



**THE SH'MA SERIES  
"LOVING WITH MUCHNESS"**

**SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS  
DATE: JAN. 24, 2021**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

**BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:  
DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9; MARK 12:28-31; LUKE 6:46; JAMES 2:14-17**

In the final week of the Sh'ma series, Pastor Brad focuses on what it looks like to love God with our might (also translated strength). Loving God with our might or strength means that we enthusiastically put effort into loving for God in tangible and visible ways. Our faith in God and our affection for Him aren't genuine unless they are reflected in our actions. However, we must always remember this: When we display our genuine love for God through our behavior, we are not—indeed, we cannot—earn God's love or favor. His grace and love are for us no matter what we do.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What was your favorite game to play as a kid?
2. If you got to choose to have a superpower what would it be?
3. Fill in the blanks of this sentence the first way that comes to mind, "\_\_\_\_\_ is good. \_\_\_\_\_ is very good."
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What stands out to you about the Sh'ma in Deuteronomy 6:4-9? Is there anything new that pops out to you or anything that causes you to think in a new way?
2. In Mark 12:28-31, what does Jesus say is the greatest commandment? What does he say is the second greatest commandment? How do you think these two commandments are related?
3. What do you learn about Jesus' expectations of his followers from Luke 6:46?
4. How would you summarize James 2:14-17 in your own words?
5. What do you learn from these four passages about what it means to love God with all your might?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. In the past (or on first read of the Sh'ma) what was your understanding of what it means to love God with all your might? How does that compare with what Pastor Brad described in his sermon, and what we learn from this week's passages?
2. How have you seen Christians in our world expressing love to God with their words, but not putting forth any effort to live out that love? How

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have you seen Christians put effort into their love and really live out a faith-filled life with deep affection for God?

3. What are some of the areas of life where people have a hard time really putting into practice what Jesus taught? Where have you seen people struggle or get caught up?
4. In his sermon, Pastor Brad said, "The habits we form and the decisions we make are like chisels that shape our life." How have you seen this play out in the lives of those around you (in any area of life)? How does this relate to the idea that, "These commandments are to be on your hearts." From your observations, what role does the human heart play in shaping character?
5. Have you ever known someone who was trying to earn God's love through their behavior? What did that look like? How did that effect the person's spirit?

**LOOK IN:** *These are questions that help you consider how to apply the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What did you find most encouraging and/or challenging in this week's sermon and/or passages? What do you want to do differently in your life because of this?
2. Have there been times in your life when you wanted to express your love for God or claimed to follow Christ, but weren't really living it out? What happened? How did you address the conflict?
3. What areas of your life currently present a challenge to you when you want to put the teachings of Jesus into practice?
4. How have you seen your habits and decisions shape your life? Are you happy with how your current habits and decisions are shaping you? Why do you think creating new habits is a challenge for most people? How does loving God with our "muchness" impact that challenge, if at all?
5. Have there been periods of time where you have tried to earn God's love with your behavior? How have you grown in this area over time? Is it difficult for you to accept God's unconditional love currently? Why or why not?

**LIVE IT OUT:** *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Are you loving God with all your might/effort? Take some time this week to honestly examine your life. Spend time in prayer asking God if there are any areas of your life where you are claiming to love him, but aren't.
2. Are there any habits you have or decisions you make that point to a lack of "muchness" in your love for God? What's one thing you can do this week to establish healthier habits or better decision-making processes?
- c. Do you have a hard time accepting God's love and grace? Ask a friend, family member, or small group member to pray for you as you seek to experience his unconditional love for you

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