

GOD'S PEOPLE EXIST FOR HIM

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: LIVING IN COMMUNITY
SERIES: GOD'S PEOPLE ARE THE CHURCH

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S PEOPLE EXIST FOR HIM

Deuteronomy 7:6-8; 14:2; 2 Chronicles 6:6; Exodus 19:4-6; 20:1-2; 1 Kings 8:60; Psalm 63; Zechariah 2:11; Romans 11:36; Matthew 5:16

BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 6:5

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

BIG IDEAS

- God set apart a people for Himself.
- God's people are called to worship Him alone.
- God's people were meant to point others to Him.

BIBLE PASSAGE: DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9

UNITE: LIVING IN COMMUNITY

The Unite year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God- seen throughout the Old Testament as "God's People" and in the New Testament and today as the church (Exodus 6:7; Colossians 1:18). We are set free from our sin to walk in freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and use our influence to call others to do the same.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- God has always been making and keeping a people for Himself
- In this age, the church is God's people
- Being a part of God's people should inform every aspect of our lives



Every student should strive to...

- Study the connections between God's people in the Old Testament
- and the church in the New Testament
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Invite others into God's people, the church



Every student should feel...

- Love for God and the people of God
- Accountable to God and to the church to pursue holiness
- Responsible to use their influence to make much of God alone



Every student should want...

- Be marked by their faith
- Talk about God every day, in every setting and circle of influence
- Live as a faithful member of their local church

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 6:5

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

God called a people to Himself.

"You shall love the Lord your God..."

- In Deuteronomy 6, God is preparing His people to live in the Promised Land as His chosen people. God's commands to the ancient Israelites reveal that He chose them to be His special people.
- God called the Israelites as His people, to be His children. He called them to Himself and declared that He is their Lord. In Deuteronomy 6:5, He commanded them to love Him as their Lord. To love God as your Lord is to know that He is your God and submit your life to Him.

God set a people apart for Himself.

"You shall love the Lord your God..."

- God's choice of the Israelites as His people made them different from other nations. When He chose them, He set them apart. He called them to be separate and unique from other nations and to relate to Him as His people.
- The Israelites were chosen and set apart as God's holy people. They were called to love Him and to worship Him alone as their God. They were called to live for Him alone and not for any other false gods.

God's chosen people bring Him glory.

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

- The Israelites were commanded to love God with all of their being—they were to love God with all their heart, soul, and might. Everything they did was to reveal that they loved God and worshiped Him. Their lives were to reveal that they were the chosen ones that had been set apart for God.
- God's people bring Him glory when they love Him as He's commanded them to love Him. When they love Him with all of their being, they bring Him glory because their lives are lived for Him. All that they do is done for Him and for His glory.

BIG IDEA #1: GOD SET APART A PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF.¹**[THIS]**

In Deuteronomy 7:6-8, Moses teaches the Israelites about their identity as the people of the Lord. As the people prepare to enter the Promised Land, Moses tells them they are a special people chosen by God to be His treasured possession. They were not chosen because of anything they did, or because of any righteousness that they had. They were chosen based on God's desire. The Israelites were called to be like God and to obey His commands. In Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Moses instructs the Israelites how they should live set apart from the other people in the land they were entering. They were to be like God and live according to His commands. They were to know God's Word and teach it to their children. They were to live as His set apart people because He had chosen them as His people.

[THEREFORE]

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-6 and Mark 12:30-31. What does it look like to love the Lord with all your being?

The instructions given in these verses were given to the ancient Israelites, yet they hold truth for us today. As we see in Mark 12:30-31, New Testament believers were also called to love God with all their being. As we live our daily lives, focusing our minds, hearts, and efforts on God's glory helps us love God with all our being.

[THIS]

God's calling of the Israelites to Himself and His setting them apart as His holy people was the precursor to all believers being set apart as His chosen people. In 1 Peter 2:9, we see that New Testament believers are identified as a chosen people and royal priesthood. God's people are set apart by Him and for Him. The act of being chosen is done in and by the power of God. It is nothing that we do. Being set apart as holy for Him is also His work. We are made holy because God is holy, and He places His Son's righteousness upon us. We see in Deuteronomy 7:6-8 that God set the Israelites apart, and 1 Peter 2:9 echoes this reality about God's people in the New Testament. God chooses His people, and it is His choosing them that makes them separate from those who are not followers of Christ.

[THEREFORE]

How should your daily life be different if you are chosen by God and set apart?

In 1 Peter 2:9, we see that God's people are a royal priesthood and a chosen race. With this identity comes responsibility to live for God by keeping His commands. In 1 John 5:1-5, we see that those who love God keep His commands and do not find them burdensome.

How does the desire to be like the world and to fit in with others lead you to disobey God's commands?

Galatians 5:16 reminds us that we must not give into our fleshly desires. Romans 6:6 teaches us that those who are set apart in Christ have died to the flesh and are raised to walk in new life. When we set our minds on earthly things, we can fall prey to earthly temptations. When we set our minds on heavenly things, we will seek to please the Lord.

1. Deuteronomy 7:6: God set apart the Israelites to be His people.

BIG IDEA #2: GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP HIM ALONE.²**[THIS]**

In Exodus 20:1-6, the Israelites received the command to have no other gods besides God as their God. These instructions clearly stated that they were not to worship any false god. 1 Timothy 2:5 teaches us that God is one and there is no other God. These verses show us that throughout Scripture, God instructs His chosen people to know and believe the truth that He is One. There is only one God and He alone is to be worshiped. In Exodus 20:4-5, we see the instruction to not make other images of gods or to bow down to other gods. These instructions given to the Israelites have truth for Christians today as believers seek to worship God alone. Believers today can keep their lives free of idols and the worship of worldly things, such as money, fame, and other temporal treasures that often capture our hearts and lead us away from God. Because God has chosen His people and set them apart as holy, they are to worship Him and nothing else.

[THEREFORE]

In Exodus 20:1-6, God's people receive instruction on how to worship Him. How does this instruction inform your worship of God today?

In these verses, God's people were instructed to worship Him as the only God because He is the only God. They were also reminded of His provision and His steadfast love. They were reminded of His power. Remembering these things can help us worship Him today.

[THIS]

In Deuteronomy 6:4-6, the people of Israel were to love God with all their being and were to keep His commands, teaching them to their children and telling their children to teach them to their children. This generational worship was to continue throughout the Israelites' lineage to ensure that they continued to worship God as the one true God. When we worship God today as His followers, we should do so teaching our own children and those we are investing our lives in to worship Him as the one true God. We do this by teaching others who God is and showing them His worthiness to be praised. As we praise Him with our lives and obedience, we show others that He is worthy to be praised and worshiped. As God's people who are set apart for Him, we should worship Him with our entire being.

[THEREFORE]

What are some practical ways you can worship God with your whole being this week?

Worship is more than singing songs. It involves focusing our hearts on the Lord and praising Him for who He is and what He has done. Romans 12:1 tells us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice which is our spiritual worship. Living obedient lives for Christ is an act of worship to God.

What are some challenges to worshipping God alone?

James 1:15 teaches us that our desires give way to actions that lead to sin. When we give into these desires, we are led away from worshipping God, and we begin to worship and covet earthly things. The challenge to worshipping God alone is that we battle against our flesh.

2. Exodus 20:3: God's people are commanded to love and worship God alone.

BIG IDEA #3: GOD'S PEOPLE WERE MEANT TO POINT OTHERS TO HIM.³**[THIS]**

When God gave His commands to the Israelites as He prepared them to enter the Promised Land, He prepared them to live lives that were set apart for Him. Living different lives would show the other nations living in the Promised Land that the Israelites served a different God. Beginning with God's call of Abram, God had promised to make a people for Himself. In Genesis 15:1-6, we see God remind Abram of this promise when He calls Abram to look to the stars and tells him that one day God's people would be that numerous. In this promise, God revealed that His set apart people are to point others to Him. By their living apart for Him, they would show the other nations that their God was the one true God. As they lived holy lives and obeyed God's commands, the other nations would see God and know that He worked in and through them. They would see that He fought for them and blessed them. Their obedience to Him would point others to Him.

[THEREFORE]**How does a life of obedience point others in your life to God?**

Matthew 5:16 reminds us that the work we do either points people to Christ or it points them away from Him. As we seek to live for Him, we should seek to be obedient so we may point people to Him. God sets us apart to point others to Him as we live obedient lives for Him.

[THIS]

Just as the Israelites were called to live to point others to Him, believers today are called to live lives that point people to Him. God sets His people apart to show others the truth about Him. The challenge in living a life that is set apart is being in the world yet not like the world. God's people are to be different; they are to put off the flesh and things of the world and seek to be holy because God is holy. While doing this, they are to show others who are not following God that He is the one true God. Our lives should show those around us the truth of who God is. While our lives should be lived in a way that shows this, we are also to tell others about God. It is not enough to live an obedient life. We are to tell others the good news about Jesus and to share with others the way to become a follower of Jesus. God has set us apart for this good work.

[THEREFORE]**What daily distractions keep you from sharing Christ with others?**

We are often distracted with daily living, such as going to school, hanging out with friends, or working. God has set us apart for His will and purposes. Matthew 28:18-20 shows us that every believer has a command to share Christ in all the world, beginning in our daily lives.

Consider your daily schedule. Who are some specific people you encounter regularly that you can point to Jesus?

2 Timothy 4:2 teaches us to be ready to share about Christ in every situation and circumstance. This means that we consider our daily lives and seek ways to share with others about God and how they can be reconciled to Him.

3. 1 Kings 8:60: God chooses His people as His holy people to tell others about Himself.