

## LESSON 12

# One God, One People

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

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*“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.”*

(Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

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**Class Overview:** As Israel prepares to enter the Promised Land, Moses calls the people back to the most fundamental truth of their identity: they belong to **one God and**, therefore, are **one people**. After generations of rescue, rebellion, mercy, correction, and renewal, Moses makes it unmistakably clear: unity among God’s people flows directly from exclusive devotion to the Lord.

This lesson centers on Israel’s confession of faith and covenant identity. Unity is not grounded in shared history alone, but in one faith. God’s people are bound together because they worship the same God, obey the same covenant, and live under the same calling. When God’s people remember who God is, they rediscover who they are together.

### **Class Objectives:**

By the end of this class, you should be able to:

1. Confess the oneness of God as the foundation of Israel’s identity, understanding how exclusive devotion shapes unity among God’s people.
  2. Explain why loving God wholly is central to covenant faithfulness, not merely obedience to commands.
  3. Recognize that a common loyalty to one God creates shared identity, binding God’s people together as one community.
  4. Understand the responsibility to pass faith to the next generation, seeing teaching and remembrance as essential to unity.
  5. Commit to living as God’s united people today, grounding unity not in preference or background, but in wholehearted devotion to the Lord.
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## **Introduction:**

AS MOSES PREPARES THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND, he brings them back to the simplest and most demanding truth of their faith: *the Lord is one*. After years of wandering, failure, correction, and renewal, everything comes down to this confession. Israel’s unity, identity, and future depend on its devotion to the one true God.

The wilderness has shown how quickly unity fractures when trust falters, hearts divide, or worship drifts. Moses now reminds the people that unity is not maintained by shared history alone, but by one faith. One God calls for one people, bound together by love, obedience, and faithful remembrance.

In Deuteronomy 6, Moses calls Israel to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength. This love was not meant to remain abstract or private. It was to shape daily life, guide decisions, and be passed from one generation to the next. Faithfulness was shared, visible, and enduring.

This lesson invites us to reflect on what truly holds God's people together. Unity does not begin with agreement on preferences, but with wholehearted devotion to the Lord. When God's people remember who God is, they are reminded of who they are together. Unity flows naturally from loving the one true God with undivided hearts.

### **One God Demands Exclusive Loyalty (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)**

Before Moses speaks about obedience, teaching, or daily practice, he begins with identity. Unity does not start with behavior; it starts with belief. *Who* God is determines how God's people live together. Moses opens with what became Israel's central confession of faith: *Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.* This is a declaration of the covenant. To confess that the Lord is one is to affirm that He alone is God, without rival, replacement, or division.

This confession immediately calls for complete devotion. Israel is instructed to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength. Love here is not sentimental; it is total loyalty. Every part of life—affections, decisions, strength, and will—belongs to God. Divided devotion contradicts the oneness of God. Moses recognizes that unity among the people results directly from exclusive loyalty to the Lord. When hearts are split between God and other sources of security, identity, or power, unity breaks down. But when God alone is loved and trusted, the people are united around a common focus.

Jesus said this command was the greatest of all (Mark 12:29–30), showing that wholehearted love for God remains the foundation of faithful living. God's people are united not by sameness of background or preference, but by united devotion to the one true God. *Who truly holds our loyalty?* Unity does not require uniformity, but it does require undivided devotion. When God is loved wholly, His people are bound together. One God calls forth one people: faithful, devoted, and united.

### **Shared Devotion Shapes Shared Identity (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)**

Exclusive loyalty to one God does not remain abstract. What Israel confesses about God must be lived out daily. Moses now shows that devotion is not only personal; it is critical for the entirety of God's people. In Deuteronomy 6:6, Moses tells the people that God's words are to be *on their hearts*. This is more than memorization; it is internalization. God's commands were meant to shape desires, priorities, and decisions. When God's word takes root in the heart, it reshapes identity from the inside out.

But Moses does not stop with the individual. In verse 7, he moves immediately to the shared life of Israel. God's words were to be taught diligently to children, spoken of at home, along the road, when lying down, and when rising up. Faith was woven into the rhythm of everyday life. Devotion was shared,

visible, and repeated. Israel would not remain God's people simply because of ancestry or geography, but because God's truth shaped their life together. Unity was reinforced every time God's word was spoken, remembered, and lived out collectively.

Just after Jesus' death, the early church "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching" and, as a result, experienced deep unity and shared life (Acts 2:42). Unity is cultivated over time. When God's word is central in homes, congregations, and daily conversations, faith becomes a shared story rather than a private possession. God's people remain one when devotion is practiced together, not merely professed individually.

## **Faith Must be Passed(Deuteronomy 6:8-9)**

Devotion that is not transmitted will eventually be lost. Moses understands that unity among God's people is never self-sustaining. If faith is not deliberately and consistently taught, the next generation will drift, even if the present one remains faithful. In Deuteronomy 6:8-9, Moses uses vivid language to describe how God's truth was to be embedded in Israel's life. God's commands were to be bound on their hands, placed before their eyes, written on doorposts, and displayed at city gates. These were not empty symbols; they were constant reminders of who God is and who His people were called to be.

This intentional visibility ensured that faith was not confined to worship moments alone. God's truth shaped work, home, movement, and community life. Every generation encounters reminders of God's covenant, reinforcing shared identity and devotion. Moses' concern is clear: if faith is not passed on, unity will naturally fracture. Forgetting God would lead to forgetting who they were as a people. Teaching the next generation was not optional; it was essential for survival as God's people.

In his writing to Timothy, Paul urged first-century Christians to entrust the faith to faithful people who would also teach others (2 Timothy 2:2). Unity across generations depends on deliberate instruction, modeling, and remembrance. Unity is preserved when faith is visible, practiced, and taught; not assumed. Families, congregations, and leaders all share responsibility for passing on devotion to God. People remain united only when each generation is taught to love and serve the one true God.

## **For Application**

**Anchor Unity in Devotion to God, Not Agreement on Everything.** God's people are united because they serve one Lord. Unity does not require uniform opinions or identical backgrounds, but it does require a united loyalty to the one true God.

**Let Love for God Shape Every Area of Life.** Loving God with heart, soul, and strength means allowing devotion to influence daily decisions, priorities, and relationships. Faithfulness begins in the heart and shows itself in everyday living.

**Practice Faith Together, Not Just Individually.** God's design has always been for us to function together. Unity is strengthened when God's word is spoken, remembered, and lived out together: in homes, worship, and daily conversation.

**Take Responsibility for Passing Faith Forward.** Unity that lasts depends on intentional teaching and modeling of faith. Every generation has a responsibility to help the next know, love, and serve the Lord.

**Live as God’s United People in a Divided World.** When God’s people remain devoted to one God, they offer a powerful witness to a fragmented world. Unity rooted in love for God becomes a testimony to His faithfulness and grace.

## Memory Verse/Weekly Challenge

### Memory Verse:

*“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.”* — Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (CSB)


### Weekly Challenge:

This week, express your devotion to God in a way that strengthens unity with others. Speak about God’s goodness in your home or with fellow Christians. Pray with or for someone else, not just privately. Look for one opportunity to reinforce shared faith through encouragement, teaching, or example. At the end of the week, reflect on this question: *How did loving God openly strengthen my connection to His people?*

## For Discussion


1. Why does Moses begin Israel’s call to faithfulness with the confession that “the Lord is one”  
How does this truth shape unity among God’s people?

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2. What does it look like to love God with all your heart, soul, and strength in everyday life – not just in worship settings?

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3. How does shared devotion to God help create a shared identity among God’s people, even when backgrounds, personalities, or opinions differ?

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4. Why is faith transmission so critical for unity across generations? What happens to a congregation when faith is assumed rather than taught?

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5. In a divided world, how can God’s people live out “one God, one people” in a way that reflects both conviction and love?

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