OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who*, *What*, *Where*, *When*, *How*, *Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Why do you think that understanding who God is (v.29 - The Lord is one) must precede the commandment to love God?

b) God desires all of us – heart, soul, mind, strength. Why is this such an important truth to consider when considering God's love?

2) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?

a) Why must we love God first before we can love our neighbor?

b) How can all the ways we "love ourselves" teach us how to love others?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ? a) In what way does Jesus' conversation here in Mark 12 condemn us? How did Jesus fulfill the greatest commandment for us? How does knowing that Jesus fulfilled all love in our place empower us to then love God and others?

APPLICATION

a) Read Philippians 2:3-5. Love requires sacrifice. What is one specific area where you could practice sacrificial love this week?

PRAYER

Praise God for his fierce love for you.

Confess ways that you have failed to love God passionately and others genuinely.

Ask God to give you his supernatural love for others, even your enemies.