

The Jesus Creed

January and February 2018. Morning Sermon series



"HEAR O Israel, the **LORD** is our God, the Lord is one,
and as for you, you shall **LOVE** the Lord your God with
all of your **HEART**, with all of your **SOUL**, and with
all of your **STRENGTH**."

- Deuteronomy 6:4-5

One of the most famous (and important) prayers contained in the Bible is one that we see the Hebrew people repeat over and over again throughout the Old Testament - the Shema. In Deuteronomy 6:4-5, we first see this prayer, which says, "**Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one, and as for you, you shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.**"

It is a powerful prayer, and one with a lot of meaning packed into just a few words. The Shema, which is the Hebrew word for "listen," is the centerpiece of the last speech Moses gave to the Israelites before they went down into the promised land. After entering the promised land, the Shema became a prayer that the Israelites prayed twice a day.

The Shema was still a significant part of their religion when Christ was born. Jesus references the Shema in Mark 12:29-31 when He says, "The first of all the commandments is, 'Listen, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Each week we'll be reading the passage from Deuteronomy chapter 6 which contains the Shema, alongside a gospel passage which will unpack what that particular part of the Shema invites us into. We'll be invited into a vision of discipleship which encompasses our hearts, souls and strength, and how that equips us both to love God and to "love each other as we love ourselves."

Further Resources:

"The Shema Series" on www.thebibleproject.com. This has short videos on five out of six of these themes. Well worth a watch as background info, or perhaps included in the service somewhere.

"The Jesus Creed: Loving God Loving Others" by Scott McKnight

07 January 2018	Listen up	Deut 6:1-12	Mark 12:28-34
14 January 2018	Following the one true God	Deut 6:1-12	Luke 5:1-11
21 January 2018	All you need is love?	Deut 6:1-12	John 14:15-21
28 January 2018	Healthy Hearts	Deut 6:1-12	Mark 7:1-16
04 February 2018	Satisfied Souls	Deut 6:1-12	Luke 10:38-42
11 February 2018	Saintly strength	Deut 6:1-12	Luke 14:25-33