**Read: Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

**Devo:**

“Give it everything you’ve got!” Have you ever heard this phrase before? It is usually used to make sure that you give yourself fully to whatever you are doing. These verses in Deuteronomy seem to be communicating a similar message, “Give God your everything!” In this part of the Old Testament story, God has saved Israel out of Egypt and is establishing them as His own nation, His children.

As God is setting the requirements of this relationship between Him and Israel, He begins by reminding them that He is one. There are no other gods, just one true God. This is because the people that would be neighbors to God’s people worshiped many false gods. They had gods for crops, weather, and many other things. God wanted to make sure that His people knew that He is the one and only God.

Now today, we might not have statues or idols or gods of weather or other things, but we are still tempted to worship other things instead of God. We worship our possessions, we worship relationships (significant others, family, friends, etc.), and we worship self. Just as how worshiping the god of the weather was normal to the culture of Israel’s time, the worship of our stuff, people, or self seems to be natural to us. When God said, “The Lord is one” He issued a decree that we must put Him first before anything else.

How do we do this? “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” We keep God at the center of our lives when He becomes our first priority. This is measured simply by asking a question like, “Have I spent as much time praying as I have watching TV?” If we are honest with ourselves, those questions can be pretty revealing. If your answer to that question is no, take this time to implement changes to make God your number one priority.

**Discussion Questions:**

What are some simple strategies you can use this week to focus on God more at work, school, or home?

What does it look like for you to love God with your heart, soul, and might?

How can we as a family encourage and challenge each other to make God our first priority?

(Take time to write down these thoughts and ideas and put them in a place where everyone can see them on a regular basis. After you write these down, spend time in prayer together).