

Living the Kingdom Life - Part 7
The Shema: Heart and Soul - Lev; Nephesh
Study Guide

- Read through this Dallas Willard quote and meditate on or discuss what it means to you personally:

I am learning from Jesus to live my life as he would live my life if he were me. I am learning how to do everything I do in the manner that he did all that he did.

Deuteronomy 6:5a NLT

5 And you must love the LORD your God *with all your heart*

- This week we focused on the phrase “with all your heart.” At first glance or after just a casual reading, what does that phrase mean to you?
- The Hebrew word for “heart” is the word “lev.” Just like many other Hebrew words, it comes with multiple layers of meaning. Read these passages and discuss what the word heart means from a biblical perspective: 1 Samuel 1:8; Psalm 147:3; Psalm 37:4; Proverbs 4:23.
- The prophet Jeremiah said, “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked.” Read Ezekiel 36:26-27 and Jeremiah 31:31-33 and discuss what the only hope for humanity is.
- In Romans 12:2 Paul instructs us to be transformed by the “renewing of our mind.” How can this be compared to what David says in Psalm 51:10?
- Take some time this week to YouTube Steve Green’s song, “Guard Your Heart.” It’s a great song that ties into this theme!

We also studied the phrase, “with all my SOUL.” The word “soul” here, or the Hebrew word, “*nephesh*” also has a different meaning or use. The word soul here does not mean “my inner being or my inner spirit” but the word soul here means LIFE. Or... as long as you have breath. So then, if you were Jewish and reading this, you would interpret this as saying that you will love the LORD your God with ALL of your life... or every moment throughout your life, until your dying breath.

- Take some time to reflect upon how much of your LIFE is dedicated and surrendered to the Lord. Discuss some ways that we can remind ourselves to prioritize our commitment to God throughout the week.
- Take some time this week to reflect on those who have given their physical lives for the cause of Christ and take some time this week to pray for the many around the world who are facing persecution for following Jesus.