

The Greatest Commandment

Worshiping God is the greatest thing you can do with your life.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFE GROUPS

Deuteronomy 6:1-12

May 3, 2020

(Deuteronomy 6:1-11) ¹These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ²so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

¹⁰When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, ¹¹houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, ¹²be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- **When you hear the word worship, what do you think of?**
- **What is the difference between personal and corporate worship? Why are both of these important in expressing our need for God and desire to be with Him?**
- **What motivates your heart to worship? What are some things that keep you from worshipping God wholeheartedly?**

We were created to worship the one true God, but at the fall of humanity that instinct was broken. Other things now take the place of God in our lives, and we worship them instead.

Before moving on, take a moment and have your LifeGroup fill out this anonymous survey to help us continue to measure Bible Engagement at Chets.

You can access the survey by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/gods-storymay2020



OR by placing the camera on your phone over this QR CODE:

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Deuteronomy 6:1-11

- **What was the main command that Moses gave Israel? What does "hear" mean?**
- **Why was this an idea for Israel to notice and remember? Where had they come from? What did the people of Egypt worship as God? How many gods did Egypt have?**

The chief command of Moses was “Hear!”, take notice, listen, remember that the Lord is God and that the Lord is one. It is simple and to the point. Israel had lost focus before. Remember Mount Sinai; they thought God and Moses had abandoned them, so they built a golden calf and worshipped it. They had just come out of Egypt where they worshiped many gods, like the river, the sun, the ground, animals, and much more. Israel needed to remember that the Lord is God, and no one else.

These verses became the foundation of the Jewish Law. Unfortunately, many Jews got so caught up in detailing the letter of the law they forgot the point of the Law presented in these verses: love God and love others. To know God is to become godly. And to be godly is to love.

Jesus would quote these familiar verses when asked what the greatest command was (Mark 12:28-34). Remember Jesus said he came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it, which is why love is the foundation of the gospel.

- **Since God is one, what did Moses tell them to do?**
- **How were they to love God? Was there any part of themselves that they didn't have to use when loving God?**
- **Why do you think this command was a big deal? How did Moses tell them it was a big deal?**
- **What can cause us to forget God (see v. 10-11)?**

Moses told them that they should love God with all of their heart, all their soul, and all their might. The “heart” speaks to our innermost being. It's about what we treasure (Matthew 6:21). The “soul” is the same word in Hebrew as “throat.” It's about what we thirst for. Our “strength” is, literally, our “muchness.” It's about our whole person given over to God.

- **If you have parents in your group, discuss v. 7-9. How do these verses teach us God's plan for discipling our kids?**

That is the whole deal—Moses told them to love and worship God with all they had. The idea was so important that they were told to teach their children this command, write it on doorposts, and make signs. The worship of God permeated their lives and homes. Worship is a common characteristic of the people of God, seen throughout the Scriptures.

Have a few volunteers read Isaiah 6:1-5; 2 Samuel 6:12-15; Revelation 5:6-10

- **What do these three famous worship encounters have in common?**
- **Which one means the most to you and why?**
- **Which one reminds you the most of worship at our church? Why?**

Worship, though expressed in a variety of forms, will always be a matter of the heart—the response of our hearts to God's revelation of Himself. One of the best places in Scripture to turn for examples of intimate worship is the Book of Psalms. The psalmists give us detailed pictures of what it looks like to worship God throughout the various seasons of life, in all its ups and downs. Let's look briefly at Psalm 92, a song that was used in temple worship services. This song helps us better understand how and why our intimate worship of God is important.

Have a volunteer read Psalm 92

- **According to Psalm 92:1-4, why does God deserve our worship?**
- **What are some examples you've seen of the works of God's hands? How do these move you to celebrate Him?**

The psalmist begins with a declaration: "It is good to praise Yahweh, to sing praise to Your name, Most High" (v. 1). The Hebrew word translated "good" refers to something fitting and appropriate. Praise is an appropriate response to God because of His faithful love. We know how undeserving we are of His love, but He gives it, nonetheless. In response, it is our privilege to celebrate God.

- Which phrase from this song resonates the most with you when you think about who God is and what He has done for you?
- When you think about who God is and all He's done for you, what feelings are evoked? How do you express these feelings?

If you've experienced the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, then you have every reason to celebrate. By the works of His hands and His indescribable love, He has saved you from a life separated from God and delivered you into God's kingdom, where you can be in His presence forever. The gospel is cause for worship today and every day. When we recognize that we're completely undeserving of the grace God shows us, it heightens our understanding of what a privilege it is to worship Him.

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- What is the greatest challenge you face to maintaining a pure heart in worship?
- What disciplines or habits can help you prepare your mind and heart for daily worship?

Spend a few minutes sharing ideas of what has worked for people in your group and challenge the group to try something new this week.

PRAYER: Praise God as you remember and notice all that He has done for you. Ask Him to help your group worship Him by loving Him with their entire beings and pray that God would be worshipped and glorified at your church and through all of its groups.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Deuteronomy 8-9
 DAY 2 – Deuteronomy 30-31
 DAY 3 – Deuteronomy 32:48-52, 34
 DAY 4 – Joshua 1-2
 DAY 5 – Joshua 3-4

KEY VERSE: Joshua 1:9

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
 Explain what the text means.
 Apply the verse to your life.
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
 for the unchurched,
 here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
 GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
 way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.

Deuteronomy 6:1-12

6:1-3. A young generation of Israelites had come of age in the wilderness during 40 years of wandering. They were anxious to enter the land of promise and to enjoy the fruits of the land said to be flowing with milk and honey. Moses sought to prepare this new generation of Israelites for the challenging spiritual adventure ahead of them. Success would depend on their knowledge of and obedience to God's laws. Having reminded the present generation of God's revelation of His law at Mount Sinai, Moses urged the people to keep God's laws and to pass them on to future generations.

6:4. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is arguably the best-known passage of Scripture in ancient and modern Judaism. Deuteronomy 6:4 begins with the Hebrew verb rendered listen (*shema*), and these verses are commonly referred to as the *Shema* [SHEE mah]. These verses make two important declarations about God and His people's obligation to Him. The first declaration is a statement about the uniqueness of Israel's God. The assertion is that the Lord ... is one. The word rendered the Lord is, of course, God's personal name, *Yahweh*. Declaring that *Yahweh* is one denotes there is no other existing Deity. People might worship other so-called gods, but those gods are not real. They are worthless fabrications of human minds (see *Isa. 44:10-11*).

6:5. The second declaration is that God's people are commanded to love the Lord. When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment in the law, He responded by quoting this verse (see *Mark 12:30*). The first thing to analyze in this command is the verb rendered love.

The measure of our love for God is to be greater than all other affections. We are to love Him wholeheartedly (all your heart). The biblical conception and use of the term heart differs at points from modern usage. The term does not refer primarily to the fleshly organ but rather to the core of our inner, spiritual being. Heart refers to the power of the mind to think and remember (see *Deut. 4:9*). Heart also refers to our volition in making decisions (see *Ex. 7:13*). Thus to love God with all our heart means to choose Him above all other desires and to make Him our highest priority life. Likewise, we're to love God with all our soul. The Hebrew term rendered soul can refer to physical appetites (see *Job 33:20*), emotions (see *Job 30:25*), and the spiritual nature (see *Ps. 19:7*). A supreme love for God results in submitting every human appetite and desire to His will. Finally, we are to love God with all our strength. This term refers to every talent and resource we possess. We are to give our best efforts in serving and worshiping the Lord.

6:6-7. Families are instructed to bequeath the ways of God to the next generations. However, parents and grandparents cannot teach what they themselves do not know and practice. A passionate devotion to the Lord must first be in the parents' and grandparents' hearts. Only then are they equipped to help instill a genuine love for God in younger lives. Primary responsibility for teaching children spiritual truth cannot be delegated by parents to others. Parents have a unique relationship with their children and a responsibility to teach them about God in daily life (when you sit in your house ... walk along the road, ... lie down and ... get up). Church attendance is vitally important for children's overall spiritual development, but participation in church activities can never substitute for the daily spiritual instruction children need from godly parents.

6:8-9. The need for individuals and families to focus daily on the ways of God is emphasized with the commands to bind God's commands on one's hand and forehead. In addition they were to be written on the doorposts of their houses and gates. In New Testament-era Judaism, these commands were observed literally by attaching small boxes containing various Scriptures to the hand and forehead.

6:10-11. The people of Israel was on the verge of unprecedented and sudden prosperity. Moses warned them about the dangers of forgetting God when they achieved material well-being. In an attempt to ground them in humility, Moses reminded the people that it would be the Lord their God who would bring them into the land. Their possession of the land was in fulfillment of divine promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The land would be a gift from God.