

A New Commandment

Storyteller: ... *Put the Law box down in front of the children.* “We know what this is. This box has God's Law in it, that God gave to

the Children of Israel in the desert. The box is heart-shaped. The heart makes us remember God's love.

Take the lid off the box. God gave God's people ten great Laws, that told them things they must do, like “Keep the Sabbath Holy”, and things they must not do, like “Do not Worship any god except God.” But Jesus summed up all God's Law in one great Law:

Hold the open Law box out to the children so they can see the Great Law on top of all the other Laws. Love God, and Love People, because God Loves You.

Put the Law box down close to you, and spread the heart underlay out beyond it (closer to the children.) This is the Law of Love. The Law of Love is Big – much too big to be kept in a box!

Love makes it possible for us to do the hard things that God asks us to do. Love makes us happy. So Jesus said “I command

you to love one another.”

Put the cross in the middle of the heart underlay.

God showed God's Love for us in the greatest way that anyone can. Jesus said “The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them.” And then, Jesus went to die on the cross, for us, so that we would be saved from sin.

Sit silent for a moment, focussing on the mystery of the Cross.

John 15:9-17

I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me. So remain faithful to my love for you. If you obey me, I will keep loving you, just as my Father keeps loving me, because I have obeyed him.

I have told you this to make you as completely happy as I am. Now I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you. The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them. And you are my friends, if you obey me. Servants don't know what their master is doing, and so I don't speak to you as my servants. I speak to you as my friends, and I have told you everything that my Father has told me.

You did not choose me. I chose you and sent you out to produce fruit, the kind of fruit that will last. Then my Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. So I command you to love each other.

- Story Materials**
- Heart box with the Law from the Exodus story.
 - Heart underlay
 - Cross