11. Jesus quotes Psalm 110:1, in which David calls the Messiah "Lord." Why does Jesus consider this significant? How can the Messiah be both David's descendant and David's Lord? What assumptions about the Messiah might Jesus be challenging through this question?
12. Matthew repeatedly presents Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's Scriptures. How does this exchange deepen our understanding of who Jesus is, beyond identifying him simply as a teacher, prophet, or political deliverer?
13. Why might Matthew place the discussion of the greatest commandment immediately before Jesus' question about the Messiah's identity? What connection might there be between loving God wholeheartedly and recognizing Jesus as Lord?
14. The passage ends by saying that no one could answer Jesus, and that from that day no one dared to ask him any more questions (v46). Does their silence suggest that Jesus has persuaded them, exposed their limitations, or simply defeated them in debate?
15. If Jesus is not merely a teacher who explains God's commandments but the Lord who possesses authority over us, how does that change our response to his teaching about love?
16. Can we fully understand what it means to love God until we recognize who Jesus is? And can we truly acknowledge Jesus as Lord without allowing his command to love God and neighbor to reshape our lives?
17. What is one practical way you could respond to this passage during the coming week—with a deeper devotion to God, a concrete act of love toward a neighbor, or a more wholehearted acknowledgment of Jesus' lordship?

Family Bible Study

10/25/2026



Matthew 22:34-46 ***The Greatest Commandment***

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees,
they gathered together. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a
question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment
in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your
mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is
like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two
commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them
a question, 42 saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose
son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." 43 He said to them,
"How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

> 44 "'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put
> your enemies under your feet"'?

45 If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" 46 And no one was
able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask
him any more questions.

Questions to Wonder with Kids

In this passage, Jesus is confronted by some of the Jewish leaders who try to trick him, to challenge his authority.

- What question did these leaders, called Pharisees, ask Jesus?
- How did Jesus answer? What did Jesus say were the two greatest commandments?
- I wonder what it means to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind…I wonder why he put that command first…
- What des Jesus say is the second greatest commandment?
- Who is our "neighbor"? Does Jesus mean only our friends and the people we like, or does he mean everyone? How can we show love to someone who is different from us?
- Jesus tells us to "love our neighbors as ourselves." How would you want someone to treat you if you were lonely, had made a mistake, or were having a bad day? How could you treat someone else that way?
- Which of these commandments do you find hardest to follow? Why is that?
- Is it always easy to love other people? What makes it difficult sometimes? How can Jesus help us love others even when we are angry or disagree with them?
- The Pharisees knew that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David. But Jesus showed them that the Messiah was greater than David himself. Who do Christians believe Jesus is, and what does it mean to call him Lord?
- What is the difference between knowing what Jesus teaches and actually following him? How should believing that Jesus is Lord affect the choices we make?
- Imagine that you see a child sitting alone while everyone else is playing together. I wonder what you could do to love your neighbor here…

Questions for Adults

1. In this passage, Matthew brings together two encounters in which Jesus reveals both the heart of God's law and the true identity of the Messiah.
2. Why do you think the Pharisees ask Jesus which commandment in the Law is the greatest (v36)? Are they seeking a genuine answer, testing him, or both?
3. Jesus quotes Deut 6:5, the "Shema," a central confession of Jewish faith. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind? How might each of these dimensions of our lives be involved?
4. What is the difference between loving God and merely believing the right things about God, following religious rules, or participating in worship?
5. Jesus pairs the command to love God with the command to love your neighbor as yourself (v39, Leviticus 19:18). Why do you think he joins these two commandments together?
6. Which is more challenging for you: loving God with your whole heart, soul, and mind; loving your neighbor as yourself; or accepting Jesus as Lord over every aspect of your life? Why?
7. Can a person genuinely love God while persistently neglecting or mistreating other people? Conversely, can someone love their neighbors well without any conscious love for God?
8. Jesus says that all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments (v40). Does this mean that other commandments are less important, or that their proper meaning must be understood in light of love?
9. What would change in our congregation if we treated love of God and neighbor not simply as two important Christian virtues but as the organizing principles of our common life?
10. Jesus asks the Pharisees what they think about the Messiah and whose son he is (v41-2). They answer, "The son of David." What did this title suggest about the Messiah's identity and expected role (Jeremiah 23:5, Isaiah 11:1)?