

VILLAGE CHURCH

JESUS SHEMA


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"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might and love your neighbor as yourself." Deuteronomy 6 v 4-5, Mark 12:29-31

The Shema, found in Deuteronomy 6, is one of the most important and well-known prayers of the Hebrew people. It is a prayer that judges oneself in their relationship with God. The Shema takes a deep look into the heart while affirming God's kingship. It is recited twice daily and is central to the Jewish way of life, even today.

The Shema in New Testament times was considered the most essential prayer in all Judaism. It was so widely practiced in the second-temple period, Jesus himself grew up praying it. When Jesus was asked the most important commandment in the Torah (613 of them), he made it very simple when he said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength." Jesus then adds the second statement to, "love your neighbor as yourself."





**LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL
AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.**

DEUTERONOMY 6:5

Our fundamental duty is to respond to His love. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” The repeated command is to have an intimate relationship with the LORD. (Cf. 7:9; 10:12; 11:1, 13, 22; 13:3; 19:9; 30:6, 16, 20). The idea is to love Him with the whole person—body, mind and soul.

This is easier said than done. If we are honest the past few weeks and months have stretched our limits and capacities to new levels. However, in these times the Jesus Shema is grounding. It pulls us back to what really matters and re-centers us to the timeless truths of Scripture.

“Love the Lord with all your heart,” reaches beneath the surface to the rough patches on our hearts. It is easy to miss much of what God wants to say due to the distractions and preoccupations in our lives. “Hurry sickness”, as Alan Fadling, author of *An Unhurried Life*, calls it, can rush us to a destination far from God’s original plan. Self-sufficiency and hurry sickness pulls against the disciple-making heart of Jesus as he was never in a rush even when the crowds pressed in.

The Shema, according to Jesus, lived out in us, his ordinary followers, will empower us to go the distance in making a lasting impact in the world. But it first begins in the home.

Deuteronomy 6 continues, “These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.”

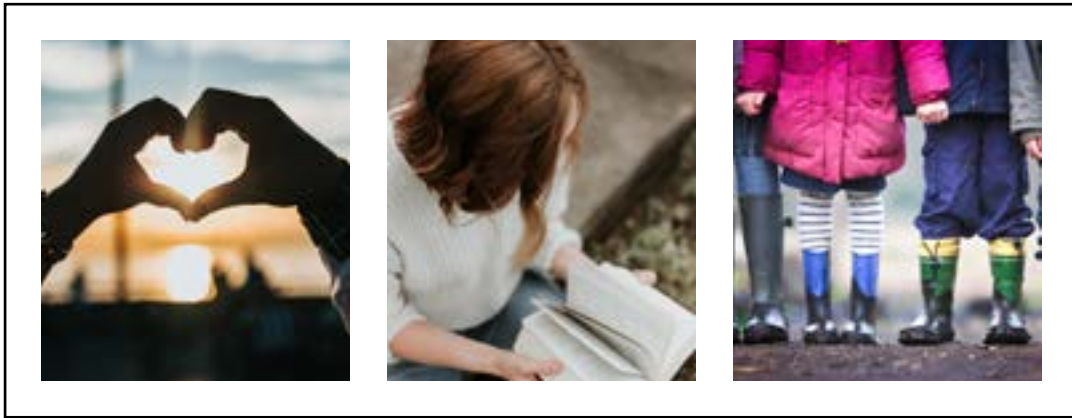
The commandments of God, the Word of God, are to be on your hearts. Jewish families, for generations, have valued the memorization of the Torah. And also, Christian families believe in, value the Word of God, and model it in their personal lives. Many of our families encourage our children in Awana for the primary purpose that the Word of God would be on their hearts. However, this is a good evaluation spot for our own hearts as parents. Do we display value in our everyday lives to God’s commands... as we sit at home, walk along the road, when we lie down or get up? Our actions speak to the condition of our hearts. Making this a priority for your personal life as a follower of Jesus is imperative. You cannot teach what you do not have.

It is our prayer at Village Church that, as parents, our personal walks with Jesus would be strengthened. Secondly, that we all would take the steps to intentionally live this out. We have to value, prioritize and own this. Yes, we all are tired and feel inadequate. That’s okay and quite normal, but what an opportunity to model to our kids, in our humility and brokenness, to love God with our whole selves and not in parts. Will we be a generation of parents that models following Jesus together? Will we resolve to love the Lord wholeheartedly, love others and impress these values on our children as we go about our lives?

We all need encouragement, support and ideas to spark greater intentionality in the home. Together, that is what this conversation is all about. That we would discover fresh ways to lead our homes after the heartbeat of Jesus.

Jesus said so. “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33 ESV). This is the key to life: to love God. This is the whole story of Christianity, the whole story of God’s redemptive love.

Would you join us in praying the Shema daily in 2020? Let’s see what God will do!



HEART

Our heart is representative of our will. God puts our lives back in the right order to align our desire to His heart.

Worship is then connected to our obedience and submitting our hearts to follow after God.

SOUL

This represents our intellect and character.

It is first used to describe Adam who is created, after God breathed on him, as a living soul.

Our soul is what we decided when nobody is looking. Another word is integrity.

This is God's way of telling us to turn our attention to Him.

STRENGTH

Literally translated, 'very'. It is your all -- your very everything. Your talents, resources, time, strengths basically anything you could ever produce and make.

You love God and you give Him whatever you do. Your every last resource to the name of the Lord.

Resource list

Books

[Jonathan Catherman](#)

Manual to Middle School / Manual to Manhood

Girls Guide to Conquering Life

[The Cure for Parents](#)

[Sacred Parenting](#) by Gary Thomas

[Sticky Faith](#) by Kara Powell

Podcast/Video

[Dad Tired](#)

[The Cure for Parents](#)

[Road Back to you:](#) Parenting in Crisis

[Dr Henry Cloud](#)

Websites

[Intentional parents](#)

[Homeward](#)

[CPYU](#)

[Arabah Joy](#)

[21 Flavors of Splendor](#)

[Parenting with Love and Logic](#)

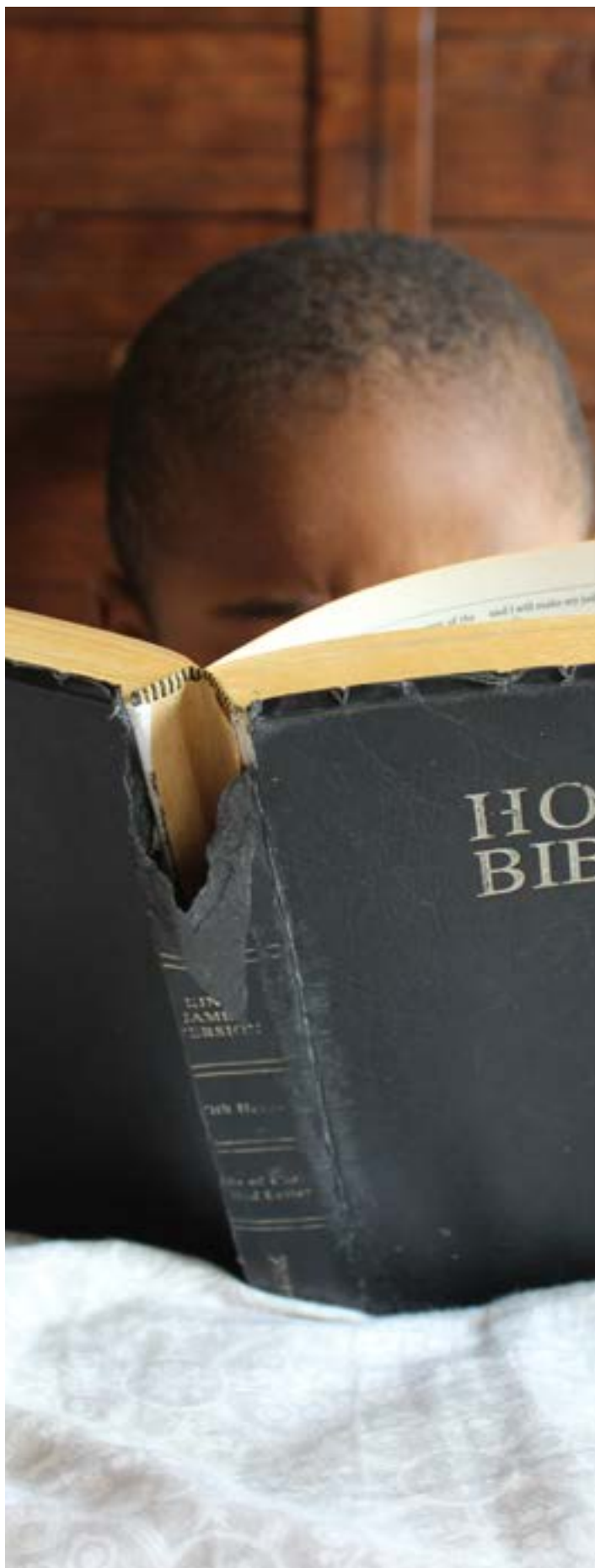


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