

How to Love God

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God's Word.

Message Summary

The New Day Church family is reading through the bible chronologically in 2017. Each week we hear a sermon that leads us into the reading for the week and shows us the Gospel thread throughout the story. We are learning that the story of Redemption is on full display from Genesis to Revelation. Both Old and New Testaments are one unified story that speaks of the beauty of God and the Redemption He has provided for us.

Deuteronomy is the last book of the Torah, the first 5 books of the Old Testament. In it Moses recaps what took place in the wilderness just prior to the Children of Israel moving into the Promised Land. It's a series of sermons Moses preached to the people on the shores of the Jordan just prior to them crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land. Deuteronomy means "second law". Not a different law but a repeating or retelling of the law.

We have Deuteronomy because of what took place in Numbers 13-14. The people refused to enter the Promised Land because their faith was overcome by fear. God responded to their rebellion by sentencing every person 20 years old and older to die in the wilderness. The people would wander in the wilderness for 1 year for every day the 12 spies spied out the Promised Land; a total of 40 years. So when that generation died out, God brought them to the edge of the Promised Land and spoke to the next generation by way of reminder of what took place in the Wilderness and what they were to do in the new land they were about to inhabit.

Deuteronomy 4 begins the second of 3 addresses that Moses made to the children of Israel on the shores of the Jordan. In chapter 5 he repeated the 10 Commandments for the people and in chapter 6 reminded them that God expected their obedience when they arrived in the Promised Land. They were to keep and obey God's commands throughout their generations. Verse 3 said that in doing so things would "*go well with [them]*" and they would "*multiply greatly*" in the land. If one were to stop reading right there they would conclude that the ultimate reason to obey God is so things would go well with them. But this is works righteousness.

Deuteronomy 6:10-25 clarified that this is not the ultimate reason to obey God. The reason is because God first loved them. They were shown grace in the wilderness and ultimately would be given a land they didn't deserve. They were going to live in beautiful cities they did not build, houses full of good things they did not fill, enjoy wells they did not dig, and have vineyards they did not plant. Therefore, just as God had loved them, they were to love Him in return through obedience. In Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus reiterated these commands for the people of His day. To love God means to obey Him. Jesus said all of the Law and the Prophets hang on two commands...love God and love people. That's it. But one might ask, "How do I actively love God?"

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 tells us how to love God. As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community examine the way you demonstrate your love for God. Do you embrace His Word in all of life? How are you equipping the next generation? Does your love impact the world around you by sharing with others how He has loved you? This is what it means to love God!

Message Outline

Loving God will compel us to...

1. **Embrace His Word (4-6).**

- His commands are wise.
- His promises are sure.
- His grace is sufficient.

Question: How am I embracing the Word?

2. **Equip the next generation (7).**

- All places.
- All the time.
- All of life.

Question: How am I equipping others?

3. **Evangelize the world (8-9).**

- Our lives are consumed by the Word.
- Our homes are claimed by the Word.
- Our communities are being changed by the Word.

Question: How am I evangelizing the world?

How to Love God

Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

• Church:

- Pray as we seek to identify additional elders to lead us into the future.
- Pray about going on a global mission trip this year.
- Pray as we seek to raise up additional leaders who will multiply our Missional Communities.
- Pray for our worship space.
- Pray for our finances.
- _____
- _____

• Local:

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- _____
- _____
- _____

• Global:

- Pray for workers as they prepare for the mission field.
- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.
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