

New City Catechism

Discussion Questions

Episode 7: What does the law of God require?

Short Answer (matches song): That we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Long Answer (doesn't match song): Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done.

Verse to learn: **Matthew 22: 37-40**

And [Jesus] said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Discussion Questions:

1. Share some strange or different rules (good or bad) you have/had in your home?

A: Allow discussion. Hopefully this is a nice question to get some funny stories.

2. What rules do you follow even though you do not like them? WHY do you follow them anyway?

A: Allow discussion. Some possible answers: Out of requirement (punishment if not done), out of duty (a feeling that "this is what I am supposed to do"), out of love, out of respect, because it benefits you (personal reward).

3. Read Matthew 22:36-40. What is the theme throughout the two greatest commandments?

A: Love. Love God. Love neighbor. A follow up question might be, "How do we love God more?" or "how do we love our neighbor or even our enemy?"

A: More than a feeling: "God demonstrates his love for us in this, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." A mindset change. A remembrance of what God has done for you.

4. What rule or command from God is hard for you to obey or understand?

A: Allow discussion. Perhaps pray for each other about these struggles.

5. How does each commandment of God show us how to love God and/or love our neighbor (mainly focus on the 10 commandments in Exodus 20)?

A: Allow discussion. The last 6 are fairly clear in how they help us to love our neighbor. The first ones speak about devoting time/energy/focus on God.