

## Loving Our Neighbors

**Cast:** Maggie, a goofy puppet & Pastor, a pastor or teacher

*Pastor begins as if it's normal children's time. Maggie is hiding somewhere.*

Pastor: One time someone asked Jesus, "What is the most important thing in the whole Bible?"  
"The most important thing," Jesus said, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. And to Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Maggie: (*Interrupting*) Wait a minute, Wait a minute, wait just one minute. Does that mean I have to get all mushy about my next door neighbors? I have to buy them *chocolates*, and send them *flowers*, and go all *starry eyed* and walk around bumping into *doors* and *losing* my car keys? (*really make those emphasised words drip with false sweetness and sarcasm*)

Pastor: Oh, hi Maggie. Kids, this is Maggie. No, you don't have to get all mushy for your next door neighbors.

Maggie: Because that's what my sister Tabitha did when she fell in love with \_\_\_\_\_, she sent him *flowers* and wrote him *letters* and cut out heart shaped cards for *Valentines Day*... She went completely stark raving mad!

Pastor: No, No, No, Maggie, that's a different kind of love, that's romantic love and its different to the kind of love God wants us to show.

Maggie: Well good, cause I think that's gross!... So what kind of love does God want us to show to our neighbors then?

Pastor: I was just about to explain that to the kids. Why don't you help me?!

Maggie: But I don't know anything!

Pastor: Of course you do! We all know how to show love because God made us and God IS love! I'll tell you what, Maggie, you can be my assistant and we can all work it out together. The first part is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. What do you think that means?

Maggie: Uh...

Pastor: Well, where's your heart?

Maggie: (points to chest)

Pastor: Right! And what's it do?

Maggie: Uuhhh...?

Pastor: Kids, do you know? (takes answers) Yes! It pumps your blood, it keeps you alive! Pretty important, huh? Do you remember what's next in the list?

Maggie: Uhhhh.... Soul?

Pastor: Yes! Good job, Maggie! So where's your soul?

Maggie: (*waves arms and makes ghost sound*)

Pastor: Well kind of! What do you think, kids? (take answers) Right, it's invisible but it's what makes us who we are and our soul is what will live on in heaven. Also pretty important!

Maggie: Ooh! Ooh! I know the next one! Your mind! (*points to head*) It's what makes you think!

Pastor: That's right! All your thoughts and everything you think to yourself all day long. Very important! The thoughts in your mind effect a lot of how you feel and what you do.

Maggie: Wow, I never thought of it that way! harharhar

Pastor: Nice one. Now, what's the last way Jesus said we should Love God, with all our...?

Maggie: Strength! (*flexes muscles and growls*)

Pastor: Very good! See you do know things, Maggie! (*asking the kids*) Are any of you super strong? (*let them answer/flex*) Nice! Having strength allows us to move, and walk, and play, and work, and do all the things we can do with our bodies.

Maggie: So... we're supposed to love God with all our heart – which is our life, all our soul – which is what makes us who we are, all our mind – which is our thoughts & feelings, and all our strength – which is everything we can do with our bodies..?

Pastor: That is exactly right, Maggie. Jesus said to love God with everything we've got. Our heart, soul, mind, and strength. This is the most important rule in the whole Bible! But Jesus also said, the next rule is just as important, do you remember what it is?

Maggie: Uhh.. there's more?

Pastor: Yep! This one is just as important as the first. Kids do you remember? (*take answers*) Yes, love your neighbor as yourself.

Maggie: Oh right! But not the mushy kind of love. Which is good cause my next door neighbors are weird.

Pastor: Well, no. Jesus didn't mean the mushy kind of love, but he also didn't mean our next door neighbors. When Jesus said you should love your neighbor as yourself he meant we should treat everyone the way we want to be treated. Have you ever heard that before?

Maggie: Treat *everyone* the way you want to be treated? Yeah I think I have!

Pastor: Have you heard that before, kids? (*take answers*) Right, it's called the golden rule!

Maggie: Yeah! That's what I was gonna say!

Pastor: Great! So now you know the most important things in the whole Bible!

Maggie: I sure do! ...Uhh... what are they again?

Pastor: Let's help her out, kids! First is to... (*everyone says it together*) Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And to Love your neighbor as yourself.  
Awesome! Thank you so much, Maggie!

Maggie: Any time, neighbors!

**The End**