

# The Mission of God's People

---

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 & Matthew 22:34–40 ▪ June 7, 2026 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

**Growing**

**a community**

**that knows,**

**loves,**

**and shares**

**Jesus.**

## ***Deuteronomy 6:4–9***

---

<sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

## ***Matthew 22:34–40***

---

<sup>34</sup>But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup>And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup>And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

---

**Open:** Think about a relationship that has grown deeper over many years. What contributed most to that relationship growing stronger?

**Read and Discuss:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9

1. The Shema begins with the words, “Hear, O Israel” (v. 4). Why do you think God wanted His people to begin by listening? What does active listening typically look like? How do we practice this together as a community learning to hear God?
2. Israel was commanded to love God with all their heart, soul, and might (v. 5). What do you think God was communicating by describing love in these terms? What would such wholehearted devotion look like in the practical rhythms of your everyday life? How should this kind of love shape the culture of our church community?
3. According to verses 6-9, how was God’s Word meant to shape daily life within Israelite families and communities? What stands out to you about the ordinary settings in which God expected His truth to be discussed and remembered? How might this guide the way our community helps one another know and love Jesus?
4. The Shema served as a regular reminder of who God is, who God’s people were, and how they were to live. What reminders help keep your relationship with God at the center of your life? What shared practices help keep Jesus at the center of our community?

**Read and Discuss:** Matthew 22:34-40

5. When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, why do you think He quoted the Shema rather than speaking in new terms (v. 37)? What does this reveal about God’s heart? How should it shape our lives together?
6. Jesus joins love for God with love for neighbor (v. 39). Why do you think He binds these two commands together? How does our treatment of others reveal something about our relationship with God? What are the implications of this for a church community seeking to know, love, and share Jesus?
7. Jesus says that all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments (v. 40). What do you think He means by that statement? How might this help us understand the purpose behind all God commands—and the purpose behind our mission as a church?

**Apply:** Our church’s mission is “Growing a community that knows, loves, and shares Jesus.” Which of those three areas—knowing Jesus, loving Jesus, or sharing Jesus—feels strongest in our community right now? Which one needs the most growth? How can you help the church grow in this way?

**Pray:** Pray that God would help us become a community that knows Jesus deeply, loves Him wholeheartedly, and shares Him faithfully with those around us. Ask Him to shape our hearts according to the greatest commandment and to make His priorities our priorities.