

Exploring the fullness of God

Week 2: The True God

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

Icebreaker. Moses prepared his people for the challenges of the future. If you were to make a time capsule to be opened in 30 years' time at your church, what would you put in it?

WORSHIP

Sing or listen to a hymn or worship song that speaks of the True God or how we should respond to him e.g. 'Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord' or 'Today I choose to follow You'.

WORD

Read Deuteronomy 6.1-25

1. God had brought the nation of Israel out of slavery through the wilderness and into the promised land that is materially blessed. Should we claim that this is God's will for us as individuals, or a nation, or not at all?

2. Moses highlights two dangers for the Israelites as they settle in the promised land (vv10-19). What are they and in what ways are they relevant for us today?

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3. Moses is eager to equip the people to face the challenges ahead. What strategy does he use (vv1-9)? What does he emphasise and what practical suggestions does he make?

4. “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” (v4) is known as the Shema (the Hebrew word for ‘hear’) and still forms part of the Jewish daily prayer routine. Why was and is this important to Jews and Christians?

5. How would you respond to the following two comments.
 - a) If I were to love God with all my heart, soul and strength, there would be no love left for anyone or anything else?
 - b) I used to love God with all my heart, soul and strength, but as I have matured, I am less fanatical, which I think is good.

6. Moses referred to the Ten Commandments in the previous verse. List the different ways that these commandments are to be integrated into our lives (vv6-9) Which of these are directly relevant for us today? Which do we need to rediscover in our culture?

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WHAT NEXT?

The people of Israel are a people of grace rescued from slavery. The big question is, how were they supposed to live their lives in response to the grace that has been poured on them? You and I, as people of grace, need to grapple with the same question. We've been rescued by God at great cost from slavery and the consequence of our sin through Jesus's work on the cross. A gift freely given. How should we respond to that grace that's come into our lives? Moses is answering that question in Deuteronomy chapter 6.

What can we do?

Review your plans to weave God's word into your life, to let the whole of your life engage with it? The fact that you are in a growth group means you've made a great start!

God's word should be...

On are hearts: Reading God's word must be more than an intellectual or social affair but should remain in our hearts shaping our life, what we do and say and how we relate with others.

On our children: Passing on the faith is a family responsibility.

On our lips: We need to discuss God's word whenever the opportunity arises and not just in our growth groups.

On our hands: Putting into practice what God's word has spoken to our hearts.

On our foreheads: Taking every opportunity to meditate on God's word.

On our doorframes: We need to be reminded of God's word when we enter our home and engage with our family, and when we leave home and engage with the world.

Many Jewish people take the hands, foreheads and doorframes literally by tying boxes (phylacteries) to those places. but I think Moses was talking

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metaphorically because God's word needs to be in our hearts, so that our lives are fed and led by the word of God.