

# Love

## Session 9 • Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25



### ENGAGE

**PREPARE:** On a focal wall, display **Pack Item 2** (Poster: *Outlines of Numbers, Deuteronomy*) and **Pack Item 5** (Poster: *Key Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5*). Make copies of **Pack Item 8** (Handout: *Praying Scripture in Numbers, Deuteronomy*).

**READ:** Invite a volunteer to read the opening paragraph on page 77.

**ASK:** What's an effective way to help a child learn? Why is this method successful? (p. 77)

**SUMMARIZE:** Refer to the outline on **Pack Item 2** (Poster: *Outlines of Numbers, Deuteronomy*) and explain that Moses's second speech to the Israelites begins with Deuteronomy 5. Recap the information from **Understand the Context** (p. 77):

- Those aged twenty and above at Sinai died during the four decades of wilderness wanderings (Num. 32:10-13). Thus, the words of Deuteronomy were for a new generation, those who had not heard God's words at Sinai. In chapter 5, Moses recounted the Israelites' experience at Mount Sinai. As we read Deuteronomy 5, we recognize familiar words from Exodus 20, the Ten

Commandments. This was an amplification of what God had spoken to an earlier generation at Sinai.

**TRANSITION:** As we study today's passage, notice how Moses's words challenged the Israelites not just to know and obey the commands of God, but also to teach them to their children. Consider what content from God's Word you should know and obey as you teach the next generation how to live to honor God.

### EXPLORE THE TEXT

**READ:** Invite a volunteer to read aloud **Deuteronomy 6:1-3** while adults listen for the guidance Moses gave the people and the promise God gave if they followed His words.

**DISCUSS:** Direct adults to share Moses's directive and God's promise that followed. Summarize this content from page 81 and lead a brief discussion on what it means to "fear of the LORD."

- **(6:2)** "To fear the LORD means to revere Him. The external evidence of that reverence would be the keeping of God's statutes and commands. Jesus taught this principle. He told His disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commands' (John 14:15)."

**ASK: What are some practical ways to “fear the LORD” each day?** (p. 79)

**PARAPHRASE:** Distribute a sheet of paper to each adult. Guide them to describe the promise God made Israel by paraphrasing Deuteronomy 6:3. After a few moments, call on volunteers to share what they have written.

**ASK: In what way(s) has God lavished His blessings in your life? When have you been particularly aware of those blessings?** (p. 79)

**READ: Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9** as adults highlight words that stick out to them. Allow a few volunteers to share what they marked.

**SAY:** *Verses 4-9 are known as the Shema (sheh-MAH), the foundational Jewish statement of faith. The Hebrew word shema is the first word of verse 4 and means “listen.”*

**MEMORIZE:** Direct attention to **Pack Item 5** (Poster: Key Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5). Share that these are this session’s memory verses. Challenge adults to memorize them this week.

**EXPLAIN:** Share this content and discuss why Jews might take the commands of Deuteronomy 6:8-9 literally:

- **(6:8)** Moses instructed Israel to treat God’s words like “a sign on your hand” and “a symbol on your forehead.” Most interpreters believe Moses used figurative language here in urging Israel to keep God’s commands before them, just as their hands typically were in front of them and their foreheads would determine their direction. Many Jews take these

commands literally and strap prayer boxes (called “phylacteries” or “tefillin”) on their hands and between their eyes. But the main idea is that God’s people should let His Word function as the lens that lets them see the world as God sees it.

- **(6:9)** Moses told the Israelites to inscribe God’s words on their doorposts as a reminder of their obligation to Him. The Hebrew word used here is *mezuzah* (meh-zoo-ZAH), which Jewish people use to describe fixtures on their doors that contain a small scroll with the words of Deuteronomy 6:4-9 on it. Writing God’s words on city gates also reminded its citizens and travelers that the town’s inhabitants lived by God’s decrees.

**ASK: What is a practical way we can keep God’s Word and commandments at the forefront of our lives?** (p. 79)



### Prayer Boxes

Learn more about how God’s people have taken His instruction from Deuteronomy 6:8 to heart.

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**READ: Read aloud Deuteronomy 6:20-25** as half the adults listen for what God had previously done for Israel and the other half listen for why God desired Israel to follow His commands.

**LIST:** Guide adults to share what they heard and write their responses on the board.

**EXPLAIN:** Use the following information to explain what and how parents were to teach their children:

- **(6:20-21)** Verses 20-25 focus on passing along the principles of faith to the next generation. “When your son asks you” assumed teachable moments would occur. At some level, the Israelites’ children should have experienced God’s “decrees, statutes, and ordinances.” But they may have wondered about their significance. The parent’s answer took story form, recounting how God’s people were “slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt”; however, God rescued them with a “strong” hand.

**READ:** Invite a volunteer to read aloud Deuteronomy 6:24-25. Encourage adults to define “righteousness” in their own words. Discuss how the Israelites were to claim righteousness for themselves.

**PRAY:** Distribute copies of **Pack Item 8** (*Handout: Praying Scripture in Numbers, Deuteronomy*). Encourage adults to pray Deuteronomy 6:24-25 using the prompts in the **Explore the Bible Prayer Guide** (QR code on page 15).

**ASK: What does walking in righteousness look like in the life of a believer today?** (p. 79)

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## CHALLENGE

**SUMMARIZE:** Call attention to the following points from this week’s Bible passage:

- Believers demonstrate their love for God by obeying His commands.

- We are to be intentional about putting God at the center of our lives, making everything else revolve around Him.
- Remembering God’s past faithfulness helps us to follow God’s commands today.

**IDENTIFY:** Call on volunteers to share how they have observed someone demonstrate love for God by obeying His commands. Ask adults to share a memory of God’s past faithfulness that encourages them still today.

**DEMONSTRATE:** Guide adults to review the **Apply the Text** questions on page 79. Direct them to form groups of two or three and to spend a few moments sharing how they would explain their faith to their children or grandchildren.

**PRAY:** Close the session by leading adults in prayer, asking God to help them recall specific times when He has demonstrated faithfulness to them. Urge them to continue using **Pack Item 8** (*Handout: Praying Scripture in Numbers, Deuteronomy*) to pray through Deuteronomy 6:24-25 during the week.

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## AFTER THE SESSION

Email or text the group, encouraging them to continue memorizing and reflecting on Deuteronomy 6:4-5. Suggest that they invite a child or grandchild to join them in memorizing these verses. Challenge them to look for “teachable moments” when they can share spiritual truth with this younger generation.