

## SERMON SLIDES - MAY 30TH

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*Jesus answered, "The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these."*

*(Mark 12:29-31, CSB)*

### SLIDE

*"What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation of this—go and study it!" - Rabbi Hillel*

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## Shema < to listen

- *When the LORD spoke to Israel through Moses on Mt. Sinai, he told them: “Now if you will carefully listen (Shema) to me and keep (Shema) my covenant, you will be my own possession out of all the peoples.”* Exodus 19:5, CSB

- *When the psalmist cries out in Psalm 27:7, he says: “Lord, hear (shema) my voice when I call; be gracious to me and answer (shema) me.”* Psalm 27:7, CSB

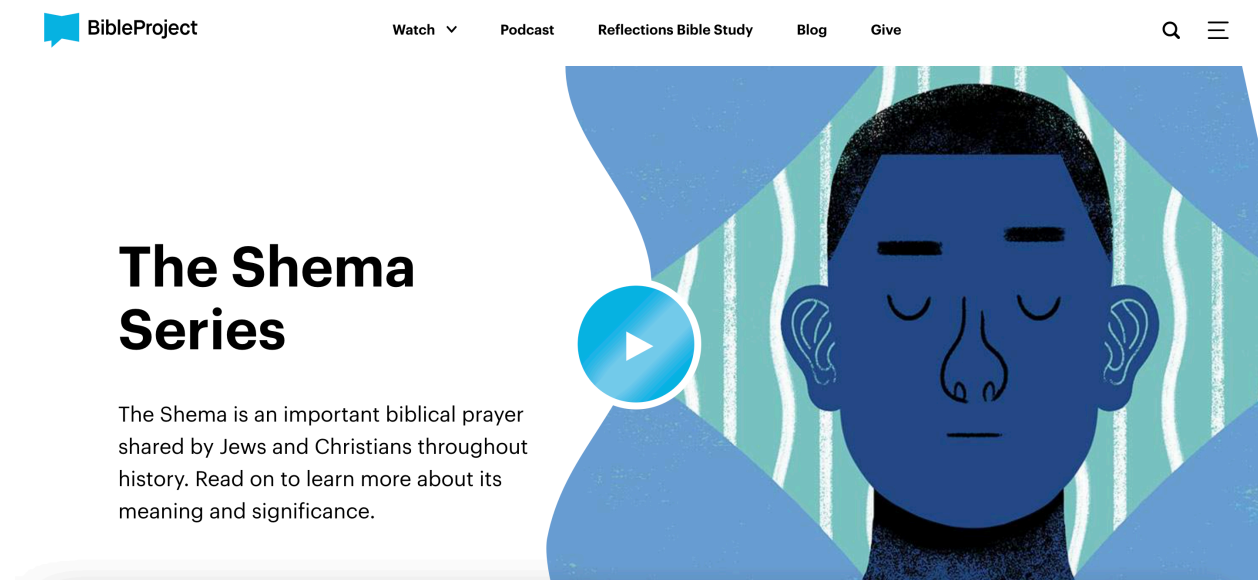
## SLIDE

### The Shema

*“Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart.”*

*(Deuteronomy 6:4-6, CSB)*

## SLIDE



The screenshot shows the BibleProject website. The header includes the BibleProject logo, navigation links for Watch, Podcast, Reflections Bible Study, Blog, and Give, and search and menu icons. The main content area features a large illustration of a person with their eyes closed, set against a background of blue and green geometric shapes. A play button icon is overlaid on the illustration. The text 'The Shema Series' is prominently displayed, followed by a brief description: 'The Shema is an important biblical prayer shared by Jews and Christians throughout history. Read on to learn more about its meaning and significance.'

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### The Heart / Lev

*“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.”*  
(Proverbs 4:23, NLT)

*“The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable—who can understand it?”*  
(Jeremiah 17:9, CSB)

## SLIDE

*Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, teacher. You have correctly said that he is one, and there is no one else except him. And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is far more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices.”*

(Mark 12:32-33, CSB)

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## **SLIDE**

*When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”*

*(Mark 12:34, CSB)*

## **SLIDE**

**Jesus loved**

*with all his heart...*

*with all his soul...*

*with all his strength...*

## **SLIDE**

**Our Hope**

*God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

*(1 John 4:9-10, CSB)*

## **SLIDE**

**Benediction**

“Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, CSB)

## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS - MAY 30TH

As a group, consider working through the [Bible Project Shema](#) series during your time together this week. This can be viewed on any device with access to the internet. The following questions will be based on the video content from *The Bible Project*.

1. *If the heart is to be viewed as the center of our emotional, psychological, and decision-making parts of our life, **what do your emotions, thoughts, and decision-making processes reveal about your heart for God?***
  
2. *According to the Bible Project, the Hebrew word for soul (nephesh) has much more to do with our living bodies than a post-life spirit. **How does this change your perception of what it might look like to love the LORD with all your soul?***
  
1. *Bonus question: **What does your living-self (your platform, influence, & privilege) reveal about your soul's love for God?***

3. *The Hebrew word translated into strength (or might) in Deuteronomy 6:5 is never translated strength anywhere else in the Bible. The word [Me'od] is an intensifier, adding emphasis to other words such as:*

- *When God finished creating, he spoke his seventh blessing over it all but intensified it by saying it was not just good, like the last five days. This time, it was very (me'od) good.*
- *When Moses describes the story of Cain and Abel, Cain's anger is described as very (me'od) angry.*
- *When the floodwaters began to cover the earth, they are described as increasing greatly (me'od).*

*A better translation of me'od in english might be the word: muchness. **As you look at the muchness of your life - the busy schedules and constant motion - what does the muchness of your life reveal about your love for God?***

4. *In the Shema, God's people are called to devote their whole body, mind, and feelings and desires, as well as their future and failures, to God. This, Jesus said, is the greatest commandment. It is also impossible on our own. **Discuss***

***the ways that Jesus fulfilled this in his own life.***

*Jesus was well aware that his answer to the scribe was an impossible feat. We are not expected to achieve perfection, but rather to live in Christ's perfection that has been credited to us by his life, death and resurrection. Close by reflecting on 1 John 4:9-10 and spend some time in prayer thanking Jesus for giving us a new life lived through him.*