



# UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

*Through the Bible*

| *March 10 - 16*

| *Deuteronomy 6:1-15*

## *Things to Know*

### **EggVenture Volunteers Needed**

April 5th, 2 - 5 pm - [Click Here to Volunteer!](#)

### **Gospel Connections and Conversations**

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## Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder: Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

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## *Read*

**Read Deuteronomy 6:1-15 and make observations about the text.**

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
  - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
  - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
  - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
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## Sermon Recap

- Deuteronomy 6 is foundational to the Israelite people and to us today. The “Shema” helped Israelites understand who God was and understand their response.
- One of the best ways to love God is by remembering the Lord for who He is and what He has done for us.
- Loving God requires us to love with everything we have. This is a lifelong commitment
- Deuteronomy 6 teaches us that another way to love God is by raising up the next generation to love the Lord.

## Discussion Questions

- 1. Deuteronomy 6:4 says, ‘The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’ How does recognizing God’s oneness shape the way you prioritize Him in your daily life, especially when other ‘gods’ (like work, hobbies, or relationships) compete for your attention?**

This question invites personal reflection on the exclusivity of God’s lordship and how it challenges modern distractions.
- 2. In verse 5, we’re called to love God with all our heart, soul, and might. Which of these areas do you find easiest to give to God, and which is hardest? What’s one step you could take to grow in the harder area?**

This prompts self-examination and practical action, connecting the command to everyday faith.
- 3. Verses 6-7 urge us to keep God’s words on our hearts and teach them diligently to our children. How have you seen faith passed down (or not) in your own family or community? What’s one way you could be more intentional about sharing God with the next generation?**

This ties personal experience to the call for discipleship, broadening it beyond parents to anyone influencing others.
- 4. Deuteronomy 6:10-12 warns against forgetting God when life gets comfortable. What’s a blessing in your life (like a home, job, or family) that could tempt you to rely less on God? How can we keep gratitude alive in those moments?**

This draws from the chapter’s later warning, encouraging vigilance and thankfulness.
- 5. Jesus quotes the Shema in Mark 12:29-30 as the greatest commandment. How does His life and sacrifice deepen your understanding of what it means to love God fully? How might that inspire you this week?**

This bridges the Old Testament text to its fulfillment in Christ, fostering a Christocentric response.

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## Scripture

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### *Deuteronomy* **6:1-15**

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, **2** that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. **3** Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

**4** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **5** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**10** “And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, **11** and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, **12** then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **13** It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. **14** You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— **15** for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth

[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Dt 6:1–15.

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# Living on Mission In Community

Before you close the group, answer this question:

*How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?*

Applying the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) to daily life begins with anchoring our routines in the truth that “the Lord our God, the Lord is one,” letting His singular authority shape our priorities. Practically, we can love God with all our heart, soul, and might by starting each day with prayer or Scripture, aligning our desires and energy toward Him—perhaps reciting the Shema itself as a reminder. Throughout the day, we weave His commands into ordinary moments: discussing a Bible verse over breakfast with family, listening to worship music during a commute, or pausing to thank Him before bed. For those influencing others, like children or friends, we model this love by sharing what God’s teaching us—maybe explaining a faith lesson during a walk or praying together at night. It’s not about perfection but consistency, letting God’s Word dwell in us richly (Colossians 3:16) so that our lives, from sunrise to sunset, reflect a wholehearted devotion to Him.

How is God leading you to respond to this week?

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## Optional Breakout Questions

*Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:*

1. How did you feed yourself?
    - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
  2. How did you feed others?
    - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
  3. How did you feed your flesh?
    - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*
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# *Leader Resources*

## **Scripture Focus: Deuteronomy 6:1-15**

### **Opening Icebreaker**

To kick off the session, begin with a lighthearted yet meaningful icebreaker. Ask each group member to share one object they'd take with them if they were traveling back to ancient Israel and why. For example, someone might say, "I'd bring a notebook to write down all the commandments so I wouldn't forget them!" This activity connects to the theme of Deuteronomy 6, where God calls His people to remember and live out His words. Give everyone a minute to think, then go around the circle to share. Keep it fun and engaging to set a warm tone for the discussion.

### **Check-In and Prayer Opportunity**

After the icebreaker, transition into a check-in time. Invite group members to share a "win" or "struggle" from their week—something they're celebrating or a challenge they're facing. For instance, a win might be a moment they felt close to God, while a struggle could be a parenting frustration. After everyone has had a chance to share (keeping it optional for those who prefer to listen), pause for prayer. Ask a volunteer to pray, or lead it yourself, thanking God for the wins and lifting up the struggles. This moment fosters vulnerability and community, aligning with the Shema's call to love God together as a covenant people.

### **Teaching Section 1: Loving the Lord with All We Are**

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 declares, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Known as the Shema (Hebrew for "hear"), this passage is the heartbeat of Israel's faith. Here are the key teaching points:

- **Historical Context:** The Shema was recited daily by Jewish families, a radical statement in a polytheistic world, affirming Yahweh’s oneness and exclusivity.
- **Grammatical Insight:** The command to “love” (Hebrew: *ahav*) is active and all-encompassing—heart (inner will), soul (life force), and might (strength or resources)—demanding a whole-life commitment, not a passive feeling.
- **Christocentric Perspective:** Jesus calls this the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37-38), showing that loving God fully is fulfilled in Him, the One who loved us first (1 John 4:19).
- **Practical Application:**
  - Love God with your heart by aligning your desires with His through prayer and worship.
  - Love Him with your soul by surrendering your time, energy, and identity to His lordship.
  - Love Him with your might by stewarding your resources (money, talents, influence) for His glory.
- **Quote:** C.S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*, “To love and admire anything outside of God in a way that excludes Him is to set up a rival god.” This challenges us to redirect our affections to the One who is worthy.

## Teaching Section 2: Discipling Our Children in the Way of the Lord

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 shifts from personal devotion to family discipleship: “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” Here are the key teaching points:

- **Historical Context:** Post-Exodus, God intended a rescued generation to raise the next to know and love Him, embedding faith in the family structure.
- **Grammatical Insight:** “Teach diligently” (Hebrew: *shanan*) means to sharpen, like a tool, implying intentional, consistent effort; the repeated “you shall” underscores parental responsibility.

- **Christocentric Perspective:** Jesus welcomed children (Mark 10:14) and modeled discipleship, showing our homes as microcosms of the church where faith is passed down.
- **Practical Application:**
  - Embed God’s Word in daily rhythms—pray at meals, discuss Scripture on car rides, or point to God’s creation on walks.
  - Model a life captivated by God, confessing failures and showing grace, not perfection.
- **Quote:** Augustine of Hippo said, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” We guide our children to this rest through our example.

### Discussion Questions

1. What’s one way you’ve found it challenging to love God with your whole heart, soul, or might this week? How can we support each other in this?
2. For those with kids (or influencing younger generations), what’s a practical step you could take to “teach diligently” in your daily routine?
3. How does Jesus’ life and love inspire you to live out the Shema more fully?

### Closing Reflection and Quote

Wrap up by reflecting on how the Shema calls us to a life of love and legacy. Deuteronomy 6 isn’t just a command; it’s an invitation to know God deeply and share Him with others. Charles Spurgeon once preached, “To love God with all your heart is to have heaven begun below.”

Encourage the group to pick one action step this week—perhaps a new prayer habit or a conversation with a child—and commit it to God silently as you close in prayer.

### Final Prayer

End with a prayer like this: “Lord, You are one, and You alone are worthy of our love. Help us to love You with all we are and to pass that love to the

next generation. Guide us by Your Spirit and draw us closer to Your Son,  
Jesus. Amen”

