

LEVEL UP

IT IS FINISHED...

HEY PARENTS!

For this super easy but meaningful family devotional, you will be exploring Scripture from the book of Deuteronomy. This Scripture will walk your family through four conversation points each day.

As a family, how will we:

1) LISTEN TO, 2) TALK TO, 3) WORSHIP, and 4) LOVE GOD?

INSTRUCTIONS

Begin every devotional time by reading the entire passage out loud from Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Take turns reading! Your family will focus on a single verse each day after reading all six verses. Here are some ideas to help you intentionally carve out some time and develop a rhythm for doing the devotional together:

- Before school with a special breakfast treat
- After dinner when everyone is full and happy
- Every Saturday afternoon for seven weeks
- Have an older child read the Scripture while waiting in the car before/after school
- Sunday after church or lunch

Let us know you've finished your devotional by returning your completed checklist along with any stories you'd like to share. We'd love to hear how it went!

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DAY ONE

READ TOGETHER.

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.
- Today's focus is verse 4: **"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."**
- This verse is the very beginning of a prayer. How does your family like to begin a prayer? "Dear God, or maybe Dear Jesus?" Why not take a second to shout out or write down a greeting to God?
- A man named Moses was speaking this prayer and he wanted everyone around him to hear what he had to say. This was the way the prayer began, kind of like saying, "Listen everyone, there is one God and that's who we're talking to right now." It was a way for the Israelites (God's people) to pledge their loyalty, obedience, and praise to God for all that God had done for them.

As a family, how will we. . .

LISTEN TO GOD

- What is it that God is telling us to do in Deuteronomy 6:4?

TALK TO GOD

- Dear God, You are OUR God. You are our ONE God who shows love to us. Help us as a family

to follow your lead, to listen to your words, and to remember that you are our God.. We can always come to you and talk to you. You are with us. Today, each one of us wants to lift up these thoughts to you: *(each family member says out loud any thought they want to share to God)* We are listening to what you are saying to us today.

WORSHIP GOD

- "Real Love" by Hillsong Young and Free
- "I Love You" by Yancy
- "You Are God Alone" by William McDowell

LOVE GOD

- How will our family communicate that we are ready to spend time with God today?
- When we see one another for the first time after a long day, how do we greet each other? Is that the best way?
- How should we greet God during the things we do everyday?

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DAY TWO

READ TOGETHER.

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.
- Today's focus is verse 5: **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."**
- This verse gives us an action! Look what we get to be apart of! We get to love God with everything we have! "All" is a very big word, it seems almost impossible to love God with ALL of these things. But that is why we listen to God every single day. God helps us know how to love with everything we have. God loves us even when we are learning to love back. What will this look like for our family?

As a family, how will we. . .

LISTEN TO GOD

- According to Deuteronomy 6:5, how are we to love God?

TALK TO GOD

- Dear God, Here are some of the ways you have shown our family love: *(have each family member go around and each say something)*. Here are some of the ways we want to give love to you: *(have each family member give a response)*. We are listening to you today.

WORSHIP GOD

- Spend time listening to or singing any hymn or worship song your family likes, or choose from the list below. You can even play these songs while preparing for a meal, while cleaning up, or heading toward bedtime.
 - "Let us Love One Another" by The Rizers
 - "Chasing You" by Bethel Music
 - "Love the Lord" by Lincoln Brewster

LOVE GOD

- When our family gives all of our attention to each other and not to a screen—how do we feel?
- What are some examples of things that we do that require our ALL?
- What would it look like to give LESS time to something as a family so that we can give MORE time to God and each other? Let's pick something together and try it for a week!

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DAY THREE

READ TOGETHER.

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.
- Today's focus is verse 6-7a: **"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children."**
- Moses is giving instructions in his prayer. He did this to help people he loved to love one another better. Moses was giving the people advice to make sure they kept these things at the center of their hearts. So that they knew they were the most important things that way when it came time to make decisions, they would be ready! What are some important instructions your family has that you live by? The word "impress" just means to make it show. Moses is showing how important it is to love God with everything we are. He wanted the adults he was speaking to to share this with their children.

As a family, how will we. . .

LISTEN TO GOD

- Why does God say that these instructions should be impressed onto children?
- How do parents impress instructions onto their children?
- What is the job of the child when a parent gives them an instruction?

TALK TO GOD

- Dear God, You have given us our hearts. You have given us a way to feel love and to give love. Help us to remember that you created us in a caring way, which makes us caring people! Help us remember where our hearts and love came from. . . you!

WORSHIP GOD

- Spend time listening to or singing any hymn or worship song your family likes, or choose from the list below. You can even play these songs while preparing for a meal, while cleaning up, or heading toward bedtime.
 - "Remember" by Lauren Daigle
 - "Right on Time" by Aaron Cole
 - "Love Won't Let Me Down" by Hillsong Young and Free

LOVE GOD

- We can show our love for God in the way we love each other! **Parents**, share with your kids something on your hearts, something you've cared about lately. Share with your children a specific way you love them. **Kids**, tell your parents how much you love them for what they mean to you.

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DAY FOUR

READ TOGETHER.

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.
- Today's focus is verse 7b: **"Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."**
- Moses reminds the community he is a part of (a community much like our family) that you can talk about loving God wherever you are. When you're sitting in your home, when you are outside—going for a walk as a family or even when you are getting ready for bed or getting up for the morning.
- Try this! Before your next meal together, take a moment to talk about why we pray before mealtimes. It isn't simply because we want God to bless our bodies with the food we are eating, but also because it is another opportunity during our day where we get to spend a moment in God's presence.

As a family, how will we. . .

LISTEN TO GOD

- How will our family talk about our love for God when we are sitting at home today?
- How will our family talk about our love for God when we are outside?

TALK TO GOD

- Dear God, There is always a place and a time to share your love. You are always with us and as we go through this day help us to remember the gift of loving you. Early in the morning, when we are playing, when we get upset or hurt, when we are happy, we can always find time to love you.

WORSHIP GOD

- Spend time listening to or singing any hymn or worship song your family likes, or choose from the list below. You can even play these songs while preparing for a meal, while cleaning up, or heading toward bedtime.
 - "Little Life" by Hillsong Kids
 - "Love Theory" by Kirk Franklin

LOVE GOD

- We can share our love for God in the things that we say and do for one another.
- Write down a way that we can love our family members. . . even when they don't seem kind, when they have made a mistake, or when they haven't paid attention to you.
- Write an encouraging verse about God's love on the bathroom mirror with a dry erase or chalk marker (such as "Do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14)
- Write an encouraging note to someone in your family for no reason.

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DAY FIVE

READ TOGETHER.

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.
- Today's focus is verse 8: **"Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your forehead."**
- Moses is really making a point, isn't he? When would we write instruction that is really important to remember on our hand or even on our forehead? When the instruction is super important, right? Does this verse mean that we should now write the verses onto our hands and foreheads? Probably not. The Bible tells us that we should always have this love on our minds and never forget how important it is to be a part of this loving relationship with God and with each other! Loving the Lord our God with ALL our heart, soul, and strength is pretty important!

As a family, how will we. . .

LISTEN TO GOD

- What does Deuteronomy 6:8 mean?
- Have the adults in your family share if they have ever had a time when they were afraid they would forget something so they wrote a reminder on their hand or an unlikely item!

TALK TO GOD

- Dear God, Help us to see reminders of your love for us all around us. Help us to BE your love wherever we go. Help us to imagine ways we can do that everyday, no matter where we go. Help us to always remember how important it is to love you with all of our heart, soul, and strength.

WORSHIP GOD

- Spend time listening to or singing any hymn or worship song your family likes, or choose from the list below. You can even play these songs while preparing for a meal, while cleaning up, or heading toward bedtime.
 - "Who You Say I Am" by Hillsong Kids
 - "Beat of Your Love" by Watoto Children's Choir

LOVE GOD

- Every time you see a heart from now on, take it as a family reminder to **love God** with all of your heart, soul, and strength. Where could you add the heart shape in your home? Every time you see a heart as you go through your day in different places, take a photo and share with each other later or send it as a message!

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DAY SIX

READ TOGETHER.

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.
- Today's focus is verse 9: **"Write them on your doorframes of your houses and on your gates."**
- Moses doesn't say to put this instruction to love God with all of your heart and all of your strength just on your hand as a reminder—he now tells his friends to find all the doors and gates in their homes to write this instruction on! If there had been billboards back then I'm sure he would have encouraged that too!
- Once again, we don't have to take this verse literally and start putting this reminder on our doorframes and gates! But if we did, what significance would it have? This reminder would be the first thing you see when you leave your home, and the last thing you see before you come back home. And a sign on your door would let everyone else know what you believe! What God wants is for us to make the love of God visible—to ourselves and to others!

As a family, how will we. . .

LISTEN TO GOD

- How many doors and gates do you have in your home? Walk through your home and count together as a family. As you walk around, spend time thanking God for each different person

in your family. Each person that makes up your family is a walking reminder of God's love and to love God with all of your heart and strength.

TALK TO GOD

- Dear God, Every door in our home and every person in our family is a reminder that you love us and we get to share our love with you. Help us to share our love for you with those around us. Help us to care about others because you care about us.

WORSHIP GOD

- Spend time listening to or singing any hymn or worship song your family likes, or choose from the list below. You can even play these songs while preparing for a meal, while cleaning up, or heading toward bedtime.
 - "Nobody Loves Me Like You" by Chris Tomlin
 - "Always Be There" by Yancy
 - "Always with Me" by Allstar Kids

LOVE GOD

- What are some ways you can love the guests who enter through the door to your home?
- Who is someone your family loves who could use some extra love today? What will you do to share with them? How will you together as a family remind them of your love for them and God's love for them: A phone call? A letter? Cookies? Folding laundry?

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DAY SEVEN

READ TOGETHER.

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. **Now read Luke 10:27.**
- The reminder to love God with our everything was reinforced by Jesus himself! Jesus was the perfect example of what it looks like when we love God with our all, and Jesus IS the love God gives to us!
- **Try this!** Go for a walk and pray out loud as you look at things you see. You can draw and color. You can light a candle before you pray. Write down key words on sticky notes and place them throughout your house as a reminder of the things you've shared throughout this devotional. Also take some time to give thanks for all that God has taught your family through this time together!

As a family, how will we. . .

LISTEN TO GOD

- What one command has your family been reminded of this week?
- How will this continue to be important as a family? Take a moment to review all the actions your family previously discussed you would take to love God and others.

TALK TO GOD

- Talk to God together as a family by naming things that you wonder about. Ask God questions about ways you can love God and others.

WORSHIP GOD

- Spend time listening to or singing any hymn or worship song your family likes, or choose from the list below. You can even play these songs while preparing for a meal, while cleaning up, or heading toward bedtime.
 - "Goodness of God" by Bethel Music
 - "Reckless Love" by Cory Asbury
 - "I Just Need U" by TobyMac

LOVE GOD

- Find a special place in your home that everyone sees everyday. Make this your reminder spot! Instead of writing on your hands or your foreheads or your doorframes or your gate, make this the place where you place this important reminder:
- **"Hear O (insert your family name) Family: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. We will love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength."**
- Everyone in your family should work together to make this reminder. It can be a large poster or a small frame—whatever you can create with what you have around your home. Tell people about it when people come to visit your home. Take a picture of your family with this reminder and share it with your friends in an email or on social media, wherever you feel comfortable sharing special things happening in your family!