

# What do the commandments have to do with charity?



## PRAY

### My Lord and my God!

You created the world, which has space and food for all. And yet we steal and fight one another, taking away the air that we breathe. We fell out of love and forgot how to share. Return this love to our hearts. Amen.



## CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud. Short silence.

**Exchange:** *What particularly appealed to you?*



## STUDY

1. Read YOUCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



## DISCUSS

**Also discuss your own questions on this topic!**

**Treasure Book:** *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



## CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at [feedback@youcat.org](mailto:feedback@youcat.org).

**#YOUCATChallenge:** Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.



## Mk 12:30-31

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

### 309 What is charity?

**Charity is the power by which we, who have been loved first by God, can give ourselves to God so as to be united with him and can accept our neighbor for God's sake as unconditionally and sincerely as we accept ourselves. [1822-1829, 1844]**

Jesus places love above all laws, without however abolishing the latter. Therefore St. Augustine rightly says, "Love, and do what you will." Which is not at all as easy as it sounds. That is why charity — love — is the greatest virtue, the energy that inspires all the other virtues and fills them with divine life.

1. What changes when you suddenly feel that somebody loves you?
2. Who can teach you what "love" is?
3. Consider this statement by Augustine: "Love — and do what you will." What is the correct understanding of this statement? What would be an incorrect understanding?
4. Why is it a sin if a person dislikes — or even despises — himself or herself?

Take one hour and consider your life story... Start from when you were a baby, and go all the way up to the present. Don't omit anything: Neither serious wounds nor falls into evil, dependent behavior, etc. Meditate on the fact that God is looking at you with eternal love and mercy all the time.

Do you accept this challenge?

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