

## **Deep Practice Discipleship Guide**

### **Deuteronomy 6:5 — Love the LORD Your God**

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#### **Opening Check-In: Last Week's Deep Practice**

Begin by sharing how your deep practice went this past week.

#### **Invite reflection:**

- What did you commit to last week?
- Where did you see progress or fruit?
- Where was it challenging or inconsistent?
- What did you learn about yourself or your walk with God?

Remember: This is not about perfection, but formation.

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#### **Sermon Overview**

##### **Background**

- Moses' final words before Israel enters the Promised Land
- Deuteronomy is about the formation of a people, not just the giving of law
- The Shema (Deut. 6:4–5) was recited daily

This is the defining call of life with God.

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#### **What Does It Mean to Love?**

##### **In Deuteronomy**

- Covenant loyalty, devotion, allegiance
- To belong fully to God

##### **In Jesus' teaching (Mark 12)**

- Affirmed and deepened
- Relational, inward, lived out

## **In modern culture**

- Love is often reduced to feeling or preference
- “Follow your heart”

### **Key idea:**

Covenant love is relational love received by grace and returned in devotion.

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## **“The LORD Your God”**

- Yahweh — “I AM”
- Personal, covenant-making, present

This is not abstract.

We are called to love the One who has bound Himself to us.

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## **“With All Your...”**

This is repeated three times to emphasize totality.

Not partial. Not compartmentalized.

### **Heart (lēb)**

- Thought, will, decision-making
- The command center of life

Love God with what directs your life.

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### **Soul (nephesh)**

- Your whole living being
- Your life itself

Love God with your whole life.

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### **Strength (me’od)**

- Everything you have

- Effort, resources, abilities

Love God with everything at your disposal.

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### **Summary**

Love God with what directs you, what defines you, and what you have.

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### **Heart (Application Insight)**

We often give God parts, not all.

We hold back control, identity, or resources.

The deeper question is not: Do I love God?

But: What is not fully His?

God loved us first. Our love is a response to His grace.

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### **Hands (Practice Direction)**

Identify one area not surrendered.

Bring it under God's leadership this week.

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### **Group Discussion (Bloom's Taxonomy)**

#### **Remember & Understand**

- What are the three areas we are called to love God with?
- How is "love" defined differently in Deuteronomy compared to modern culture?

#### **Apply**

- What does it look like to love God with your heart (your decisions) in everyday life?
- Where do you see your daily life reflecting love for God—or not?

#### **Analyze**

- Why do we tend to compartmentalize our love for God?
- How does a cultural understanding of love distort discipleship?

## **Evaluate**

- Which area (heart, soul, or strength) is most difficult for you to surrender? Why?
- What currently competes for your devotion?

## **Create**

- How would you restate Deuteronomy 6:5 in your own words for today?
  - What would your life look like if you fully lived this command?
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## **Storying Exercise**

### **Passage: Luke 18:18–23 — The Rich Young Ruler**

#### **Step 1: Read the story together**

#### **Step 2: Retell the story from memory**

#### **Step 3: Reflect together**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- What does the man do well spiritually?
- What is he unwilling to surrender?
- How does this connect to loving God with “all”?
- What does Jesus reveal about devotion and belonging?
- Where do you see yourself in this story?

This story highlights that partial devotion is not the same as full surrender.

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## **This Week’s Deep Practice Commitment**

Take time to reflect and write down your commitment.

### **Option 1: Continue**

- Continue working on your previous area of growth

### **Option 2: New Practice Based on This Week**

Identify one area not fully surrendered:

- A decision (heart)

- A part of your life (soul)
- A resource, ability, or effort (strength)

Choose one:

- Practice daily surrender in that area
- Take one intentional act of devotion
- Align one specific decision with love for God

Write your commitment:

“This week, I will...”

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**Closing Prayer**