



14. “Shema”

⁴ “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. -Deuteronomy 6:4-9

²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. ²⁵ But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. -James 1:22-25

Watch the video from The Bible Project [Shema](#) prior to or at the start of the study.

1. Do you have a specific verse, adage or mission statement that is dear to you and that you try to live by? What is it and how did this become meaningful to you?
2. The *Shema* is a call to listen *and* respond to the truth that Yahweh is the one true God, and the only response is to [love](#) God with our whole being in response. Read Deut 6:4-9. In what ways do you see the importance of the *shema* when it was first given in this passage? How might it still be relevant to you today?
3. Although we cannot earn our salvation through good works, the Bible makes it clear that those who love God and follow Jesus must demonstrate this, not only in knowing what is true, but doing what is right. Read James 1:19-25. What speaks to you from this passage in light of the *shema*? In what areas of your life do you *know* what is right, but struggle to *do* what is right?