

Type your text

Devotion

OUR LOVE AND DEVOTION FOR GOD

Focal Verses • DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **AFFIRM** that loving God requires obeying God's word; **EMBRACE** the commandment to love God with all of ourselves; and **DISCUSS** ways to share God's love with the next generation.

In Focus

Grandma Lottie was the matriarch of her family. She was a strong Christian woman. Upon the death of her husband of twelve years, Grandma Lottie raised their two sons and daughter in a middle income neighborhood within a declining city. She raised her children with Godly convictions. Grandma Lottie taught her children that despite the great loss of their father, they were going to be alright—they were going to make it; God would see to it. Grandma Lottie not only taught them Christian values, but she also lived those values before her children. On her nurse's salary and the life insurance that her husband left them, Grandma Lottie and her children were able to survive and thrive. Because of their father's Christian legacy and what Grandma Lottie continuously taught and lived, all three children followed Christ and shared the Gospel message throughout their lives.

Each of Grandma Lottie's children graduated from college and found success in their chosen fields. Her oldest son, Brandon, became a teacher, the other son, Bryce, was an accountant, and her daughter, Breana, was a journalist.

Grandma Lottie often reminded her children, their spouses, and grandchildren how faith, a fervent prayer life, and devotion to God's Word brought her through hard times. Prayer and obedience to God's commands held her family together while helping her to survive heartaches and lonely days and nights.

In today's study, Moses teaches the wilderness generation that God still expects their commitment to follow His commands when they go into the Promised Land.

How has seeing other people remain devoted to their faith impacted your own faith?

Keep in Mind

“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Deuteronomy 6:5, KJV).



Focal Verses

KJV Deuteronomy 6:1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

The People, Places, and Times

Moses. He was the leader, presenter of the law, and prophet of Israel who God used to lead His people out of slavery in the land of Egypt. God gave the covenant laws, including the Ten Commandments, to Moses at Mount Sinai amid smoke and flames (Exodus 19:18). Canaan. It is a country just to the west of the Jordan River. The name was also used in an extended sense to refer to all of Palestine west of the Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea. Thus, Jerusalem was considered to be part of the land of Canaan.

Background

Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Law (Pentateuch) written by Moses. The Jews called it “five-fifths of the law.” The word “Deuteronomy” means “repetition of the law.” The name was a mistranslation in the biblical Greek Septuagint and the Latin Vulgate of a phrase that means “copy of this law” (17:18). It

was written for the new generation of Israelites who had come out of the wilderness and were looking forward to occupying the Promised Land (Canaan). It was Moses’ farewell address before he transferred leadership to Joshua. He wanted to partially restate and explain the importance of the laws before he died. He emphasized the significance of obedience to God’s commandments. Moses reminded the Israelites that blessings were rewards for obedience, while curses were the consequences of disobedience. He reflected on God’s redemption from slavery in Egypt as well as God’s punishment for their disobedience while in the wilderness. Because of what God had done, they were urged to trust, love, and obey God. In Deuteronomy 6, Moses offered an explanation of the first commandment, which should be the foundation for all we do and believe.

Why is it good to remember and reflect on our past as Christians?

At-A-Glance

1. Love God By Obeying His Word (Deuteronomy 6:1–3)
2. Love God with Total Devotion (vv. 4–5)
3. Love God By Sharing the Word (vv. 6–9)

In Depth

1. Love God By Obeying His Word (Deuteronomy 6:1–3)

In Moses' first address to the Israelites, he gave a review of the mighty acts of God (1:1– 4:43). In this second address he offers principles for godly living because we must know and act upon God's Word (4:44–29:1). Moses is concerned that the people will possess "the land that floweth with milk and honey" (v. 3) but forget who blessed them with it as well as their promise to devote themselves in obedience to God's Word. It is important to "fear" God and keep His commandments. To fear God means to honor and respect Him. If we love God, we should respect Him enough to obey His commands. If we do so, it will go well with us and future generations. Thus, it is important to teach our children, grandchildren, and younger Christians the Word of God and the importance of showing our love for Him by obeying His commands.

How can our love, obedience, and fear of God influence future generations?

2. Love God with Total Devotion (vv. 4–5)

Verses 4 through 9 are known as the *Shema*, which is Hebrew for "hear," the first word in the text. Devout Jews recite this prayer twice a day, in the morning and in the evening, in compliance with verse 7. In verse 4, Moses is like a teacher calling his students to attention. He wants them to listen to his important declaration about God: "The Lord our God is one Lord!" "One"

is expressing compound unity, which validates the Trinity. Moreover, this helps us understand the importance of Israel's complete devotion to God alone. We cannot serve other gods because He is a jealous God (5:9).

Jesus repeats the instructions in v. 5 and says that this is the greatest commandment combined with the command to love your neighbor (Matthew 22:37–39). God loves us, so our love for Him must involve our whole being—not only worshiping and serving God but loving our neighbors. If we love God, we must show it by our actions toward others (1 John 3:17).

How do you demonstrate your love of God?

3. Love God By Sharing the Word (vv. 6–9)

Some Jews take these verses literally and bind phylacteries, or small leather boxes containing selected texts from the Torah, on their foreheads and arms. In addition there are some who place *mezuzahs*, a small box containing this text and parts of the Torah, on the right side of the doorpost. The purpose is to not only keep these commandments but to have physical reminders of the presence of God's Word in their lives. Our love for God is not about legalistic obedience but a life devoted to the living God by teaching and living out His Word daily.

God wants us to always study the Word and apply it to our daily lives so it can help and guide us in our decision-making. We will not be deceived by the enemy if we know the Word by heart and use it.

God desires for us to talk about His Word wherever we find ourselves, day or night. As we teach His Word, our children and others are listening. The Holy Spirit is able to use us to transform lives. People will see God at work in us and be encouraged to seek Him.

What is the most recent opportunity you have had to teach someone younger about the application of God's Word to daily living?

Search the Scriptures

- 1. Why do you think that Moses repeats the word “Hear” (vv. 3-4)?
- 2. Why does Moses emphasize the importance of teaching children and future generations (v. 7)?

Discuss the Meaning

- 1. In what ways do you need to grow in showing love for God?
- 2. How does the definition of love for God differ or agree with the way that society portrays love?

Liberating Lesson

Our love for God must involve our whole heart, soul, and mind. This also includes loving our neighbors. We have to teach and demonstrate for our children and future generations what love encompasses. There is a rise in hate crimes across the United States and the world. If hate is taught to children, they may grow up to hate. But if we teach love of God and others, they more than likely will grow up loving all. This love for all humanity was demonstrated during Hurricane Harvey in August 2017. Many cities were flooded by heavy rains. People of every race, religion, and culture rescued those stranded in their houses and donated food, clothing, and money. This is the love of God personified. We have to love and worship God with our whole beings.

Application for Activation

Traditionally, we show our love and devotion for God through worship, singing, and dance. But we can also worship God in

other ways. As you sit in the next worship service, observe and listen for additional ways God wants you to worship Him. During quiet time at home, pray for new ways to teach your children and younger generations the Word. For example, you can hang pictures that include Scriptures, give your children Christian video games, or purchase clothing that has Christian themes printed on them. Most important, every day and night read and meditate on the Word so that it becomes a part of your daily life.

Follow the Spirit

What God wants me to do:

Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

Sources:

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- Packer, J. I., Merrill C. Tenney, and William White Jr. *Nelson's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Bible Facts.* Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1995.
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- Vine, W. E. *Vines Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words.* Edited by Merrill F. Unger and William White Jr. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996.

Say It Correctly

Shema. shuh-MAW.

Daily Bible Readings

DAY 22

Exodus 13–15

Psalm 11

DAY 23

Exodus 16–18

Psalm 12:1–3

DAY 24

Exodus 19–21

Psalm 12:4–8

DAY 25

Exodus 22–24

Psalm 13

DAY 26

Exodus 25–26

Psalm 14

DAY 27

Exodus 27–29

Psalm 15

DAY 28

Exodus 30–31

Psalm 16

Notes
