

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for May 11, 2008**

**Facing the Challenge of Parenting**  
**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**  
**Dale Whitehead**

When we are faced with monumental tasks that exceed our strength and abilities such as parenting, the odds of success will be greatly increased if we follow God's action plan in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

Action 1: Making sure that we love God supremely (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 is known as the "shema" meaning "hear." It starts with a fundamental statement of truth about God followed by a fundamental duty to God.

When Moses told the people that the Lord "is our God," he was pointing out to Israel how special they were since no other people group had Jehovah as their God.

When Moses told the people of Israel that the "Lord is one," he meant that their God (Jehovah) was the one absolute God and there was no other God besides Him.

The duty of Israel to their God, the only true God, was to love Him with all their heart, soul and might (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Loving God with our "heart" means to love Him with our "mind." This is supported by the LXX that substitutes the Hebrew word for "heart" with the Greek term for "mind."

Loving God with our soul means to love Him with our entire being. It had the original meaning of "breath" and came to be a general term for life.

The Hebrew word translated "strength" means "very much, or greatly." The Hebrew term was translated by the LXX with the Greek term meaning "power."

Action 2: Making sure that we are devoted to God's Word (Deuteronomy 6:6).

Action 3: Making sure that our love for God and His Word impacts the way we live (Deuteronomy 6:7-9).

If we love the Lord and His Word it will impact our communication (Deuteronomy 6:7).

If we love the Lord and His Word it will impact our actions (Deuteronomy 6:8-9).

May God give us the grace as parents to display our love for God and our devotion to His Word in such a way that we might provide a path for our children to follow.

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