

4

Being 'Church'

4. Church is a Loving community

Key idea

What did you think was the most important point made in the sermon on this topic?

Were there any issues raised in the sermon that you'd like to discuss further?

Clarifying the message

We are going to focus first on Mt 22:34-40. Jesus says these words in the midst of a series of confrontations with his religious opponents, the Pharisees, Sadducees and Herodians. Does the setting tell us anything more about the meaning of Jesus words here?

Read out Mt 22:37-40 again.

1. How do you respond to Jesus' words here?
2. What might you say to a person who sought to fulfil only one of these commandments?
3. Why is 'one without the other' meaningless?

Living the message today

Read 1 John 4:7-21

4. According to 1 John 4, what is unique about Christian love?
5. As Christians, why should we love? (see 1 Jn 4:19)
6. What stops you from loving as Jesus did? When is it hardest?
7. What helps you love as Jesus did?
8. Who do you need to love?

A prayer exercise
for your group or for
later at home.

Slowly read through
Jesus words below
and then pray in
response to them:

*"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command."
(John 15:9-14).*