

"THE SHEMA: LOVING GOD WITH ALL YOUR SOUL & VERY"

1. In what ways is your love for God romantic and passionate? What are the advantages and disadvantages of thinking of love as a feeling? How important are feelings in your walk with God?

2. The story of Anatoli Shcharansky's refusal to part with his copy of the Psalms and the story of Bishop Felix's refusal to surrender the Scriptures in the face of persecution demonstrate unwavering commitment to God's Word. How does their devotion inspire us to value and protect God's Word in our own lives?

3. Are there any specific examples from your own life where you have experienced the transformative power of God's Word or a deeper commitment to loving God with all your heart, soul, and very? How did these experiences impact your faith and daily living?

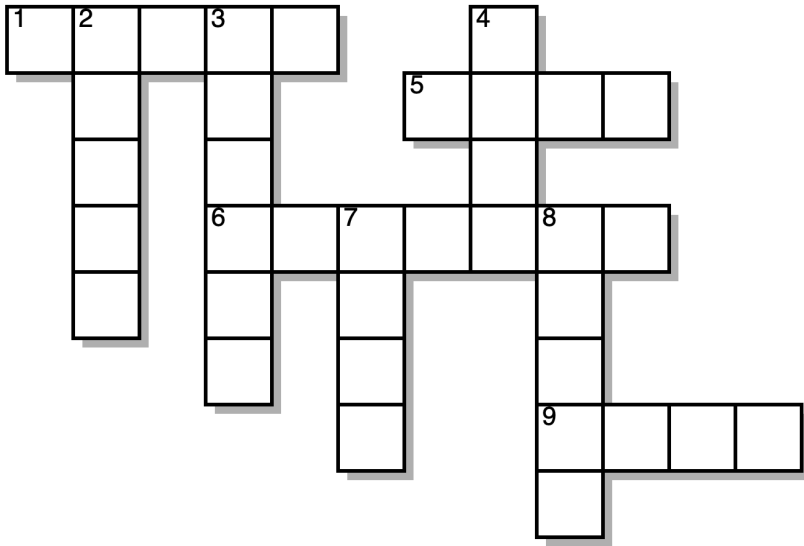
4. Jews were dedicated to the study of the Torah and their memorization of scripture. How can we incorporate disciplined study and memorization of God's Word into our lives? What can you learn from the Jewish tradition of memorization and study of Scripture?

5. Scripture talks about not offering God the "leftovers" of our time and devotion. Think through your activities last week. Does God compete with an infinite number of other distractions, like sports, hobbies, investments, movies, Facebook, and TV? If so, how can you reorient your life to keep your focus on God?

6. How can you demonstrate God's merciful and loyal love in your marriage, your family, your friendships, and your church? How might you demonstrate loyalty and commitment in a culture that prizes mobility and self-fulfillment?

7. The idea of "with all your very" has various interpretations, including mind, strength, and all your increase (possessions and wealth). How can you apply these interpretations to your own life in loving and serving God? Which do you think might be the hardest? Why?

8. The story of Denny's journey back to faith highlights the importance of making God the center of one's life. How can we prevent God from moving to the margin of our lives, and what practices can help us keep Him at the center?



Down

- 2 The seat of reason, knowledge, and wisdom.
- 3 Me'od can mean mind, strength, or this word for "increase".
- 4 The weird thing about "very" in this passage is that it shows up as this part of speech.
- 7 The second thing we are to love the Lord our God with.
- 8 The famous rabbi who died with the Shema on his lips.

Across

- 1 The central prayer in Judaism recited twice daily.
- 5 What object does the Talmud say "directs the heifer along its furrow to bring forth life to the world"?
- 6 Oral commentary Jesus would have been required to memorize was later written down in what is known as this.
- 9 The third thing we are to love the Lord our God with (Hebrew: me'od).



WORD SEARCH:

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|-------------|-----------|
| Jesus | Mammon |
| Shema | Staff |
| Heart | Compass |
| Mind | Sword |
| Emotions | Character |
| Word | Paradise |
| Discipline | Heaven |
| Talmud | Glory |
| Midrash | Rule |
| Abiding | Guide |
| Christ | Calvary |
| Deuteronomy | Eternity |
| Rabbis | |

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