

## Continuing Presentations for the Upper Atrium Emphasis---The True Vine

Direct Aim: To lift up Jesus's moral teaching in the Summary of the Law, which states most perfectly how we must live.

Materials: A candle to light when reading the scripture if available. The pictures in this presentation and art supplies for personal work.

Introduction:



On the left on the top of this shelf in the atrium, you can see the scripture reading of the True Vine and some pictures of grape vines. You may remember reading this scripture with Anne and maybe reading it again with your parents since we

have had to stay home. You may remember that Jesus said he was the vine and we are the branches. Most importantly he said to abide on the vine. If you counted the word abide, you know that he uses the word eleven times. That means Jesus wants us to stay on the vine close to him.

We have also talked about baptism and how through our baptism each of us becomes more firmly attached to the vine.

At times it can be hard to remain on the vine, so Jesus gives us many teachings, called moral teachings to help us stay in close relationship with him.

Presentation:

Right next to the scripture reading of the True Vine is the tablet of a new commandment that Jesus gives us. It is called The Great Commandment.

THE  
GREAT  
COMMANDMENT

Light the candle before we read from scripture. Remember that we light a candle when we read from scripture because scripture, The Bible, lights our path through life.

If you have a Bible find Matthew 22: 37-39. Remember that Matthew is the first book in the New Testament and is near the back of the Bible. The 22 is the chapter and is in large print. 36-39 are the verses and they are in small print.



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 first and great commandment.*

*And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

This is not really a new commandment. The Jewish people knew this as their Great Law from the Old Testament or Hebrew scriptures. Now Jesus is saying that all the commandments are included in this commandment. It is the Summary of the Law.

Wondering: You may want to choose one of these wondering questions to wonder about. (as always quiet is fine.)

I wonder what it means to love God with all your heart. I wonder what that would look like. I wonder if we can see this.

I wonder what it means to love God with all your soul. I wonder what that would look like. I wonder if we can see this kind of love.

I wonder what it means to love God with all your mind. I wonder what that would look like. I wonder if we can see this.

I wonder what it means to love your neighbor. I wonder who our neighbor is. I wonder if we can see this kind of love.

I wonder what it feels like to try and love your neighbor. I wonder if this is always easy or if sometimes it is hard to do.

I wonder how we love ourselves. I wonder how this might look.

I wonder if you have anything you would like to say to God before we extinguish the candle.

Have someone put out the candle.

The upper atrium children might like to:

- make a tablet of the law to place on a desk or in a prayer area
- draw ways that they show their love of God, their neighbors, or themselves

- find pictures of people showing their love of God or neighbors. ( I am thinking of all the pictures in newspapers or on the internet of ways that people are helping each other. The Concord Monitor has many pictures of people helping right now. If you get the Episcopal News Service on the internet there are many articles showing love of God and of neighbor. I am putting the link below.)

[www.episcopalnewsservice.org](http://www.episcopalnewsservice.org)

