

The Exchange Zone

Deuteronomy: Choose Life | Week Seven | Deuteronomy 6:1–9

THE BIG IDEA

Loving God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength was never designed to live and die inside one generation. It was designed to travel, handed from person to person in the ordinary moments of everyday life. We cannot carry that handoff in our own strength, and we do not have to. Jesus kept this command perfectly on our behalf, and the love we pass on was placed in our hands by grace.

01 Share life *about 15 minutes*

Before we open the Bible, take a few minutes to catch up on life. Give everyone a chance to share. This guide is designed for about 85 minutes, and the times beside each section are suggestions, not rules.

1. What was a high point and a low point from your week?
2. Who is one person, older than you, whose faith you have watched up close? What did you notice?
- 3. When we last met, we each named one step to take. How did it go, and what got in the way?

02 Setting the scene

Last time, in Deuteronomy 5:22–33, Israel heard God’s voice from the fire, asked Moses to stand between them and God, and heard God long for hearts that would keep fearing him. This week Moses shows how that kind of heart gets handed to the next generation.

We are in the second movement of our journey through Deuteronomy, the farewell sermons Moses preached to Israel on the edge of the Promised Land. Moses is an old man, and he will not cross the river with the people, so he is speaking to the children of the generation that died in the wilderness. In chapter 6 we reach the heartbeat of the whole book, the passage Israel came to call the Shema, from the Hebrew word for hear. Jesus later called verse 5 the greatest commandment in all of Scripture. But before Moses ever says the word love, he names who this love is for: you, your children, and your grandchildren. Loving God was always meant to be handed from one generation to the next, and this passage shows us how the handoff happens.

03 Read the Word together *about 10 minutes*

Open your Bibles to Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Have one person read the passage aloud, slowly, while the rest of the group follows along. If your group reads in another language, have someone read it again from their own Bible. The verses for each part of the study are printed in the sections below.

MEMORY VERSE | DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5

Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

First impressions

4. What word, phrase, or image stood out to you as the passage was read?
5. What did you notice, or what surprised you, that you had not seen in this passage before?

04 Study the scripture *about 35 minutes*

The sermon walked through four movements in this passage: faith is designed to travel three generations deep, God asks for our whole selves, faith is handed through a thousand small conversations, and our homes are always teaching something. The verses for each part are printed below, so reread them as you go. The first question in each part asks what the text says, the second asks what it means, and the third asks what it changes. If time is short, keep the questions marked with an orange dot.

THREE GENERATIONS DEEP

Read verses 1-3 again.

Deuteronomy 6:1-3 CSB

1 This is the command, the statutes and ordinances, the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you may follow them in the land you are about to enter and possess. **2** Do this so that you may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life by keeping all his statutes and commands I am giving you, your son, and your grandson, and so that you may have a long life. **3** Listen, Israel, and be careful to follow them, so that you may prosper and multiply greatly, because the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you a land flowing with milk and honey.

Before Moses ever says the famous words about love, he tells Israel why he is teaching them: so that you, your son, and your grandson would fear the LORD. Moses is about to

die. He is not thinking about next Sunday. He is thinking about faces he will never see. In this book, loving God was never designed to live and die inside one generation. It was designed to travel.

6. Look at verse 2. Who does Moses say this teaching is for? Count the generations he names.
- 7. Who handed faith to you? Share a person, a moment, or a memory. And if faith is newer to you, who has God used recently to point you toward him?

ALL YOUR MUCH

Read verses 4–5 again.

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 CSB

4 Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **5** Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

The Hebrew word shema means more than letting sound reach your ears. It means the kind of hearing that moves your feet. And each word in verse 5 is bigger than it sounds in English. Heart, lev, is your control center, the place where your decisions get made. Soul, nephesh, is your whole breathing self. Strength, me'od, is not even a noun. It simply means very, or much. God is asking us to love him with all our much: our calendars, our money, our energy, our homes, everything that fills our hands.

8. Look at verse 5. What three words describe how we are to love God, and what does each one cover?
- 9. Which part of your much is hardest to hand over to God right now: your decisions, your daily life, or your time and resources? Why?

A THOUSAND SMALL CONVERSATIONS

Read verses 6–7 again.

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 CSB

6 These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. **7** Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Notice the order. The words go in your heart first, before they ever go to your children, because you cannot hand someone something your own hands are not holding. Then comes the word repeat, shanan in Hebrew, the word you would use for sharpening a

blade. Faith is not passed in one dramatic talk but in a thousand small conversations, in the four ordinary moments Moses names: the couch, the car, the bedtime, and the breakfast.

10. Look at verses 6 and 7. Where do the words go first, and what four moments does Moses name for talking about them?
- 11. Be honest: which of those four everyday moments is the most wasted opportunity in your life right now, and what would it look like to claim it this week?
12. This is not a parents only verse. Grandparents, aunties and uncles, singles, and friends all walk the road with the next generation. Who is one young person God has placed within your reach?

WHAT DOES YOUR HOUSE SAY

Read verses 8–9 again.

Deuteronomy 6:8-9 CSB

8 Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. **9** Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

Israel took these verses so seriously that Jewish homes to this day fix a small case to the doorframe with these words inside. They built their homes so you could not leave for the day without bumping into the word of God. Every home runs a curriculum. The photos preach what we celebrate, the calendar preaches what we prioritize, and whatever we reach for first in the morning preaches what we trust.

At LOFT, every child belongs to all of us. Faith gets handed on when a whole church decides the next generation is everyone's assignment: learning names, praying for kids and students, showing up, and serving. The sermon called it being one of the five, five caring adults around every young person.

13. Look at verses 8 and 9. Where does Moses say to put these words? What do those four places have in common?
14. If a stranger walked through your home this week and never met you, what would the walls, the screens, and the rhythms tell them your household loves most?
- 15. What is one concrete way you could be one of the five for a child or student at LOFT this month?

05 Back to Jesus *about 10 minutes*

How does this passage point us back to Jesus?

Israel could not keep the Shema, and neither can we. We have loved God with slices instead of with all our much, and we have let a thousand small conversations pass in silence. But in all of history there is one Son who loved the Father with all his heart, all his soul, and all his strength. From the manger to the cross, Jesus never dropped what the Father placed in his hands. He kept the Shema we could not keep, and he kept it for us. The love we pass on did not start with us and does not depend on us. We love because he first loved us.

- 16. How does knowing that Jesus kept this command for you change the way you approach passing faith on: less pressure, more freedom, or something else?

APPLICATION

What is God telling me to do today? Write down one specific step you will take this week.

06 Pray together *about 15 minutes*

Share one request with the group and pray for one another. As you pray, name the step each person wrote down and ask the Holy Spirit for the courage and power to take it.

Who has God brought to mind this week?

Someone who needs what you have been talking about. Write their name here and pray for them by name.

Prayer requests

A PRAYER TO CARRY WITH YOU

Father, thank you that someone carried your love all the way to me. Put your words in my heart before they are ever on my lips. Help me love you with all my heart, all my soul, and all my much, and give me courage for the thousand small conversations in front of me this week. I am not the source, but by your grace I get to be the hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

At home this week

Deuteronomy 6 tells parents to talk about God's words at the table and on the road. If there are children in your home, ask at dinner this week: **When do we talk about God in our house?** Then read Deuteronomy 6:6–7 together and pick one of the four moments, the couch, the car, bedtime, or breakfast, to try this week.

Before we gather again

Three things to carry into the week.

- Read Deuteronomy 6:1–9 again on your own this week, and ask God what he is saying to you through it.
- Take the one step you wrote down, and tell someone once you have done it.
- Reach out to the person whose name you wrote in Pray Together. We will talk about how it went next time.



Scan to answer two quick questions after your meeting: which question landed, and which one fell flat.