



LOVE

—THIS—

BOOK

## SERMON NOTES

# THE HEART OF THE MATTER

The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart!

### **Revelation**

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." (Deuteronomy 6:4)*

### **Response**

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts." (Deuteronomy 6:5-6)*

### **Roadblocks**

- Self Sufficiency (vv. 10-12)

*"...be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." (Deuteronomy 6:12)*

- Idolatry (vv. 13-19)

*"Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you" (Deuteronomy 6:14)*

- Generation Gaps (vv. 20-25)

*"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?' tell him: 'We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.'" (Deuteronomy 6:20-21)*

# LOVE THIS BOOK

WEEK TWO: DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9, 30:11-20

## Description for Series

*LOVE THIS BOOK: Shaped by God's Story* will take us further into the narrative of God by introducing us to ordinary people as they wrestled with their circumstances and how to respond to the events in their culture. We will meet real people who were less than perfect in their obedience to God but often continued to pursue him even in the midst of their struggle. We will also meet people who seemingly never truly understood what it looked like to follow God's ways.

### Engaging the Study:

1. Begin each study with expectant prayer. Ask the Spirit to guide your thoughts as you read the passage and engage the questions. Then, conclude your time with a prayer that seeks how you can apply what you gleaned from the study during your day.
2. For this study, we will use the rhythm of **Read**, **Reflect**, and **Respond**. Read the passages several times during the week and then take three days to engage the questions. The **Read** portion of the study will help you gain information about the story, the **Reflect** portion will help you focus on the formational element of your faith journey, and the **Respond** portion will allow you to act on how the Spirit is prompting you from your study.
3. You are encouraged to journal your thoughts as you engage the passages.
4. Use the links on [hfcinfo.com](http://hfcinfo.com) to connect you to additional resources that will expand your understanding of the passages.

## WEEK 2 | JANUARY 10

### Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 30:11-20

As we continue in our study of the second half of the Old Testament, it's appropriate to begin with Deuteronomy. It describes the covenant—how Israel is to relate to God. While the Old Testament is filled with lots of characters and stories, it's the covenant that holds all the pieces together. Even as Deuteronomy is central to the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 6:4-5 is central to the book itself. Foundational to God's covenant is his desire to be in relationship with those he has created—for them to love him with all that they are. Central to this book is the theme of the covenant; at the heart of the covenant is God's desire for relationship. In other words, the heart of the matter is the matter of the heart!

Before you take time this week to do your devotions on these passages, take 7 minutes and watch the video on [hfcinfo.com](http://hfcinfo.com), which provides a context for the book of Deuteronomy.

# DAY ONE

**READ** Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Imagine that you are in the crowd listening to Moses' last message. His words are a reminder of all that God desires for his people. He wants them to know him, love him, and reflect him as they take possession of the land he is giving them. As you read this week, think of how the words in Deuteronomy are still a part of your story.

- What is the ongoing impact of observing the commands that God is giving the Israelites?
- How do you interpret the words that carefully obeying the commands of God results in a successful life?

**REFLECT** on what it means to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. Think about specific examples of how you do this in your own life.

**RESPOND** by memorizing verses 4-5 and reflect on its meaning throughout this week.

# DAY TWO

**READ** Deuteronomy 6:1-9 again.

- What commandments is Moses writing about? What does it mean to have these commandments upon your heart?

**REFLECT** on these thoughts:

- In how much of your life does God have first place?
- Where is the center of your devotion, what is the center of your focus in your everyday life?

**RESPOND** by focusing on the generational impact of these verses. Think about people who are in your sphere of influence, especially those who may be younger than you, and ask the Spirit to show you how you can express the covenantal promises of God to them.



# DAY THREE

**READ** Deuteronomy 30:11-20. Moses continues to address the people and he challenges them with a choice if they are to live as people of the covenant.

- Compare and contrast the choices that Moses lays out in front of the Israelites.

**REFLECT** on verses 19 and 20.

- What does it mean to you to choose life?

**RESPOND** by writing verses 19 and 20 in your own words.

*Take-away: What does it mean to you to embrace the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) in your life? The Shema is a term that describes an ancient Jewish prayer and was an expression of allegiance to the one true God. Jesus repeats those words in Mark 12:30-34 as a reminder that the commandments can be summarized in two overarching ideas; Love God and Love your neighbor. How are you living that truth in your life every day?*

## SMALL GROUP & FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What questions, insights, or thoughts do you have from what Pastor George shared in his sermon? What comes to mind when you hear the word "law?"
2. What are the indicators that you are loving God with our whole heart? What are the indicators that we you not loving God with our whole heart?
3. Take a moment to write out Deuteronomy 6:4-5 in your own words. Have everyone share what they wrote.
4. Take a few minutes and read Deuteronomy 30:11-20. In verses 15-20, what choices do you see presented to the reader?
5. Spend time this week reflecting on who God is and worshiping Him. As you spend time in worship, declare who He is. (For example, God is creator, magnificent, \_\_\_\_\_, etc.)

