



## March 15, 2020 - The Greatest Commandment

### **Story Time!**

Samantha was getting ready for her wedding day. She had picked out her dress, the flowers, the colors... everything was ready! She was ready to make a full commitment and devote herself to one person for the rest of her life. She had prepared herself for this. At the altar, she stood before her groom with tears in her eyes. It was her time to share her vows! She pulled out the piece of paper and began to read in front of everyone the commitment she was making to her soon to be husband:

"Michael, I promise to love you. I promise that I will talk to you for at least 15 minutes everyday. I promise that I will spend one day a week thinking about you and how I should treat you. I promise that when things are hard, I will consider talking to you about those things, sometimes. I promise that when things are great, I will remember to write you a thank you card! Even if I'm too busy to pay attention to you, I promise to at least try to listen to you when you're talking to me, even if I can't remember what you're saying. I promise that when we have children, I will show them to devote as much time to you as I do. I love you!"

Everyone was quiet. Samantha stood proudly in front of Michael, pleased with her words and acts of commitment. Michael smiled back at her, cleared his throat, and then began his vows:

"Samantha, I promise to love you. I promise that during those 15 minutes you are talking to me I will listen to every word you say but beyond those 15 minutes, I'll be waiting each day for those times together. I will cherish that one day a week we have together, and will spend the rest of the week thinking about how I can show you that I'm still with you those other days. When things are hard, I'll be paying attention, even if you don't see it. When things are great, I'll be throwing a party for you with my friends every time. When you can't remember the words I say to you, I



will find so many different ways to repeat them to you - through my acts of service, gifts, time, and words. I promise to love our children the way I love you.”

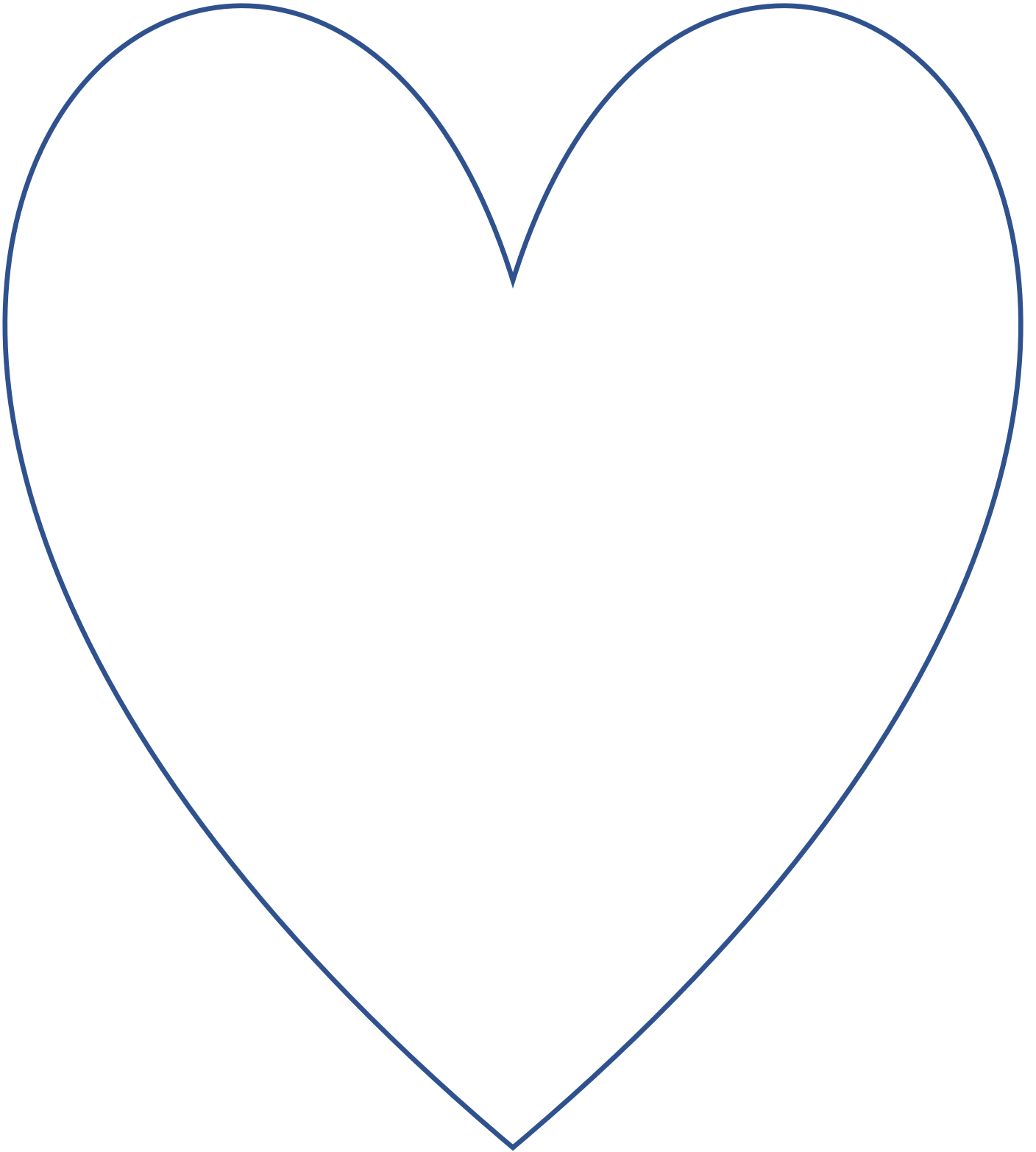
Samantha stood there surprised. What kind of love was this? Michael didn't love her just sometimes or with just parts of his life, but with all of it! As Samantha listened and learned how Michael loved her, she realized that if she was going to devote herself to him, she would have to learn to love him back in return. Not just with a piece of her heart, but with all of it.

1. Do any of Samantha's vows sound like ways that we love God sometimes?
2. What does loving God with all our hearts mean to you?
3. How often do you think about God? Talk about God? How would you like to talk about God more together?
4. What are the things you love to talk about the most with your friends (or brother or sister)? Why? What do you love about those things?
5. Michael gives us an idea of how patient God's love is with us. What comes to mind when you hear the way he loves so much and so patiently?
6. Take time to pray but before jumping into prayer, take a few seconds to sit quietly together. Ask God to speak to your family in a way that you can hear and discern. Then take time to pray together and spend some time expressing your love for God together.

### **Family Activity**

Cut the heart into various puzzle shapes. For younger kids, you may want to just have three or four pieces or with your older kids, you may want more pieces. Write together on the various pieces the different things in your lives that you love and give attention to. Look at the pieces together and reflect what are the areas that God is a part of those things. How many pieces are actually affected by our love/worship/devotion to God? Whichever pieces you and/or your child feel confident is an area of your life that is devoted to God, put those pieces together. Can you make a full heart with the pieces you have chosen? Why or why not? What does this teach us about our current hearts?

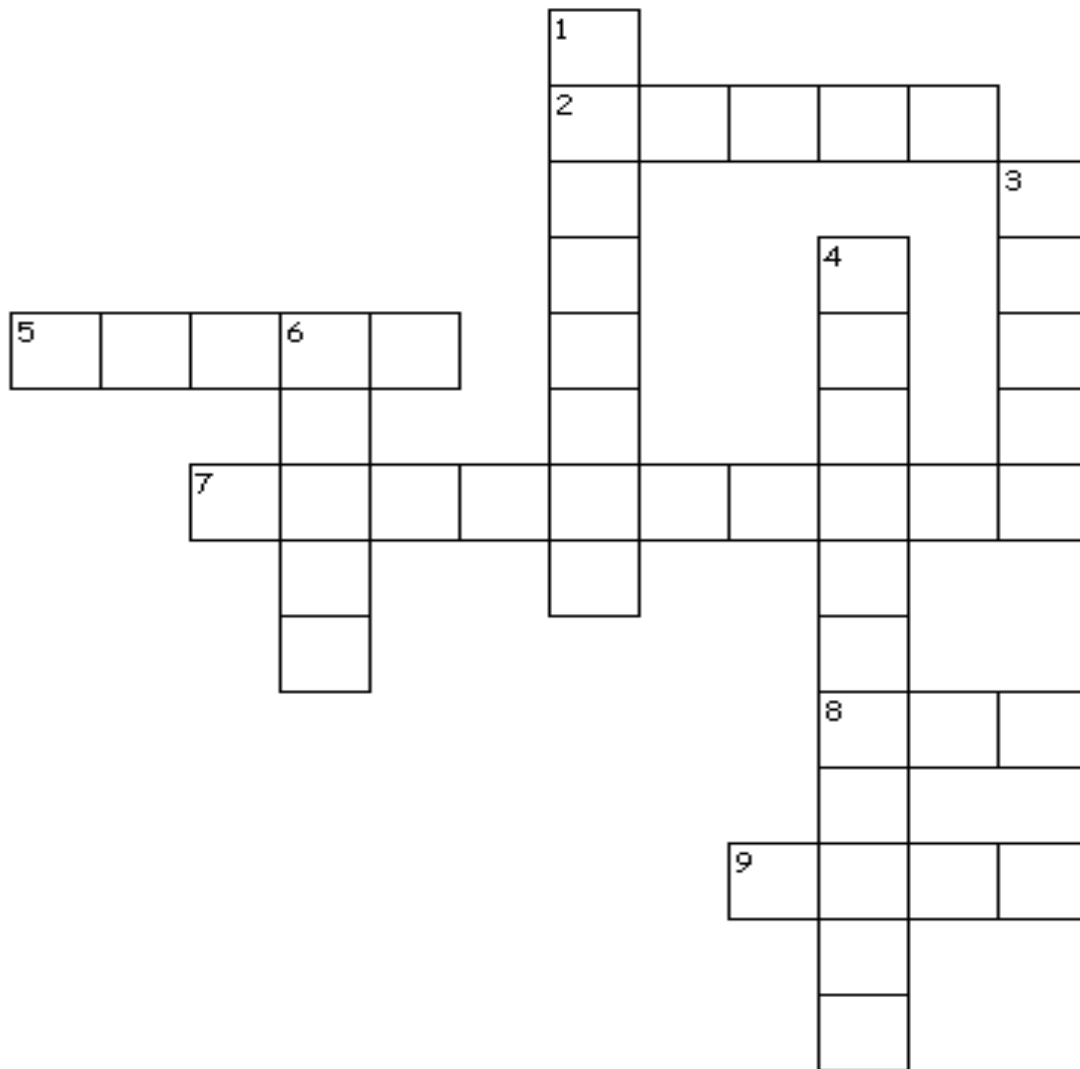




T N E M A T S E T D L O C N L  
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V Q A H V U E T N M W R O U N  
P H T L E E E L A Z R H N I W  
Q W N T D C W N Z E E D O K S  
B C Z Q N E D K X Z L A R S X  
T R T I L M S O P L O S E U R  
X J R B E I D I O N H R T S Q  
G P I N B U S S M D I E U E K  
U B T W S Q D R E O M D E J E  
U S H C R U H C A S R S D P N  
C R O S S W A L K E O P U Z Q  
I W I A A L X N E G L M W P E  
T D P W W H Y S Y P W W Y L D

BIBLE  
CHURCH  
COMMANDMENTS  
CROSSWALK  
DEUTERONOMY  
ELOHIM  
EXODUS  
ISRAEL  
JESUS  
MOSES  
OLDTESTAMENT  
PRINCETON  
PROMISEDLAND





**Across**

- 2. these words shall be on our \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. daily Jewish prayer and confession of faith
- 7. the people hearing these laws
- 8. the Lord our God, the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, \_\_\_\_\_, and might

**Down**

- 1. we are to teach these commands to our \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. who quoted the greatest commandment many many years later!
- 4. the book we are reading this week
- 6. the person who wrote this book

