A person holding a sign

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**Week 3: The Shema**

**INTRODUCTION**

Happy New Year! Turning over the calendar to the next year is often a time of reflection and anticipation. What are some of the things this past year that were most impactful for you? What are you looking forward to the most this next year?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. This passage is known as the Shema and is foundational for both Jews and Christians.*

1. Why do you suppose it is so important to God for us to love Him with every part of ourselves?
2. Why do you think it’s important to God to teach our children about Him?
3. What is something you learned from a parent or teacher by observing their relationship with God?
4. What kids are watching/learning from you? What are they learning?
5. Jesus affirmed the Shema as the greatest commandment, but he equated loving other people with loving God. Why is showing love to others so important to God?

**STEPPING FORWARD**

This week spend some time in prayer with the Lord. Ask Him to reveal to you any areas of your life that you are holding back from Him. Then, ask Him to help you to give up control of those areas to Him.

*When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”*

**Mark 12:34**