

## Teamwork Tic Tac Toe

By Julie Filby

Teach your children the two most important commandments—love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself—by completing any three good deeds in a row (across, down or diagonally) on a Tic Tac Toe board.

### For

Young Family

### Season

Fall

### Needed

Teamwork Tic Tac Toe template (see last page or design your own), pen or pencil, Bible (or see text on next page)



### Prepare in Advance

- Print a Tic Tac Toe sheet for each child.
- Review Matthew 22:34-40.

### Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

*O God, help us follow your two greatest commandments—loving you and loving others—by remembering to do good deeds every day. Thank you for showing us that when we share with others, we show our love for you. Amen.*

2. Designate someone to read Matthew 22: 34-40 aloud, either a parent or a child who is comfortable reading from the Bible.
3. In this story, Jesus relays which commandments are most important: first, to love God with all your heart, and secondly, to love your neighbor as yourself. Discuss these questions:
  - In what ways can we show God our love by loving our neighbor?
  - What does God mean by “neighbor”? Is that limited to the people who live in the house, apartment, or building next door?
  - Can loving our neighbor start within our own family? What are some ways we can show others in our family that we love them?
  - Do small, every-day tasks show love? What are some examples?
4. Give each child a copy of the Teamwork Tic Tac Toe template and a pen or pencil.
5. Instruct them put an “X” on each good deed they have completed recently; perhaps they will have more than one Tic Tac Toe. If they do not complete a Tic Tac Toe, review the choices (or make up some of your own) to see how quickly a Tic Tac Toe can be completed.
6. Variation: Try to “X” out *all* good deeds listed on the sheet. Make it a competition. See who can fill up the sheet first.

# The Greatest Commandment

## Matthew 22: 34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them [a scholar of the law] tested him by asking, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”



## Teamwork Tic Tac Toe

Complete any three good deeds by either working across, down or diagonally.

<p>Set the dinner table and help wash the dishes.</p>	<p>Take out the trash.</p>	<p>Share your favorite toy, book or game with a friend, brother or sister, cousin or classmate. Or donate it.</p>
<p>Ask your teacher how you can help with something at school, then do it. Or ask a neighbor how you can help.</p>	<p>Free space (write in your own activity)</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Make a new friend at school, church, in your neighborhood, at a park or other play area.</p>
<p>Fold and put away your clothes.</p>	<p>Take care of family pets, a family plant, or help in the garden or with other yardwork.</p>	<p>Give up a favorite TV program, video game, computer game, or playing on the Internet for a week.</p>

