

God Establishes His People

Date: 10.11.2026 | The Greatest Commandment
Scripture: Deuteronomy 6

CENTRAL TRUTHS



PRESCHOOL:

Love God with all your heart.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

God wants us to love Him with all our heart, remember His Word, and tell others about Him.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

Because God alone is Lord, we should love Him with all our heart, obey His Word, and help others know Him.

STUDENTS:

God alone deserves our complete love and devotion, and through Jesus we are called to live by His Word and intentionally share our faith with the next generation.

ADULTS:

Because God alone is worthy of our wholehearted love, those who have been redeemed through Christ joyfully treasure His Word, pursue holiness through the Holy Spirit, and faithfully pass the gospel to the next generation.

MEMORY VERSE

Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring to you today...The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:13-14



DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

How can we glorify God? We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and obeying his will, commands, and law. NCC q.6

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS



The Israelites are now on the east side of the Jordan River, with the Promised Land lying just across the river. Unlike the earlier generation, this new generation is eager to take possession of the land. Before they enter, God wants His people to understand clearly how they must live in relationship with Him. Deuteronomy serves as a covenant renewal, reminding Israel of God's faithfulness and defining the terms on which they can live in the Promised Land with God dwelling among them and blessing them. In a nutshell, Deuteronomy explains how God's covenant people are to love Him, obey Him, and experience the blessings that come from living in faithful relationship with Him. The book is organized around three farewell speeches Moses delivered before Israel crossed the Jordan River.

The title "Deuteronomy" means "the second law." It is not a completely new law, but a second presentation of the laws first given in Exodus through Leviticus. Moses expands, explains, and applies God's commands to a new generation preparing to live in the land God promised their fathers. Throughout the book, Israel is reminded that true obedience is never merely external. God desires a people whose hearts belong completely to Him, resulting in lives that reflect His holiness and compassion toward others.

One of the central themes of Deuteronomy is found in **Deuteronomy 6**, where Moses reminds Israel that covenant faithfulness begins with wholehearted love for God. **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**, known as the Shema ("Hear"), became Israel's confession of faith. It begins by declaring, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one" (**Deuteronomy 6:4**). This declaration set Israel apart from the polytheistic nations surrounding them by affirming that Yahweh alone is God and therefore deserves Israel's exclusive worship and devotion. Because God alone is Lord, His people are called to love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength (**Deuteronomy 6:5**). Jesus later identified this command as the Greatest Commandment in **Matthew 22:38**, showing that wholehearted love for God remains the foundation of faithful living.

Moses emphasizes that God's Word is not meant to remain confined to worship gatherings but should shape every part of daily life. Parents were instructed to teach God's commands diligently to their children, talking about them while sitting at home, walking along the road, lying down, and rising (*Deuteronomy 6:7-9*). These everyday moments reveal God's desire that faith be intentionally passed from one generation to the next through consistent teaching, authentic example, and repeated reminders of His goodness. The goal was never perfection but genuine devotion that would encourage future generations to know, love, and obey the Lord.

Throughout Deuteronomy, Moses repeatedly warns the people, "Beware, lest you forget." Israel had witnessed God's mighty works throughout their forty years in the wilderness. Even the difficult seasons were used by God to humble them, test them, and reveal what was in their hearts as they learned to trust and obey Him (*Deuteronomy 8*). Remembering God's faithfulness would strengthen their faith and guard them against drifting toward the idolatry and immoral practices of the Canaanites. Likewise, God's people today grow spiritually by intentionally remembering His faithfulness and recounting His works to the next generation.

Deuteronomy repeatedly exhorts Israel to worship and serve the Lord alone as they enter the land. They are warned not to allow the pagan inhabitants to corrupt them with idolatry, but instead to demonstrate God's character by showing compassion toward the vulnerable, including widows, orphans, foreigners, and those experiencing poverty. Their obedience was meant to reflect both God's holiness and His mercy.

Deuteronomy can be viewed as a covenant agreement between God and Israel concerning life in the Promised Land. Blessings would accompany faithful obedience, while rebellion would bring discipline. If Israel honored God's covenant, they would experience His presence, peace, and provision. If they rejected Him and pursued the ways of the surrounding nations, they would experience the covenant curses described throughout Deuteronomy, including drought, famine, foreign invasion, and ultimately exile from the land God had graciously given them.

Near the end of the book, Moses instructed Israel that after crossing the Jordan, they were to set up large stones, coat them with plaster, and write God's law on them (*Deuteronomy 27:2-8*). These visible reminders would continually call God's people back to His covenant

and the importance of remembering His Word.

Moses had written the Scriptures recorded up to this point, and now the end of his earthly ministry had come. God brought Moses to a mountain overlooking the Promised Land, allowing him to see the inheritance God had promised to Abraham's descendants. Although Moses would not enter because of his earlier disobedience, he reminded the people that they were in good hands under Joshua's leadership and, more importantly, under the faithful leadership of God Himself. Moses' final recorded words were filled with blessing, grace, and praise. God showed him the land and said, "I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Then "Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord" (*Deuteronomy 34:4-5*). Moses was 120 years old.

Ultimately, Deuteronomy points beyond itself to Jesus Christ. The law revealed God's holy standard and showed His people how they were to live, but it also exposed humanity's inability to obey perfectly. Like a mirror, the law reveals our sin but cannot remove it. Only Christ perfectly fulfilled God's law, loved the Father with all His heart, soul, mind, and strength, and willingly shed His blood to establish the new covenant. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus provides the forgiveness, transformed heart, and indwelling Holy Spirit that enable God's people to truly love Him and faithfully pass the gospel to the next generation.

TELL THE STORY

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

For the last forty years, the Israelites had been wandering through the wilderness because of their parents' disobedience. That generation had passed away, and now a new generation stood on the edge of the Promised Land. They could almost see the land God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Before they crossed the Jordan River, Moses gathered everyone together one last time. He wanted to remind them of everything God had done and teach them how to live as God's people once they entered the land.

Moses explained that the book of Deuteronomy was a reminder of God's covenant with His people. God had rescued them from slavery



in Egypt, cared for them in the wilderness, and faithfully kept every promise He had made. Now God wanted His people to remember Him, obey Him, and teach His ways to future generations.

Moses began with one of the most important truths in the entire Bible. He said, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one” (*Deuteronomy 6:4*). These words became known as the Shema, which means “hear.” The nations living around Israel worshiped many false gods, but Moses reminded God’s people that there is only one true God. Because He alone is God, He alone deserves our worship, our trust, and our obedience.

Then Moses shared what Jesus would later call the Greatest Commandment (*Matthew 22:38*). He told the people, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (*Deuteronomy 6:5*).

What does that mean?

It means loving God with your whole life. Loving Him with your heart means your thoughts, desires, and emotions belong to Him. Loving Him with your soul means your entire life belongs to Him. Loving Him with your might means using your strength, abilities, time, and everything you have to honor Him. God wasn’t looking for people who simply followed rules. He wanted people whose hearts truly loved Him.

Moses knew that loving God didn’t happen by accident. That’s why he told parents to teach God’s Word to their children every single day. Listen to what he said:

“These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children” (*Deuteronomy 6:6-7*).

Then Moses gave examples of when to talk about God: when you’re sitting at home, walking along the road, lying down to sleep, and getting up in the morning (*Deuteronomy 6:7*). In other words, every moment of life is an opportunity to remember God and talk about His goodness. Faith wasn’t supposed to happen only at the tabernacle or during special celebrations. God wanted His people to think about Him, obey Him, and talk about Him every day.

Moses also told the people to tie reminders of God’s Word on their hands, wear them on their foreheads, and write them on the

doorposts of their houses and their gates (*Deuteronomy 6:8-9*). These reminders helped God's people keep God's truth in front of them wherever they went. More importantly, Moses wanted God's Word written on their hearts.

As the Israelites prepared to enter the Promised Land, Moses gave them another important warning. Over and over throughout Deuteronomy, he said, "Beware, lest you forget." God had done amazing things for His people. He rescued them from Egypt, parted the Red Sea, fed them with manna, gave them water from a rock, and faithfully led them through the wilderness for forty years. Even during difficult times, God was teaching them to trust Him. Later Moses reminded them that God had led them through the wilderness "to humble them, to test them, to know what was in their heart" (*Deuteronomy 8*). Remembering God's faithfulness would help them trust Him in the future.

Moses warned the Israelites not to become like the people living in Canaan. Those nations worshiped false gods and lived sinful lives. Instead, God's people were to remain faithful to the Lord and show His love by caring for widows, orphans, foreigners, and people in need. If they obeyed God, they would enjoy His blessings in the land. If they turned away from Him, they would experience the consequences of their disobedience.

Near the end of Deuteronomy, Moses told the Israelites that after crossing the Jordan River they were to set up large stones and write God's Law on them (*Deuteronomy 27:2-8*). These stones would remind everyone that God's Word was the foundation of their lives.

Finally, Moses knew his work was almost finished. God allowed him to stand on a mountain and look across at the beautiful Promised Land. Although Moses would not enter because of his own disobedience, he reminded the people that Joshua would lead them and, most importantly, that God would continue to be with them. Then, just as God had said, Moses died in the land of Moab at the age of 120 (*Deuteronomy 34:4-5*).

But this story points to someone even greater than Moses.

The law taught God's people how they should live, but it also showed that no one could obey God perfectly. Like a mirror, God's law shows us our sin, but it cannot take our sin away. Only Jesus could do that. Jesus perfectly obeyed the Greatest Commandment by loving the

Father with all His heart, soul, mind, and strength. Then He died on the cross and rose again so that everyone who trusts in Him can be forgiven, receive a new heart, and have the Holy Spirit living inside them. Because of Jesus, we can truly love God, obey His Word, and faithfully tell the next generation about His great love and faithfulness.



REBUILD THE STORY

1. Where were the Israelites when Moses gave them the book of Deuteronomy, and why was he speaking to them?
(*Deuteronomy 1:1-8; 6:1-3*)
2. What important truth did Moses teach in the Shema?
(*Deuteronomy 6:4*)
3. What did Moses say is the greatest way we should respond to God? (*Deuteronomy 6:5*)
4. What did Moses tell God's people to do with God's commands?
(*Deuteronomy 6:6-7*)
5. When did Moses say families should talk about God's Word?
(*Deuteronomy 6:7*)
6. What reminders did Moses give the Israelites so they would not forget God's Word? (*Deuteronomy 6:8-9*)
7. What warning did Moses give the Israelites after they entered the Promised Land? (*Deuteronomy 6:10-12*)
8. According to Deuteronomy 6:20-25, what were parents supposed to tell their children when they asked about God's commands?
(*Deuteronomy 6:20-25*)
9. Why do you think God wanted parents to teach His Word during everyday moments rather than only during worship or special celebrations? What difference could that make in a family's faith?
10. The Israelites were told to "beware, lest you forget" what God had done for them (*Deuteronomy 6:10-12*). Why is it easy for people to forget God's faithfulness, and what are some practical ways we can remember His goodness today?

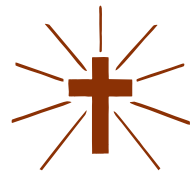
11. Jesus called Deuteronomy 6:5 the Greatest Commandment (*Matthew 22:37-38*). What are some ways someone might say they love God with their words but not with their actions? How can our daily choices show that we truly love Him?
12. Think about someone younger than you—a sibling, cousin, friend, or neighbor. If you wanted to help them know and love God as Moses instructed, what would you do this week, and why do you think those actions would matter?

GOSPEL EMPHASIS

Throughout Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and now Deuteronomy, God has been revealing who He is and what it means to live in relationship with Him. From His covenant with Abraham, to the rescue from Egypt, to His presence in the tabernacle, God continually pursued a people who would know Him, trust Him, and worship Him alone. Deuteronomy reinforces the value God places on that relationship. Under the old covenant, God's people demonstrated their love for Him through obedience to His law. Under the new covenant, relationship with God comes only through the perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. Salvation has never been earned by human effort; even in the Old Testament, God's people were saved by faith in His promises. The law showed them how to live as God's covenant people, while Christ fulfilled the law completely and made a way for sinners to be reconciled to God forever. In both covenants, God made clear that He desires His people to draw near to Him because He first drew near to them.

The greatest commandment in *Deuteronomy 6:5* calls God's people to love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength. Yet the history of Israel shows that sinful people cannot perfectly love or obey a holy God. Again and again, the Israelites forgot God's goodness, grumbled in the wilderness, turned to idols, and broke His covenant. Their story is also our story. Left to ourselves, we wander from God and love other things more than Him. The law exposed this problem by revealing God's perfect standard while showing humanity's inability to meet it.

Deuteronomy also places significant emphasis on the holiness and presence of God. From Mount Sinai to the tabernacle, God demonstrated that He is perfectly holy and that sinful people cannot



enter His presence casually. The sacrifices, priests, and Day of Atonement all pointed forward to the greater sacrifice that was still to come. Jesus became our perfect High Priest and the spotless Lamb of God, fulfilling everything the law and sacrificial system anticipated. Through His blood, our sins are forgiven once and for all, and the barrier separating us from God has been removed.

Today, believers experience God's presence in an even greater way through the indwelling Holy Spirit. The God who once dwelt among His people in the tabernacle now lives within everyone who has trusted in Christ. Because His Spirit lives in us, we are called to pursue holiness, not to earn God's love, but because we have already received it. The command, "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy" (*Leviticus 19:2*), still shapes the lives of God's people today as we are transformed to become more like Christ.

Moses instructed parents to speak about God's Word while sitting at home, walking along the road, lying down, and rising because every generation must hear the story of God's faithfulness. Today, we have an even greater story to tell. We remember not only God's rescue of Israel from Egypt but His rescue of sinners through the cross of Christ. We intentionally pass the gospel to the next generation so they may know the God who keeps His promises and offers eternal life through His Son.

The law is like a mirror, reflecting the truth about our sinful condition. A mirror may reveal the dirt, but it is powerless to wash it away. The law shows us our need for a Savior, but only Jesus can cleanse us from sin. He perfectly loved the Father with all His heart, soul, mind, and strength when we could not. He fulfilled every requirement of God's law, died in our place, and rose again so that all who trust in Him can be declared righteous, receive a new heart that loves God, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk in faithful obedience. In Christ, the greatest commandment becomes not merely an impossible standard but the joyful response of hearts transformed by God's amazing grace.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today's story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true change the way we live in Christ?

PRAYER PROMPTS

God, we adore You! Please help us to love You with all of our hearts, all of our souls, and all our might! Help us to leverage each routine moment for Your glory. Help us to remember and never forget Your goodness in our lives!



THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

Joshua 1