

BIG IDEA

We love and
belong to God!

The Shema

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Bible Background

The book of Deuteronomy is really an extended sermon, a farewell speech of sorts. Moses has led the people to the threshold of the promised land, but he cannot go with them as they begin a new life. Moses urges the people to remember who they are—God’s chosen people. Even when they are settled in their new home, they should never forget that God freed them from slavery and brought them to this land. The commandments will be their anchor, their constant reminder of their special relationship with God. Elsewhere in Deuteronomy, Moses warns the people about how easy it is to take God’s gifts for granted. The commandments are there to remind them where the gifts come from.

Verses 4–9 in chapter 6 are known as the *Shema*, which is Hebrew for “hear.” The Shema is the core of morning and evening prayer for people of the Jewish faith to this day. In Orthodox practice, the command to put the words on doorposts is taken literally, and small scrolls are attached to the entrances of Jewish homes.

Read it– Talk About it– Live It!

In this Bible story, we read how God’s people were about to go into a brand-new land. God wanted the people to always remember that God loved them and that they were to love and serve God. Moses brought the people a message from God to remind them they were God’s family.

Read Deuteronomy 6:5-9

Family Conversations:

- What do we have in our house that shows we belong to God.
- How can we help each other love God in all we say, think, and do?
- What else can we do to make our faith a bigger part of our lives?

Send God’s message to somebody in the form of a card, picture, or phone call!

Jewish families have a message from God rolled up and put in a small container attached to their doorposts. The container is called a mezuzah. Where could you hang the message, “Love God with all you say, think, and do,” in your house? Make a reminder poster or craft to display to help you remember God’s message.

Pray Together:

Every time I say part of the prayer, I’ll end with “Help us to remember...” and you respond, “...You are with us always”

We give you thanks, O God, for your constant love. Help us to love you in all we say, think, and do. Amen.

No matter where we go, help us to remember... (*You are with us always.*)

No matter how we feel, help us to remember...

No matter what time it is, help us to remember...

No matter who we are with, help us to remember...