

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

February 28, 2010

Love the LORD your God

Focal Passage: Deuteronomy 6

Cross References: Matthew 22:37-38;
Psalm 119:11; Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95:6-11

Central Idea: Moses tells God's people to love the LORD their God and keep His Words on their hearts and in their speech throughout their generations.

Lesson Idea: We need to love the LORD with everything we are and keep His commands and teach them to our children.

Historical Context: "Deuteronomy" actually means "Second Law," because in this book Moses retells the commands and history of Israel that they received first in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.

The forty years of wandering in the wilderness was over, so Moses was giving them his final instructions before the new generation marched into the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is called the "Shema" (which means "hear" in Hebrew and is the first word of verse 4). It is a confession of faith that most Jews would have memorized and is used even now in their daily prayers. It emphasizes that there is only one true God and commands His people to love Him and obey Him. It also emphasizes the importance of passing on their faith to their children and the generations to come.

Bible in a Year Daily Readings

February 21-28, 2010

Feb 21 Deuteronomy 1 - 2
Feb 22 Deut 3-4
Feb 23 Deut 5-8
Feb 24 Deut 9-11
Feb 25 Deut 12-15
Feb 26 Deut 16-19
Feb 27 Deut 20-22
Feb 28 Deut 23-25

**Read the Bible Through
Highlights of the Week:**

February 21-28, 2010

Deut 1-2: Moses' Farewell Speech

Deut 4: Challenge to obey

Deut 5: The Ten Commands again

Deut 6: The “Shema”

Deut 7: Warnings and Promises

Deut 9-10: Review of history

Deut 11: Rewards of Obedience

Deut 12-13: About worship

Deut 14: Dietary restrictions

Deut 15-16: Calendar of Holy Days

Deut 17-25: Various laws

Love the LORD your God Deuteronomy 6

Cross References: Matthew 22:37-38;

Psalm 119:11; Exodus 17:1-7;

Psalm 95:6-11

Deut 6:1-3

Be Careful to Obey

1 These 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, 2 so 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. 3 Hear, O 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 fathers, promised you.

QUESTIONS:

“Commands, decrees and laws” includes all of the instructions that God had given them through Moses. Why does Moses emphasize the people obeying the entirety of God’s Word?

The words the NIV translate as “so that” indicate reasons for the people to obey. What is the initial reason given in vs 2 for the people to obey?

What does it mean to “fear the LORD?”

What is another reason given in vs 2 that explains what blessing will result if they and their offspring fear the LORD?

Vs 3 lists two more reasons for obedience. What are they?

Deut 6:4-9

Love the LORD your God

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress 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. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

QUESTIONS:

Vs 3 and 4 both begin with the call to “Hear.” What is the true emphasis of this charge?

IMPORTANT TEACHING ABOUT GOD

Vs 4 emphasizes monotheism (which means that there is only one God). Israel had come out of Egypt and was going into a land filled with people who believed in multiple gods (called polytheism). Even though we know God in three persons (God the Father, God the Son whose name is Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit) it is important for us to remember that the LORD our God is just one God--the ONLY God.

The fact that Moses personalizes God as the LORD who is OUR God rules out associating Yahweh (the God of the Bible) with any other religion's god. The God of the Bible is not the same as Allah or any other god.

What is the primary command concerning our relationship with God as given in vs 5?

Read Matthew 22:37-38. What does Jesus say about this command and why?

The phrase "*with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind*" refers to the totality of a person. How much does your life reflect a total love of God?

Where were they supposed to put the commandments according to vs 6?

Read Psalm 119:11. What reason does the Psalmist give for "hiding God's Word in our hearts?"

According to vs 7 whose responsibility is it to teach children the Word of the LORD?

When and how should that teaching take place?

Deut 6:10-19

Don't Forget the LORD

10 When 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, 11 houses 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, 12 be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

13 Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. 14 Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; 15 for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. 16 Do not test the LORD your God as you did at Massah. 17 Be sure to keep the commands of the LORD your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. 18 Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers, 19 thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the LORD said.

QUESTIONS

Moses emphasized that the LORD was who would bring them into the land. What benefits would be in the land for them already?

What would be the danger for the people according to vs 12?

Is it easier to forsake the LORD when things are going well or when things are bad and why?

Usually we think of jealousy as a bad trait. What is the difference between our kind of jealousy and God's righteous jealousy?

Moses emphasized that their God was "among you" (KJV "in the midst of you") as opposed to the false "gods" of the peoples "around you" (KJV "surround you"). Who do you follow more-- the God who is "among us" or the people who are "around us?"

What does vs 15 say would happen if the people would not obey?

Read Exodus 17:1-7. How did the people "test the LORD?"

Read Psalm 95:6-11. How did the LORD feel about them testing Him and how did He respond?

Again God repeats His promises of what He will do for the people if they do what is right and good in His sight. What does vs 18-19 say that He will do?

Deut 6:20-25
Tell It in the Future

20 In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?" 21 tell him: "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 Before our eyes the LORD sent miraculous signs and wonders--great and terrible--upon Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. 23 But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land that he promised on oath to our forefathers. 24 The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. 25 And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness."

QUESTIONS:

Parents were told to be ready to answer their children's spiritual questions about why they worshipped the LORD and obeyed His commands.

Vs 21-25 give a good outline for us to follow in sharing a testimony of our faith in the Lord.

In vs 21 he tells what life was like before God rescued them. What was your life like before you met Jesus as Lord and Savior?

In vs 22 he tells what God did to reveal Himself. How did Jesus make Himself known to you?

In vs 23 he tells how God brought them into the Promised Land. How did you receive Jesus' gift of salvation? What is your life like today because Jesus is in it? How did your life change after you met Jesus?

In vs 24-25 he tells of God's Lordship over his life, but he also tells of the blessings that God promises if they will remain faithful. Those same blessings are true for us today if we will surrender to the Lordship of Christ and love and obey Him. State those blessings in your own words.

What other blessings does Christ bring to your life?

APPLICATION

The answers to the questions from vs 21-25 will help you write your own testimony. Think about your answers to those questions and write out your testimony of how you came to know Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Share your faith story with someone. Pray for an opportunity every day to get to share it again.

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