

Date: 2 Mar 2025

Sermon Series: Living by the Shema: A Call to Wholehearted Devotion

Sermon Title: Living as God's People

Scripture Reference: Deuteronomy 6:16-25

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Introduction

The book of Deuteronomy provides essential instructions for the people of Israel as they prepare to enter the Promised Land. Deuteronomy 6 is a key passage that emphasizes the importance of trust, obedience, and faithfulness to God. Today, we will explore three crucial aspects of this passage: not testing God, diligent obedience, and teaching future generations.

1. **Do not test the Lord:**

- Deut 6:16: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah."
- The reference to Massah (Exodus 17:1-7) reminds Israel of a time when they doubted God's provision and demanded proof of His presence.
- Testing God stems from a lack of faith and an attempt to manipulate Him to meet our desires.
- Instead of testing, we are called to trust in God's character, promises, and faithfulness.

2. **Keep His commands:**

- Deut 6:17-19: Following God's commands diligently leads to prosperity and righteousness.
- Obedience is not merely about following rules but living in alignment with God's will.
- God's commands are given for our benefit—to guide us into a life of righteousness and blessing.
- When we live in obedience, we experience God's peace and prosperity, and our communities reflect His goodness.

3. **Know the reasons:**

- Deut 6:20-25: Explaining to future generations the significance of God's commands and His mighty deeds.
- Faith is meant to be passed down through generations.
- Teaching about God's faithfulness and His mighty deeds instills reverence and gratitude in our children.
- Sharing personal testimonies and biblical truths helps shape the faith of future generations.

Conclusion:

Wrap up the series by reiterating the key themes:

- **Wholehearted love for God** – Trusting Him fully without testing.
- **Teaching and passing on the faith** – Sharing God's faithfulness with future generations.
- **Remembering God's faithfulness** – Remembering God's goodness and His unwavering faithfulness in every season of life, both in times of joy and in moments of struggle.
- **Living as a distinct people dedicated to God** – Being a light in the world through our obedience and commitment to God.

Discussion Questions (Discussion leaders may feel free to adapt to suit their small groups)

1. How can believers today put God to the test, similar to how the Israelites did in the passage?
2. Can you share a time when you chose to follow God's Word/Command? How did that decision impact your life?
3. How can you pass down stories of God's faithfulness in your life to future generations, such as your children or younger believers?

DBS/BOBILA Questions

1. What does this passage say about living as God's people?
2. What does this passage say about the Israelites?
3. What have you learnt about yourself?
4. What values do you need to change?
5. With Whom/ When /Where/ How can you share this message?