



Jake Lyell for LWR

Suzan Nzabake is proud of the vanilla beans growing on her farm in Uganda. Because of your love, Suzan learned new farming techniques and can provide for her family. Suzan shares, "I really see that God is answering our prayers. I keep praying that God should continue to uplift me and bless my farm." Thank you for being an answer to your neighbor's prayers.

**LEARN**

In 1945, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) was created in response to the heartbreaking tragedy and suffering at the end of World

War II. Much has changed in nearly 80 years. But Lutherans remain at the very heart of this ministry, a true bedrock affirming God's love for all people. Because of your support, LWR is there for our neighbors in need not only in times of immediate and urgent crisis, but also for the long-term, helping to build sustainable and successful solutions for the future. The LWR Quilt and Kit ministry — reaching hundreds of thousands of the world's most vulnerable each year — provides warmth, comfort and tangible reminders of God's love for the forgotten and forlorn. Thank you for joining us in our mission of ending poverty, injustice and human suffering in the world, until your love reaches every neighbor.

[LWR.ORG/INTRO](https://www.lwr.org/intro)

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

DISCUSS



1. What scenes or people captured your attention in the video? (It might be helpful to watch the video twice.)
2. What do you know about Lutheran World Relief? (If time allows, visit lwr.org to learn something new to share with your group. Consider navigating to the “What We Do” menu options.)
3. The video stated this: “Because of you, hope is being restored.” What difference does it make in the world to restore hope?

BIBLE STUDY



Jesus encountered an abundance of obstacles throughout his ministry. In today’s Bible reading, he comes face to face with one of Israel’s scribes, a legal expert working with the religious and political authorities of the day.

Often found evaluating Jesus’ activities throughout the Gospel of Mark, the scribe in this encounter seems to be deeply interested in what Jesus has to say. In fact, he might even agree with him.

Jesus responds to the scribe’s question, “Which commandment is the first of all?” But it could be argued that the real question Jesus is answering is this: How does one love God? As Jesus returns to the earliest of Israel’s holy writings, he paints a grand picture of what it really means to love God. It’s a simple and challenging command. As you read this story from Mark 12, consider this: can you really love God and not love your neighbor?

Read **Mark 12:28-34**^{NRSV}

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³²Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’ — this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

It might be helpful to read or listen to the Bible reading more than once.

1. What word, phrase or image captured your attention in the Bible reading?
2. What is God up to in this passage?
3. What might God’s message be for you in this story?

DISCUSS

1. Is it possible to love God without loving your neighbor? Why or why not?
2. Can you recall a time you loved a neighbor who was difficult to love? What pushed you to love this neighbor? Share with your group.
3. Can loving your neighbor bring you closer to the kingdom of God? If so, how?



PRAY

God, you call us to love you with all our hearts, soul, mind and strength. Open our eyes to see the moments this week that we can love you more deeply. Turn our hearts toward our neighbor, that you might use us to restore hope in the world. Amen.



WHO WILL YOUR LOVE REACH NEXT?

By partnering with Lutheran World Relief, you are walking faithfully alongside our neighbors in need around the world. You are comforting the anxious of heart, surrounding them in love, with every quilt and kit your loving hands craft. You are feeding the hungry in times of drought and giving lifesaving healthcare to those living among ongoing violence. You are restoring hope to communities that have been shattered from disaster. You can join in creating God’s promised future today by sharing your love. **Visit lwr.org/next to make your gift and shine your light on our neighbors in darkness.**



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