

Love the Lord with All Your Heart

Wednesday Plan

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 6

MEMORY VERSE

Deuteronomy 6:5

OPTIONAL VIDEO

The Greatest Commandment

<https://southside.cc/439-924>

We love God with all our heart, soul, and strength.

For the Teacher

Wednesday night reinforces what the kids learned on Sunday. Don't re-teach the whole Shema sermon — they heard it. Tonight is about *practicing* what loving God with the whole self looks like in a kid's actual week.

KEY TRUTH

We love God with all our heart, soul, and strength.

Same bottom line as Sunday, by design. Wednesday uses the exact same sentence the kids heard on Sunday. Repeat it. Have them say it back. Don't paraphrase or soften it — the repetition is the point.

Three words, three stations. Sunday taught the kids that “heart, soul, and strength” together means *the whole person*. Tonight you'll break that into three short stations so they can put their hands on each piece. Heart is feelings and choices — what you love. Soul is your whole self given over to God — your inside life, your prayers. Strength is what you do — your hands, your time, your stuff. Three stations, three concrete moves. They'll come back together at the end to remember the three words go together.

What to skip. Don't re-read all of Deuteronomy 6. The kids did that Sunday. Tonight you'll re-read 6:5 (the memory verse) and that's about it for new Bible-opening. If a kid wasn't there Sunday, give them a one-sentence catch-up: “Moses gave God's people his last big sermon, and the most important command was to love God with everything they are — heart, soul, and strength.”

The doorpost craft is straight from the text. Deuteronomy 6:9 says to write God's commands on the doorposts of your house. Faithful Jewish families to this day put a small box called a *mezuzah* on their doorframe with this verse inside. You don't need to teach the whole tradition — but the craft tonight is the kid's version of it. A little verse-strip they take home and tape near a door so they see it every day.

Energy management. Wednesday is built around three short stations and a take-home craft, then a small-group debrief. The stations move quickly — five minutes each, on a timer if your group needs it. Bring the energy down for the prayer card and closing. A kid who moved fast through the stations and then sat quietly to write a prayer card will remember both.

MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Three labeled stations (sticky-note signs are fine): **HEART, SOUL, STRENGTH**
- For the **HEART** station: a stack of paper hearts, markers
- For the **SOUL** station: small slips of paper, pencils, a small box or basket labeled “God's Box”
- For the **STRENGTH** station: a short list of “serving” actions printed on cards
- Strips of cardstock (about 2" x 8"), markers, stickers, and tape for the doorpost craft
- **All My Heart** prayer cards (printed in advance from this week's activities)
- Pencils

1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. Tell them:

SAY

On Sunday we learned one big idea, and we're going to learn it again tonight. Say it with me: We love God with all our heart, soul, and strength.

Have them say it back. Then again, louder. Then in a whisper.
Write it on the board.

Tell them tonight is going to be different from Sunday — they're going to move around the room, make something to take home, and practice what loving God with the whole self looks like in a normal week. But first, a quick review.

2. The Story

Quick Review

ASK

What three words did Moses use for the parts of us that should love God?

You're looking for: heart, soul, strength. If they only get one or two, push them — Moses said all three on purpose.

Re-Read One Verse

Have them open to Deuteronomy 6:5. Pick a confident reader.

Deuteronomy 6:5

Say the bottom line again, with the kids:

SAY

We love God with all our heart, soul, and strength.

3. The Work

Three Stations — Heart, Soul, Strength

Set up three stations around the room before class. Walk the kids through them once together, then break them into three groups and rotate every five minutes. The point is *doing* one concrete thing at each station so the three words stop being abstract.

Station 1 — HEART. A stack of paper hearts and markers. The prompt at the station: *On a heart, write or draw one thing you love about God.* Loving God with your heart starts with knowing what you actually love about him — that he's good, that he listens, that he forgives, that he made you, that he sent Jesus. The kids tape their hearts to the wall under the **HEART** sign.

Station 2 — SOUL. Small slips of paper, pencils, and a box labeled "God's Box." The prompt: *Write a one-sentence prayer to God. "Help me " or "Thank you for ."* Fold it and put it in the box. Loving God with your soul means giving him your whole inside life — including your worries and your thank-yous. You'll pray over the box at the end.

Station 3 — STRENGTH. A small stack of "serving" cards laid out: *Help carry someone's stuff. Pick up trash you didn't drop. Open the door for someone. Say something kind out loud.* The prompt: *Pick one card. Try the action right now in this room.* Loving God with your strength means using what you can do — your hands, your time, your energy — to serve other people. The kids pick a card and actually do it before they rotate.

After the rotation, bring the whole group back together. Point at the three signs on the wall. Ask:

ASK

Which station was easiest for you, and which was hardest?

You're listening for honest answers. Some kids find heart easiest (feelings come naturally), some find strength easiest (they like *doing*), some find soul easiest (they pray a lot). The point isn't to win — the point is that the three go together. Loving God isn't just one of these. It's all three.

Doorpost Craft — Write It Where You'll See It

Pass out the cardstock strips, markers, and stickers. Help each kid write the memory verse on their strip:

Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. — Deuteronomy 6:5

Decorate however they want. Tell them the story while they work:

In Moses' time, God's people took this verse so seriously that they wrote it down and put it on the doorframes of their houses, so they would see it every time they walked through the door. They still do that today — Jewish families put a small box called a *mezuzah* on their doorframe with this verse inside.

Tell the kids to take their strip home and tape it near a door they walk through every day — their bedroom door, the front door, even the bathroom door. The point is to see the verse so often they can't forget it.

Why It Goes Together

Bring the kids back together and sit them down. Read together:

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 6:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think God wants *all three* — heart, soul, and strength — and not just one?

→ *Because he made all of us, not just our feelings or just our bodies. The whole kid is supposed to love the whole God. Loving God with just your feelings on Sunday and forgetting him the rest of the week is a half-heart. Moses wants a whole one.*

2. What's something this week where you usually forget about God — a place, a time, an activity — where you could remember to love him with your whole self?

→ *Push for specifics. School. Soccer practice. The car ride home. Right after you wake up. The minute before bed. The point is loving God in places that don't usually feel like "church" places.*

3. How could the verse on your doorpost help with that?

→ *It's there every time they walk by it. The point of the doorpost is to make remembering automatic. The kids should walk out knowing they have a small concrete tool — that strip of paper — to help them remember the bottom line.*

4. The Point

All My Heart Prayer Card

Hand out the **All My Heart** prayer cards. Have each student fill in the prompt:

God, this week I'll love you with my whole heart by _____.

Tell them to pick *one* specific thing — not “everything,” not “being good.” A specific move. *Praying before I get out of bed. Helping my mom make dinner. Telling the truth even when I’m scared. Saying thank you out loud at meals. Sitting with the kid no one sits with.*

NOTE

While they fill out the cards, walk around. If a kid is stuck, ask them: “What’s one thing this week you usually do without thinking about God? Could you do that thing *with* God on purpose?” Help them turn it into a sentence they can put on the card.

Memory Verse and Closing

When they’re done, have everyone come back together. Read together one more time:

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 6:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Then say the bottom line one final time, with the kids:

SAY

We love God with all our heart, soul, and strength.

Pick up the “God’s Box” from the SOUL station. Hold it as you pray.

PRAY

God, you gave your people the most important command — love you with everything we are. Take these prayers in this box and hear them. Take the verses on our doorposts and use them to remind us. And this week, in the small moments at home and at school, help us love you with our whole hearts, our whole souls, and our whole strength. Amen.