesus thought was the greatest commandment. Our Bible passage starts with a scribe asking Jesus an important question. Let us first find out who is a scribe as mentioned in the Bible. A scribe is a man who teaches the law of God. He also copies scripture just as a secretary would. A scribe is also a teacher of the law and therefore needs to know all the commandments of the law, just as today, a lawyer must know all the law and the Constitution of the island. The Law of the Bible was filled with commands.

There were 613 commands for a scribe to learn. Three hundred and sixty-five of these commands were things God said we are not to do and 248 of them God said we are to do. So, it was not surprising that the scribe should ask Jesus which of the many commandments was the greatest. If we want to be followers of God, we need to know what is important to Him and how to follow His commandments. I would think the commands, which we refer to as the Ten Commandments would be among those the scribe was talking about.

The question was asked and Jesus had the answer. Jesus always has an answer. His answers are always perfect. Jesus is never shocked by our questions and He is never at a loss for an answer. He doesn’t laugh at our questions nor is He afraid they might be too hard. He always welcomes our questions, as long as they are from a sincere heart. Remember, In Matthew 7:7-8 Jesus tells us to ask, seek and knock. Never be afraid to bring anything to God (James 1:5-8).

What answer did Jesus give? Jesus actually summed up all those commands to two commands. The greatest, he said, was, Love the Lord with everything you have: your heart, your mind, your soul and your strength. In doing that, God will always be first in your life.

How are we supposed to love God?

- 1) **WITH ALL OUR HEART:** - from the deepest part of our lives; our innermost being.
- 2) **WITH ALL OUR MIND:** - our thoughts
- 3) **WITH ALL OUR SOUL:** - with our very lives, our will and emotions.
- 4) **WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH:** - with our abilities, power and might.

Jesus did not stop there. It was as if Jesus knew there was another question, so he went on to answer it. The second part is to love our neighbour, but this can only be done if we first love God. Who is our neighbour? Our neighbour is anyone near to us and it could mean someone we do not even know. Loving someone as we love ourself simply means that we will not do to anyone, anything that we do not want for ourself.

Imagine what this world would be like if everyone loved their neighbour as themselves? There would be no more fighting, no crime, or abuse. No one would have to lock their doors at night. You could walk any street, night or day, without worrying about being attacked or mugged. Our schools would be safe from drug pushers and gangs. Even with the COVID-19 pandemic,

everyone will do all they could to stop the spread of the disease – wear your mask properly, keep your distance from other people, always wash your hands, get vaccinated. The secret is in fulfilling this one command: love your neighbour as yourself.

If we love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and love our neighbours as ourselves, we will fulfill all 613 commands. Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. (Romans 13:10). Love is the foundation for all obedience to God. God's love in our hearts and lives will help us love our neighbours. Love is the fulfillment of the Law.

**Let us pray:**

Lord, You have said to truly love You, I must also love my neighbour, which can be difficult when we disagree.

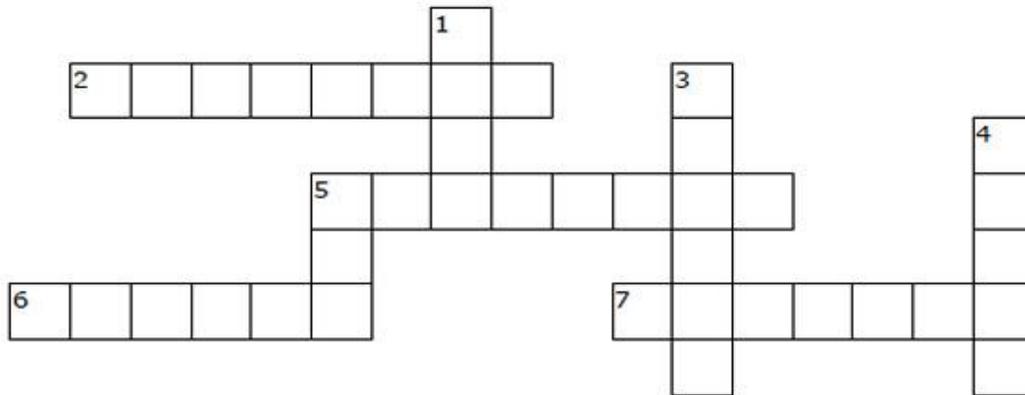
Teach me to love, Lord, as You have loved us so that this world might be a better neighbourhood in which to live and share. Amen.

## ACTIVITY

# The Greatest Commandment

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Mark 12:28-34



### ACROSS

2. A person who lives near or next to another
5. The most important; better than all others of the same kind
6. Coming next in order after the first one
7. Someone who educates or trains others

### DOWN

1. To have a deep feeling of affection or attraction for someone
3. A spoken or written reply to a question
4. The center and source of a person's emotions or feelings
5. The creator of heaven and earth; The One we worship

|          |         |          |      |
|----------|---------|----------|------|
| NEIGHBOR | TEACHER | SECOND   | GOD  |
| ANSWER   | HEART   | GREATEST | LOVE |

