

DEUTERONOMY 4-9

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE



WEEK IN REVIEW

Deuteronomy is essentially Moses' pep talk to the Israelites summed up into one big call to **obedience**. Obedience means following the instructions given. For the Israelites, obedience is going to lead to life and blessing and disobedience is going to lead to consequences. God's people were called to be set apart amongst all the other nations, and so these statutes and commands were guidelines in order to do that. God's Word gives His people wisdom and understanding. When the nations were to come across God's people, the goal was that they would experience the One True God by the way the people of God live.

Moses reviews the Ten Commandments and calls them to walk in obedience to them. The Ten Commandments were rules God gave to Moses for His people on Mount Sinai back in Exodus. The first four are about how they were to relate to God, and the last six are about how they should relate to others. The law is also called the Mosaic Covenant. A **covenant** is a really strong promise between two parties that should not be broken. The Mosaic Covenant was **conditional** meaning the result of this promise was dependent on their actions. They could believe, obey, and prosper, or disobey and perish. Their future depended on their faithfulness, and faithfulness looked like following God's commands. The purpose of the Law was to reveal the holiness of God and the brokenness of people, and to regulate their conduct and behavior.

In Deuteronomy 6, the Israelites are commanded to love God above all else. This is summarized in what is called the **Shema**, which is a Hebrew prayer that means "hear" or "listen". The Shema is a very important passage of Scripture for the Israelites and it is something that was cited at the beginning of worship for hundreds of years, and is still used today. The prayer starts off with, "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one." Moses is telling the Israelites to listen up and to obey what they hear. The prayer continues saying, "You shall love the Lord God with all of your heart, with all of your soul and with all might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart." God wants us to love Him with our whole self. Jesus repeats this command in the New Testament and tells us that we are also to love our neighbors as ourselves. This is called the **Greatest Commandment**: love God and love people. He wants us to love Him with every fiber of our being, and that love to be evident in everything we do. For the nation of Israel, loving God meant obeying His Word, and that is true for us too!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We are called to love the Lord with our heart, soul, and strength!
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Call to Obedience● The Ten Commandments● The Greatest Command● The Call to Conquer● The Call to Remember
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Deuteronomy 4:6<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”● Deuteronomy 6:4-6<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 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.”
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Obedience<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Following the instructions given● Covenant<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A really strong promise that should not be broken● Conditional covenant<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The result of this promise depended on their actions● Shema<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A famous Hebrew prayer. The word “shema” means listen or hear.

Reflection Questions

1.	What does obedience mean? What was the result of the Israelites obedience to God?
2.	What were the Ten Commandments? What book of the Bible were these commands first given?
3.	What was the Shema? Who repeated this in this New Testament?
4.	What is the Greatest Commandment? How can you put that into action?