**Week of December 2, 2018**

**Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

1These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. 3Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you. 4Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

The lesson this week centers around Moses and the instructions he was given to the give to his people the Israelites. Many families since this writing of today lessons have had discussion similar today’s scripture. It may have been you giving the instruction, or you receive these types of instructions. It is a critical juncture in our lives when have or receives these types of talks. God has directed Moses to teach and give the laws, decrees and commands to the children on Israel as he had been taught by God himself. God had given Moses the authority to be able to stand boldly and tell them that his is what the Lord requires. It was important for Moses to emphasize that it was what God had commanded because Moses himself was a leader and he wanted to make sure that the people realized that it was not him but God. The children of Israel’s had just enjoyed the wonderful blessing of God through protection, release of bondage, and nourishment as they were brought out of captivity from the Egyptians and had been protected through out their journey. Moses did not want them to forget that it was about God and that the blessings they would receive would be bountiful if they were obedient. One of the first Commands he gave them was for them to remember that God is one. This called “monotheism” the belief in only one God. This may seem simple to us now but at that time people worshiped many gods ranging from the son to the moon, to the water, to death, etc. There was a god for all things. He also instructed them that when they did worship him (God) that is was to be done in pure love from the heart and soul and with all their strength. Moses instructed them the commandments needed to be written in their hearts and not something just in their minds. When talk about something being in the heart, we are saying that this is true belief or a core value to a person. You will often hear people say that certain things must be a value to you and not a priority. The reason that is said is that values don’t change but priorities do change based upon the next thing that may seem important. Moses emphasized to them the importance having heartfelt conversation with their children regarding the commandments as well as with other family members, co-workers and anyone that they may see. He even told them if they needed to be given a reminder of the commandments to write them in various places so that they will be a constant reminder. We often do this today with various monuments, crosses and other items to remind us what God through his son Jesus Christ has did for us. We are instructed in Matthew 28:19-20 by Jesus to “19Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

