

*Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## **Mark 12:28-34**

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

32 “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33 To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

## **Outline**

### **1. What does God seek?**

Deuteronomy 6

- What do you think what God wants?
- What does this passage tell us he wants with us?

### **2. Where do we find what God seeks?**

Can you see how people can be near to the Kingdom of God?

- Are you clear how you can enter the Kingdom?
- Can you have a go at telling someone how to enter the Kingdom of God?

1:15, ‘*The time has come, he said. The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!*’

### **1 We praise the holy One**

of whom the prophets sing;  
for Christ, God's servant Son,  
is now enthroned as King.  
Let Advent stir our hearts again  
to celebrate the Saviour's reign.

3 This kingdom - still it grows,  
and we may enter heaven;  
for Jesus died and rose  
that we might be forgiven,  
and through him find a welcome place  
among his family of grace.

5 The Lord has set an hour  
which no-one can discern,  
when Christ, our judge, in power  
and splendour shall return.  
His church at last will be complete  
and fall in worship at his feet!

2 A lamp of witness shone -  
a prophet for his day -  
it was the Baptist, John,  
preparing Jesus' way:  
his call rang out across the land,  
"Repent - God's kingdom is at hand!"

4 May God help us to do  
the things we know are right:  
and, spurning what's untrue,  
to clothe ourselves in light.  
Let misery and conflicts cease,  
and justice rule, with joy and peace.

Emma Turl (b.1946)

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### **A new commandment I give unto you**

That you love one another as I have loved you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this shall all men know that you are My disciples.  
If you have love one for another. (repeat last three lines)

Author Unknown

### **Lord Jesus Christ**

You have come to us  
You are one with us  
Mary's Son  
Cleansing our souls from all their sin  
Pouring Your love and goodness in  
Jesus, our love for you we sing  
Living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ  
You have come to us  
Born as one with us  
Mary's Son  
Led out to die on Calvary  
Risen from death to set us free  
Living Lord Jesus, help us see  
You are Lord

Lord Jesus Christ  
We would come to you  
Live our lives for you  
Son of God.  
All your commands we know are true  
Your many gifts will make us new,  
Into our lives Your power breaks through,  
Living Lord

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