

PMC SERMON “LIVE IT OUT” GUIDE

Date: 2 Aug 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Title: Hear, O Israel

Preacher: Rev Lai Kai Ming

Series: Hear and Remember

[For Group Leaders: The following serves only as a guide. Please feel free to adapt according to the needs of your group.]

1. SERMON RECAP

(Visit pmc.org.sg to listen to the sermon and download a copy of the Powerpoint slides)

- a. Why does God give us commands?
 - to teach us how we should live fruitful and fulfilled lives
 - "that it may be well with you" (v3, cf. Deut 5:29, 33)
- b. What really is a command?
 - A command is a call to be like God, and to live like God.
 - Note: God does not expect us to obey Him blindly. Rather, He calls us to "*shema*", i.e. to listen intelligently, in order to understand and respond freely in obedience.
- c. Why does God command us to love Him?
 - Because there's no one else and nothing else worth loving more than Him.

2. LIVE IT OUT

- a. As a group, list down all the verses in Psalm 119 where the Psalmist expresses his love for God's commands/ laws/ precepts/statutes/etc. . Discuss:
 - > Why does the Psalmist have such a positive attitude towards God's commands?
 - > What are some challenges we face in loving God's laws?
- b. Break into smaller groups.

Share with each other how you take time and make space to "Hear" (Deut 6:4) God in your day-to-day living.
(You might be surprised how your own practice and way of doing this can benefit the rest in your group.)
- c. God's commandments are for our well-being and our children's as well (Deut 5:29). List some practical ways to internalize them so that our family can remember and act upon them. Start by reading Deut 6:6-9.

3. **PRAY**

- a. We are called to “love God with our heart and soul and strength”. *When was the last time you opened your heart to God, sharing with Him your deepest struggles in complete honesty and transparency.*
> Do you tend to hide behind your achievements and busyness, be it at work or in church?
> Spend some time in silence before the Lord, and ask Him to touch your heart afresh with His love.

4. **GOING DEEPER**

- a. Do you agree with the preacher’s interpretation of what it means to “fear” God (i.e. being in awe and wonder of Him)? What is the relationship between fearing God and loving Him?
- b. According to Timothy Keller, God gives holy laws as an expression of His holy nature – and because we are created in God’s image, we are fully human and truly happy only if our lives express His holy laws. Discuss.
