

**Living the Kingdom Life**  
**The Shema Prayer - ONE (echad)**  
**Study Guide**

- ***Take some time to ponder this statement and question. Think about every aspect of your daily life and routine and ask yourself if you are willing to allow Jesus to be the King over all of it.***

*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.*

*Is it possible for the whole of my existence to be the focus of discipleship?*

- ***Take some time this week to recite the Shema prayer. Discuss with your group or meditate on your own the highlighted words or phrases.***

**Mark 12:28-31 NASB**

28 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, '**Hear**, O Israel! The Lord our God is **one** Lord;

30 and you shall **love** the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **mind**, and with all your **strength**.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall **love your neighbor as yourself**.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

- *The Hebrew word for "one" in Deuteronomy 6:4 is "**echad**." We discussed in the message that this word is usually understood as a statement of belief in monotheism, the belief in one God, but in this prayer, it had more to do with Israel's allegiance to **YAHWEH** as their one and only God. The Shema prayer is more of an **Oath of Allegiance**. Discuss what it means to have total allegiance to something or someone and why is it so important to God that we have no other gods before Him?*
- ***Read Exodus 20:1-5a and discuss further why God commands to not make any graven images nor have any other gods before Him.***

***Answer this question honestly and prayerfully: Where does your allegiance lie?***

***Read Jeremiah 29:4-11 and 1 Peter 2:12-17. Ponder and discuss why our behavior matters as children of God.***

***What are some biblical examples of people living godly while in exile?***