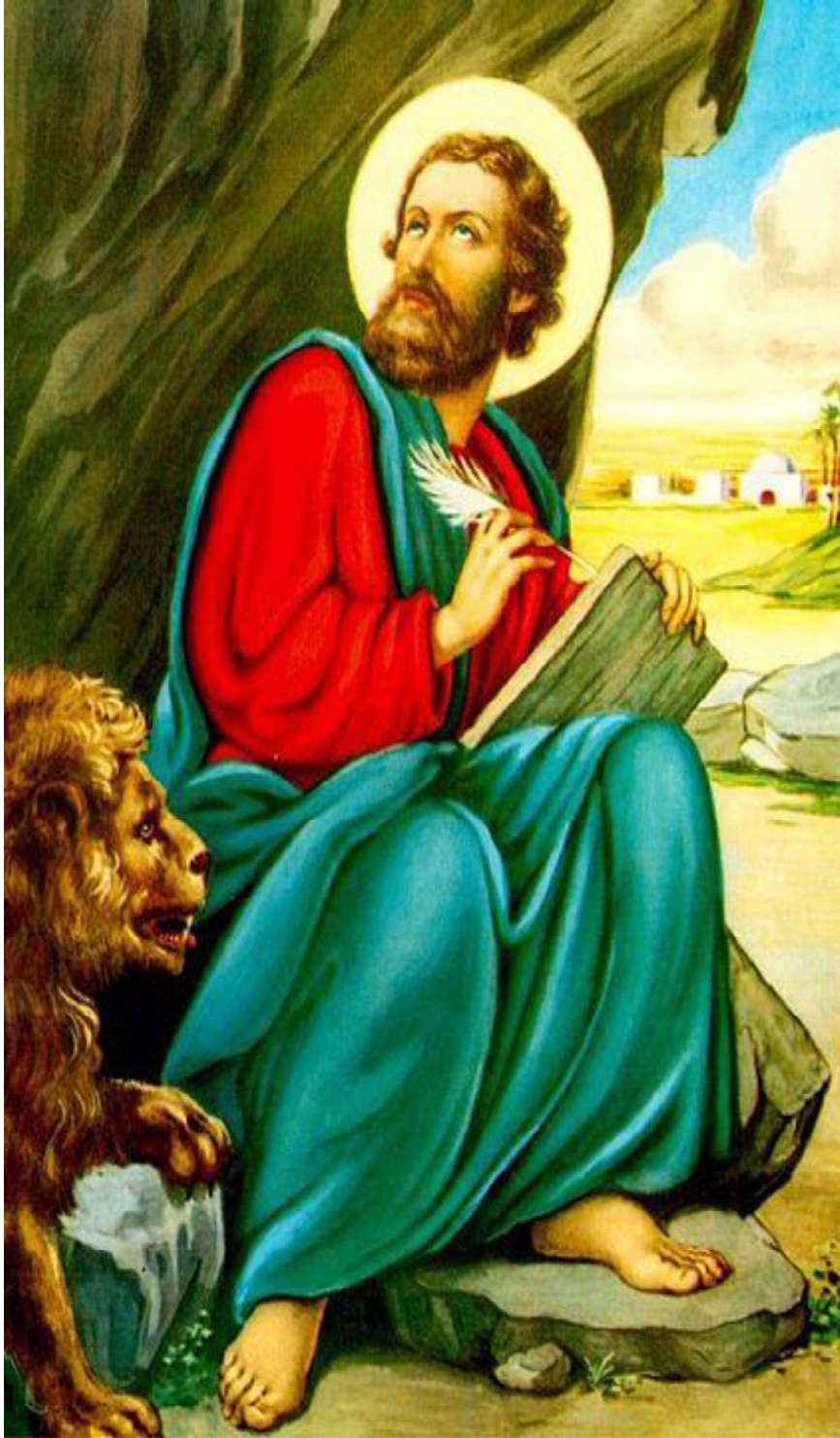


**The Gospel According to St. Mark**  
**Bible study Curriculum for Elementary Ministry**



# Contents

Introduction.....	3
Servant’s preparation:.....	3
<b>1- Unit 1: Getting to Know Christ .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>His Ministry in Galilee.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chapter 1 .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chapter 2.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Chapter 3.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Chapter 4.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Chapter 5.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Chapter 6.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>2-Unit 2 His Retreat from Galilee .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Galilee (Chapters 7 to 9) .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Chapter 7.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Chapter 8.....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Chapter 9.....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>3-Unit 3: His Service in Judea –.....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Chapter 10:.....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Chapter 10.....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>4- Unit 4: Crucifixion and Resurrection .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Chapters 11 to 16 .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Chapter 11.....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Chapter 12.....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Chapter 13.....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Chapter 14.....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Chapter 15.....</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Chapter 16.....</b>	<b>107</b>

## Introduction

### The 4 Gospels comparison

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
To whom it was written	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
Subject	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
Main message of Jesus	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
Gospel content	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle



An 8 minutes illustrative video that could be used by servants to prepare or to show the kids a part at the beginning of each unit. Use only till minute 8:20, as the last part is not verified.  
<https://youtu.be/HGHqu9-DtXk>

### Servant's preparation:

A link to the whole series of 22 sermons covering the whole book of St. Mark's gospel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibq9HrbU1b8&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy>

An introductory sermon to the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibq9HrbU1b8&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy>

### Who is St. Mark?

- ❖ He was born in Libya near Egypt to Jewish parents.
- ❖ He is a relative to St. Barnabas and to St. Peter, the disciple.
- ❖ He moved to Jerusalem with his family while Jesus was preaching.
- ❖ His house was the first church where Jesus instituted the Eucharist with His disciples.
- ❖ His Jewish name is "John" while his Roman name is "Mark".

- ❖ He was chosen among the 70 apostles.
- ❖ He was with Jesus at Cana of Galilee wedding, Passover and when Jesus was arrested, he was the young follower who left his garment and ran away.

### Why do we see a lion in his icon?

- ❖ St. Mark attracted his own father to Christianity when he struck two hungry lions dead with the sign of the cross.
- ❖ He started his gospel by describing John the Baptist as a lion roaring in the wilderness and he also portrayed Jesus as the Divine Master serving with power like a lion.

### The message of the Gospel:

- ❖ He began his preaching with St. Peter in Jerusalem then joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey. But he left them and returned to Jerusalem. Later he traveled with St. Barnabas to Cyprus. Afterwards, St. Paul needed St. Mark with him and they both preached in Colosse (Col 4:10), Rome (Phil 24; 2 Tim 4:11) and perhaps in Venice, from which St. Mark proceeded to Libya his homeland.
- ❖ In 61 A.D. he went to Egypt and established the church of Alexandria which we all belong to. Then he preached in Rome with St. Peter.
- ❖ It is believed to be the oldest of the four Gospels written between the years 65 to 70 A.D.
- ❖ While in Rome, the people asked him to write a summary of what they had received by word of mouth, so he wrote it to the Romans after the death of St. Peter and inspired by his teachings.
- ❖ Since he wrote his gospel to the Romans, he did not include many prophecies from the Old Testament as opposed to the gospel of St. Matthew which was written for the Jews and which therefore included many of those prophecies. St. Mark also explained in his gospel to the Romans many popular Jewish words and traditions.
- ❖ The Romans believed in authority and influence through war and violence, so he presented to them Jesus Christ as the true ruler over devils 1:27, disease 1:42, nature 4:41, plants 11:12-20, and the temple 11:33. Angels minister to Him 1:13, He is Lord of the Sabbath 2:28, He knows what's in the heart and mind of people 2:8, He speaks with authority 1:21, He feeds the multitude 6:30-44, and He is the destroyer of death 5:21-43. His authority is evident through love, service, humility, and through pain.



### 1- Unit 1: (Chapter 1-6)

#### Getting to Know Christ: Chapter 1:1-11

#### His Ministry in Galilee: Chapters 1:12-6:30

- 1) In chapter 1, St. Mark begins by describing Christ as a servant to mankind, sacrificing Himself, aiming to deliver us. That is why he does not detail the birth of Christ but rather focuses on His ministry.
- 2) John the Baptist prepares the road for Christ the Servant (Chapter 1)
- 3) Jesus served in Galilee, prayed for us in the desert, healed many on the Sabbath, in the house, by the sea, and wherever He went.
- 4) Jesus called others to preach with him (the disciples)
- 5) Resistance of His service (Chapter 2)
- 6) Jesus continued His preaching (Chapter 3)
- 7) The people marveled at His parables despite resistance from the scribes (Chapter 4).
- 8) He commanded the evil spirits, death, and disease (Chapter 5).
- 9) Strange behavior towards this Servant who is unique in His love and work (Chapter 6)

### 2-Unit 2:

#### His Retreat from Galilee (Chapters 7 to 9)

- 1) Jesus left Galilee not to avoid trouble but to prepare his disciples' minds to accept the cross. He fed the multitude, healed whoever touched Him, comforted even the Gentiles.
- 2) St. Mark recorded many conversations and questions that revealed Jesus's person and mission in chapters 8 to 10.
- 3) Through His transfiguration, He acknowledged His kingdom.

### 3-Unit 3:

#### His Service in Judea chapter 10:

In this chapter, he provides us with life examples for the path of the cross.

- A. The difficult commandment (no divorce)

- B. Accepting children with love
- C. Wealth
- D. Leaving all to take up the cross
- E. Discarding the love of higher positions.

#### **4- Unit 4:**

#### **Crucifixion and Resurrection Chapters 11 to 16**

- 1) The events of the passion week,
- 2) His entry into Jerusalem (Chapter 11).
- 3) Resisting Him in Jerusalem (Chapter 12).
- 4) The cross and the signs of the end (Chapter 13).
- 5) The preparation for the cross (Chapter 14).
- 6) The events of the crucifixion (Chapter 15).
- 7) His resurrection declared the glory of this unique Servant, who is capable of rising from the dead.
- 8) The One who rose from the dead is still serving us, as He sent His disciples to preach and He is still serving His church.
- 9) He ascended to heaven so that our hearts may ascend with Him also.



## Chapter 12

### Servant's preparation:

A sermon about Chapter 12 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNFFmNLAeRI&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=15>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6xpUwhhOLs&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=16>

### Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please review book overview questions.

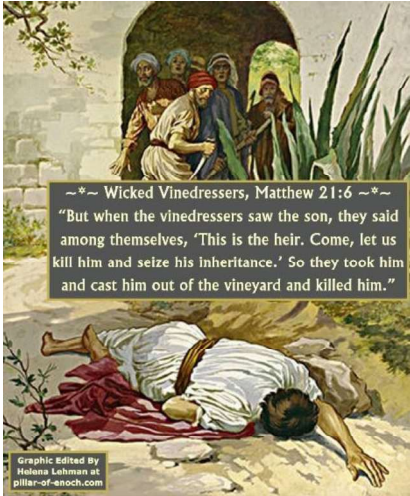
- ✓ Who is St. Mark? He was one of the 70 apostles whose house was the 1<sup>st</sup> church Jesus used and who later preached in many countries including Egypt where our Coptic church originated.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Romans
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? To show the great power of Jesus Christ who through His amazing actions demonstrated His Divine power.

### Remember:

Last lesson, Jesus warned us against pretending we are something we are not. If we are indeed going to call ourselves 'Christians', followers of Christ, then we should live our lives as such and glorify His name through our actions. When the disciples were surprised to see the cursed fig tree withered, Jesus talked to them about having faith in God. They can accomplish what appears to be impossible. He wants us to trust in Him in all our needs and to believe that He has our best interests at heart. He wants us to boldly ask for what we need in prayer knowing that God will answer us and meet our needs

### Main points in the Chapter:

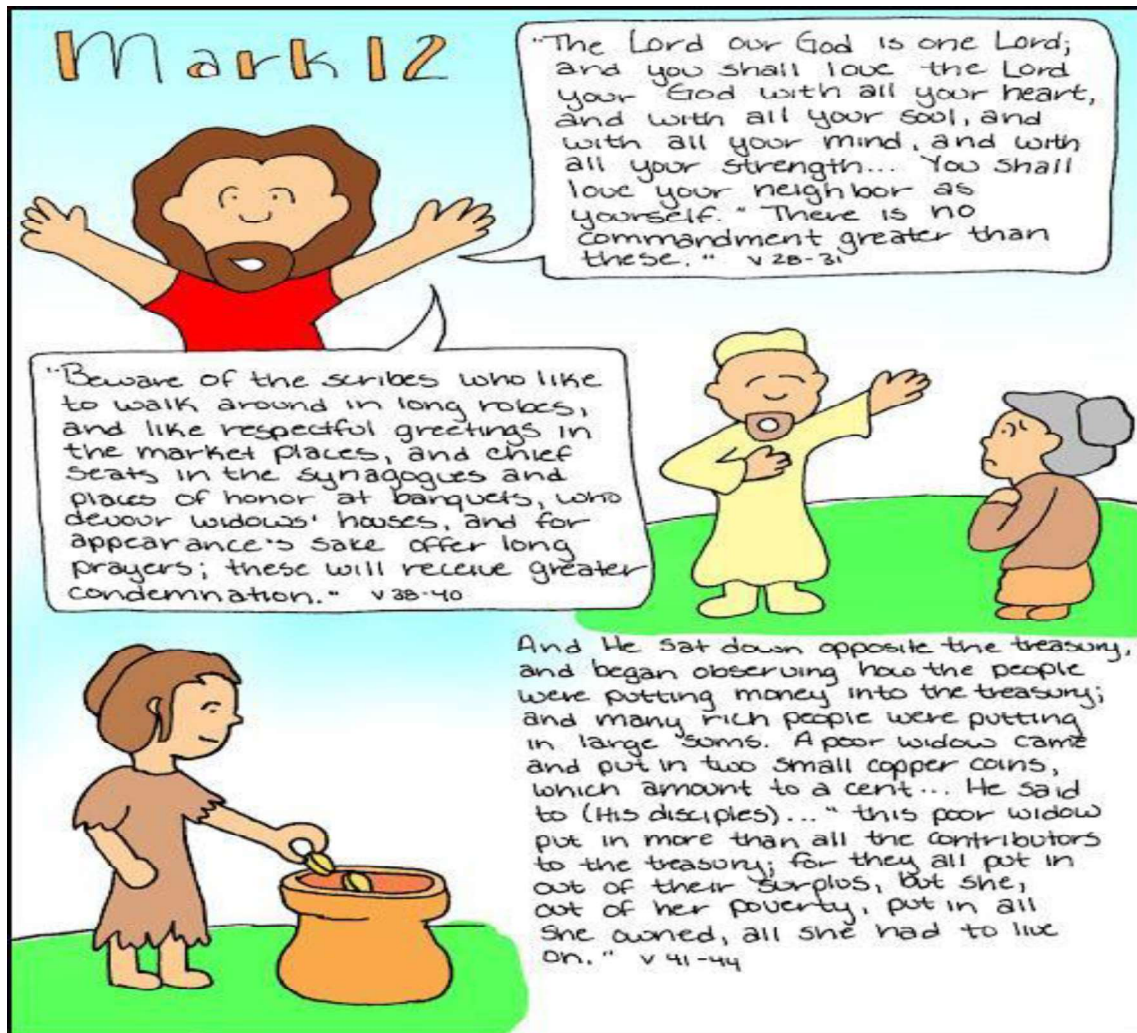
1. The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers
2. The Pharisees: Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes to Caesar?
3. The Sadducees: What About the Resurrection?
4. The Scribes: Which Is the First Commandment of All?
5. Jesus: How Can David Call His Descendant Lord?
6. Beware of the Scribes
7. The Widow's Two Mites



**THE GREATEST**  
**COMMANDMENTS**  
LOVE GOD | LOVE THY NEIGHBOR







**Lesson overview:**

In a few minutes, briefly explain the main events of the chapter with a picture for each event, reading parts of the chapter.

In this chapter, Jesus tells us the vinedresser parable which represents how He took care of the Jews and was expecting them to give fruits but they didn't. They beat His prophets and killed the Son of God later. That is why He deprived them of the privilege of being the chosen nation and extended it to the whole world. As for paying taxes, Jesus encourages us to be good citizens and work for our country as well as give to God what is meant to be given to Him. When asked about life after death, He confirms that we will be like angels and there will be no marriage or other earthly matters. After being questioned by the Jews, He asked them a tricky question that proves that Jesus, the Son of David, is also the God of David as David calls Him "Lord", but He was born of His descendants. Finally, Jesus praises the poor widow who gave generously to God but in secret, as this is the way God wants us to give and serve, without looking for people to praise our service or donation.

**Goal we learn:**

In this chapter, we will focus on what Jesus pointed out as the most important commandment. Love God with all your heart and love people around you. Both commandments go together because no one can claim to love God while hating people, no one can perfectly serve God and pray to Him but yet hurt his friends or talk badly about them.

## Lesson delivery idea

Games and Lesson Introduction: [choose a game]

### **1- God First! Go Fish**



Divide the class into groups of three to five. Give each group a deck (two printouts) of shuffled “God First” Go Fish Cards. This game is played just like normal go fish, but the deck is made up of items people often idolize and treat as more important than God. The purpose of the game is to be the first to get rid of all your cards by making matches and declare, “God is first in my heart!” Each student starts with five cards. The rest of the cards are face down in a stack in the middle. The student whose birthday is soonest goes first. The player asks another player if they have a particular card. (For example, “Joseph, do you have the TV card?” If the player asked has that card, they must hand it over. If not, the first player draws from the draw pile. If they pick up the card they just asked for, they make a match and have another turn. If not, play moves on to the person to the left. Play continues until one player has found matches for all the cards in his/her hand and declares, “God is first in my heart!”

### **2- Hearts full of God**

Divide the class into two teams. On the far end of the room, set up two bowls filled with blue paper, crumpled up into balls. On the close end of the room, in front of the teams, place bowls with old, recycled paper, crumpled up into balls. Make sure each bowl has the same number of papers (Use what you have on hand. Just be sure that the papers on the far end are all the same color. The closer paper balls can be mixed colors and types, as long as they are distinct from the ones on the other side. You could also use pompoms or small balls, or beads. The goal of the game is to empty the bowl of everything that crowds out God from our lives (the old, recycled paper,) and replace it with God’s presence. (The clean, blue paper balls.) Give the first player from each team a serving spoon. They use it to scoop up one paper ball. They then must run across the room and drop the ball into the other bowl before scooping up a blue paper ball and running back to the start to drop it in the bowl. As the game progresses, this will get more difficult, since students will

have to sift through the balls to find the kind they want. The first team to remove all the old paper from their bowl and fill it with the presence of God (in the form of blue paper balls), wins.

**Lesson:**

**1- Love God**

Our Lord is jealous for us. He loves us fiercely and has earned our time, love, and devotion. What do you put first in your life? It is so easy to put God on the back burner. To let our “selves” take over. We feel like we can make decisions on our own or just squeeze God in on a Sunday morning. Before we know it, we have drifted so far from our faith that we don’t even recognize ourselves. If we aren’t actively fighting to stay connected to the Lord and worship only him, we will most assuredly drift downstream and find ourselves filling the space in our hearts meant for God with other pursuits. I pray that this week, you will take the time to pray and read your Bible and fight for your relationship with God. Make him number one in your heart. Okay, trick question: everyone shout out at once and tell me, how many gods are there? (Let students shout out.) Yes, there is only ONE God! He created everything in the universe and made people special, to love and follow Him. So the first commandment means that we sometimes act like we worship other things, or sometimes, people make up gods and tell stories about them and worship these made up gods instead.

In fact, a whole bunch of people in the world back then, and even some today, worshipped made up gods with made up names. Israel knew there is only one real God and they agreed to do what God told them (Exodus 19:5-8). These days, there are still people who don’t believe that God is the one true God and that Jesus is His Son. But they still worship something. We are created to worship. So if we aren’t worshiping God and putting him first in our hearts, then what ARE we worshipping? What are some things we make more important in our lives than God? There’s not really a wrong answer here. Sometimes, we make our schoolwork or homework more important than God. Sometimes we care more about getting good grades than having good hearts. Sometimes we care more about spending time watching TV or playing video games or reading our favorite books than we do spending time with God. Sometimes we choose to skip church or not read our Bible because we have other things to do. Sometimes we care more about our sports team. We want to win, we want to be number one! Schoolwork, sports or other hobbies, our chores, our friends and families, are all important. But nothing is as important as having a good relationship with God. What are some things we can do to help us have a good relationship with God? Going to church and Sunday school, reading our Bibles, praying, and treating others well, all show that God is first in our hearts.

**2- Love others**

**LOVE your neighbor, your family, your friends, your enemy**

Did you know Jesus summed up the entire Old and New Testaments in three points? He said:

- The Lord is one;
- Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.
- Love your neighbor as yourself.

“There is no commandment greater than these,” Jesus said in [Mark 12](#).

**1. LOVE your neighbor**

Your neighbor is the “other” — anyone.

It can be a child across the globe or your actual next-door neighbor. It can be someone in need—and frankly, we’re all in need, whether it be physical goods, love, encouragement, attention, or affirmation.

And your neighbor can be the “[unlovable](#)”. “Even though he was known as a sinful, tax collector, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus the day he came to town”. “Use this story to help your child understand that unkind, unpleasant, unlovable people still want to be known and loved even though they don’t act like it. Jesus gives a wonderful example in this story of reaching out to someone who is unloved by many. He goes out of His way to reach out and Zacchaeus’ heart is changed by His love.”

*Action:* This week identify someone “in need” and act upon it—perhaps a new mom needs a meal prepared or a family member miles away needs a handwritten card or colored picture. Or consider bringing coats and cold weather accessories to a nearby shelter.

## **2. LOVE your family**

Everything starts at home.

Parents might feel it is easy to allow the needs and wants of the kids to outweigh the needs of the family as a unit. Part of learning to love your family is creating and maintaining balance. It’s not easy.

- Ask your children to help with real chores.
- Ask for your kids’ input when weighing decisions; listen to their suggestions and preferences.

## **3. LOVE your friends**

Friends are the family you choose.

You don’t choose your family, but you can choose your friends, so choose wisely. Help your child understand the importance of choosing good friends, and how to be a good friend.

I often struggle with what feedback to give my daughter when she comes home talking about a friend in class who “got her in trouble for talking” or who was mean to her on the playground or who left her out of a group. In second grade, everyone is supposed to be “friends.”

My instinct is to tell her to ignore that kid, or don’t be friends with that one or this one. But that’s not going to help her in the long run. “Be clear about what’s acceptable and what’s not, and remember that children are still learning what it means to be a friend.”

*Action:* Make a list of “acceptable” ways friends behave and ways they don’t. Use this exercise as a way to help your child identify behavior, such as bullying, that should be reported to a teacher or trusted adult.

## **4. LOVE your enemy**

Perhaps the hardest of all is loving those who don’t love us back.

“[Proverbs 15:1](#) says, ‘A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.’ Speak words of encouragement when possible. If not encouragement, then at the very least don’t speak words of hate or retaliation.” Pray for those who treat us badly.

*Action:* Help your child identify someone who has been mean to them, and instruct them on how to pray for them.

Loving isn’t always easy, but that’s when it becomes action instead of feeling. In fact John’s gospel says it’s the one way people will know that we’re followers of Jesus: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” ([John 13:35](#)).

That concept may be too abstract for little ones to understand, but they may surprise you.

**A short illustrative story:**

<https://st-takla.org/books/en/fr-tadros-yacoub/short-stories/0521-christmas-tree.html>

***Memory Verse: The whole verse or part of it***

***<sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. <sup>[U]</sup> This is the first commandment. <sup>31</sup> And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."***