

“THE SHEMA: LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD”

1. When has someone’s love for you or your love for them carried you through a difficult circumstance?

2. The story of Viktor Frankl in the Holocaust highlights the power of love and contemplation of one's beloved. How can we apply this principle to our relationship with God? What does it mean to contemplate God as our beloved?

3. In Mark 12:28-31, Jesus emphasizes the two greatest commandments: loving God and loving your neighbor. How do you personally understand the relationship between these two commandments?

4. The Hebrew word "ahavah" carries an active element, involving actions associated with love, not just an inward mental state. How does this understanding change your perspective on loving God and others?

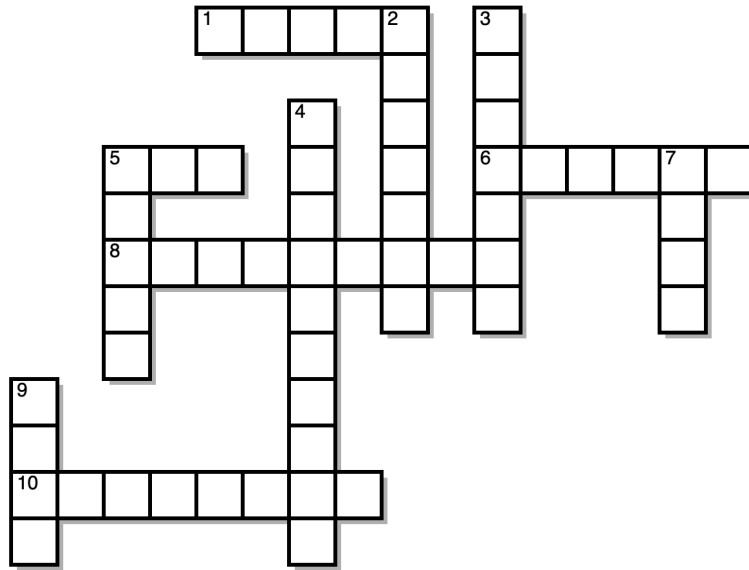
5. In Luke 6:27-28, Jesus commands us to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us. How can we practically demonstrate love to our enemies? What might this look like in your life?

6. In the story of David and Michal's response to his exuberant worship, how does David's emotional expression of love for God challenge our own worship practices? What can we learn from David's example?

7. Discuss the balance between emotions and actions in our faith. How can we ensure that our faith is not solely based on emotions, but also on faithful actions and obedience to God's commands?

8. Reflect on the story of Ivan the Great and the the soldiers being baptized with their swords raised, leaving their arms and swords unbaptized. Are there areas in your life where you have been holding back from surrendering completely to God? How can you fully surrender those aspects of your life to Him?

9. Reflect on the idea that love is not just a feeling but also an action and commitment to be loyal. How can you apply this concept to your relationships with both God and others?



Down

2 In 2 Samuel 6:14-16, what was David doing while bringing the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem?

3 Jesus said that we are to practice "ahavah" even towards this group of unpleasants.

4 The second tablet of the Ten Commandments had to do with our _____ relationship (with our neighbor).

5 The Hebrew word "echad" is translated most often as "One", but probably more accurately as _____.

7 In the story about about Ivan the Great, what part of their bodies did the soldiers leave unbaptized during their mass baptism?

9 The Hebrew word "ahavah" means this.

Across

1 David was wearing this upon returning with the Ark of the Covenant. (2 Samuel 6:14)

5 C.S. Lewis said "Do not waste your time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor, _____ as if you did."

6 David's wife who scolded him for his behavior. (2 Samuel 6:20)

8 Dr. Roman Miller emphasizes how _____ must come first in our relationship with God before emotions?

10 The first tablet of the Ten Commandments had to do with our _____ relationship (with God).

WORD SEARCH:

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| Shema | Loyalty |
| Israel | Enemies |
| Love | Surrender |
| Soul | Faithfulness |
| Echad | Covenant |
| Ahavah | Neighbor |
| Peace | Horizontal |
| Emotion | Vertical |
| Commandments | Obedience |

F A I T H F U L N E S S T
 R N D E T N A N E V O C S
 E K E Y C P N E P E N T J
 D S R I E N N O C N N L L
 N K H A G E A N I E A P Y
 E V C E M H E T M T M Z K
 R E E I M I B D N D O L Y
 R L E R D A N O A E O M H
 U S E E T A Z H R Y P A E
 S K B A M I C L A S V E Q
 L O Z M R E C L O A O T R
 P D O O T S T A H V D U Y
 W C H Q D Y I A L N E Y L