

Scripture Text

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Context

Forty years have passed since God redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt. Now, as the nation prepares to enter the Promised Land, God renews His covenant with His people. Israel is meant to respond to God's redemption with worship, love and obedience.

Observation and Meaning

1. What does God reveal about himself in verse 4?
2. How are God's people to love Him? Looking at the context of these verses, what does it mean to love God?
3. What do verses 7-9 tell us about how our lives are to be shaped by God's Word?

Big Idea

God's Word is to fundamentally transform the lives of God's people. As His redeemed people, we are to hear God's Word, worship Him alone, love Him, and live for Him.

Connecting to the Bible's storyline

Israel's redemption points to a far greater redemption that God has accomplished through his Son. In Christ, we are renewed and empowered by the Spirit to be a people who truly know God.

Application

1. How do we normally think about theology? Why are theology and life often disconnected?
2. How do we cultivate the habit of hearing God's Word in our lives? How can we encourage one another to hear God's Word?
3. How does knowing God's Word deepen our love or God? Can you give some examples this happening in your own life?
4. How does knowing God affect how you live in your family, at the school or workplace, and in the wider community? Give examples of how God's Word has impacted your life.
5. In which areas of life do you need to grow in obedience to God's Word?

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?
What is the situation of the author and of the readers?
Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?
Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.