



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Loving God With All You've Got

SPEAKER

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THEME Developing Your Inner Life

DATE

14 & 15 June 2025

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Ps Low kicked off the sermon by wishing all fathers and spiritual fathers a Happy Fathers' Day. The Bible features many characters who were fathers and/or spiritual fathers. Some were godly, while others fell short. Ps Low drew our attention to Moses, who was a spiritual father to a nation. In Deuteronomy 6, Moses focuses on the theme of *renewal* and imparts three lessons to the nation of Israel:

- Verses 1 to 4 focus on what God has done for Israel
- Verses 5 to 26 focus on what God desires from them
- Verses 27 to 34 focus on the consequences of following/not following God's commandments

The text speaks to two groups of people—spiritual parents who are seeking to model for the next generation and spiritual children who are learning to love God more.

LOVING GOD WITH ALL WE'VE GOT

In verses 1 to 3, Moses outlines what the Israelites ought to do (fear the Lord, keep His commandments and obey Him), and what they will be blessed with in return (enjoy long lives, 'go well' and 'increase greatly'.) In verses 4-9, Moses tells the Israelites to hear (*shema*, or to 'pay attention and obey') what he has to say: there is only one God, and we are to love Him with all our hearts, souls and strength. We should not merely strive to obey God; we should also seek to have a loving relationship with Him.

Moses gives suggestions on how this love can be cultivated (by repeating this message to our children so that it is impressed upon them, or by tying the Word of God to our hands and doorframes), but the best way to cultivate this love is to practice scripture meditation, remember the Word and perform three things:

Thank God for our Successes

We often live according to the world's definition of success (i.e. wealth or achievement.) However, true success comes from God; God defines success for each of us. Instead of being proud of ourselves for our achievements, we should evaluate if we have striven for God, in God's way, with God's love. Only these achievements count as successes in God's eyes.

Ps Low advised us to keep a thanksgiving journal where we can reflect on the many blessings we have received and praise God for them.

Turn away from our Sins

In verses 13 to 19, Moses emphasises that we should fear the Lord, serve Him only, keep the commands and do what is right and good in his sight. We should not follow other gods or put the Lord to the test. God has a plan for each of us. When we sin, or do things 'our way', we dilute the love of God and our love for each other.

Ps Low observes a pattern that many sinners can relate to. God often speaks to us through His Word. When we disobey, we observe warning signs in our daily lives that tell us that we are on the wrong path. If we persist, we suffer sin's consequences (e.g. breaking the hearts of the people who love us). Ps Low quotes John Bunyan, warning us that just as one leak can sink a ship, one sin can destroy a sinner. We can choose to cultivate sin or pursue godliness.

Testify about our Salvation

In verses 20 to 25, Moses illustrates how we should testify about our salvation to our children and oikos. The Israelites were slaves, but God brought them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land through signs and wonders. Likewise, we were once slaves to sin but God has brought us into His light and given us the inheritance we have in Christ.

We should pass the love of God down to future generations through the scriptures and through the way we lead our lives—without shame and fear, and with the freedom we have in Christ. Our lives can become a testimony of God's love.

CONCLUSION

In our journey with God, we may entertain ungodly beliefs or be plagued with confusion or guilt that we could have 'done more for Christ'. As sinners, it is difficult to love God consistently. However, we can do so by relying on His strength. This is because God made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

We want to encounter God and hear from him because we love Him. As humans, we may fail, but we should not give up on our spiritual journeys. We should keep thanking God for our successes, turn away from sin, and testify about God's salvation. We should share our spiritual journey with others and talk about our encounters with God. That way, we can grow deeper in Christ as a community.

QUESTIONS

1. How do you define success? Have you ever been distracted from loving God by your successes? Share an example with your cell group members.

2. Looking back, do you notice any instances where sins you committed led to consequences, big or small? What did you do about them? How would you go about dealing with these consequences differently, now that you have heard Ps Low's sermon?

3. We are called to share our spiritual journey with future generations. Are you sharing your spiritual journey with anyone? If so, how are you sharing it with them? If not, can you think of someone you can share your spiritual journey with?