

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR WITH ALL YOU ARE: The Greatest Commandment

When asked what is the most important commandment in Scripture, Jesus responds by quoting Deuteronomy 6:4-5, the command to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and might. These parts of ourselves are not random, for when we love and pursue God with all of these, the love of God will change who we are and transform us into who He made us to be. This series will take an in-depth look at how to love God with each of these aspects of our lives.

"WITH ALL YOU ARE" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – Hear O Israel (Deut. 6:4) |** It's normal and important to wonder what our purpose is, to ask, "Why am I here?" Jesus was asked a similar question, and to answer, He quoted Deuteronomy 6:4-5, whose very first command is to *hear*. God's love and presence radically transform us, but we must first hear and accept His love to pursue Him with all we are.
- **Session 2 – All Your Heart (Deut. 6:4-5, Col. 1:3-6) |** When we perceive God's love for us, we respond by loving God with all our heart, which means that we devote everything within us to Him. When we love God with all our heart, we begin to see Him more clearly, and He begins to make our hearts look more like His. As His love captivates, engages, and changes our hearts, the love we receive overflows to those around us.
- **Session 3 – All Your Soul (Deut. 6:4-5, Matt. 25:31-40) |** Our decisions and actions have the power to shape the world we live in, and God desires the world to be a place where people are cared for and treated justly. When we realize how God has cared for us, our actions should help bring about His desires. So, we can love God with all our soul by loving the world around us because we are doing His will and loving those He loves.
- **Session 4 – All Your Might (Deut. 6:4-5, Jn. 6:1-14) |** The word we translate as "might" is actually more accurately translated as "muchness." So to love God with all your might is to love God with the entirety of who you are and all you have. The way that we love God with all our might is by bringing all we have, and when we do that, we get to experience God transforming us into who we are made to be.

"WITH ALL YOU ARE" IS PART OF YM360'S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- "Master teacher" format

BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

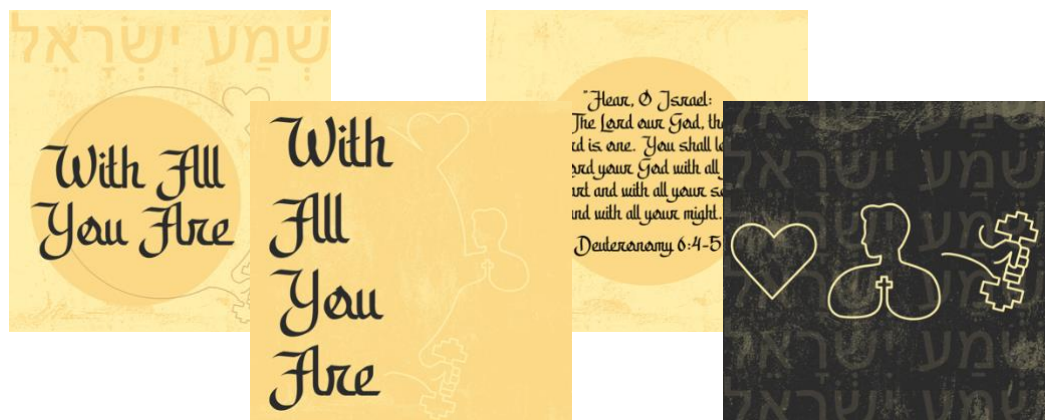
**BACKGROUND AND
TITLE SLIDES**



**PROMOTIONAL
ARTWORK**



**INSTAGRAM
IMAGES**



**LOGO
TREATMENT**



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

With All You Are Sermon Series | Session 1: Hear O Israel

How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

A Prayer Before You Prepare | God, thank You for Your love of the world. I am grateful and encouraged to remember that You love my students more than I ever could, and You desire them to know You and be transformed by Your love. Thank You for the unique privilege of pouring into their lives and loving them as You do. I pray over this time spent preparing. I pray that You remind me of Your infinite love, both for my students and for me. Remove anything that would prove distracting or discouraging. I pray that my students can get to know You a bit more deeply over this series. Thank You for Your presence and Your patience, and I ask that You move in the hearts of my students. Amen.

With All You Are Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

Series Snapshot | *With All You Are* is a four-session sermon series that will help your students understand that because God has given Himself to us, we are called to love Him with all we are. Your students will realize that when they give all of themselves to loving God, they become who they were made to be.

Series Overview | When asked what is the most important commandment in Scripture, Jesus responds by quoting Deuteronomy 6:4-5, the command to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and might. These parts of ourselves are not random, for when we love and pursue God with all of these, the love of God will change who we are and transform us into who He made us to be. This series will take an in-depth look at how to love God with each of these aspects of our lives.

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With All You Are Series | Session 1

Large Group Teaching Summary | It’s normal and important to wonder what our purpose is, to ask, “Why am I here?” Jesus was asked a similar question, and to answer, He quoted Deuteronomy 6:4-5, whose very first command is to *hear* about God’s gift. God’s love and presence radically transform us, but we must first hear and accept His love to pursue Him with all we are.

Key Takeaway | To truly love and pursue God with all we are, we must first know His great love for us.

Scripture Focus | Deuteronomy 6:4

What You May Need | *Optional Illustration:* Why am I Here? (Personal Story), *Optional Illustration:* pictures of Tefillin and Mezuzah, *Optional Illustration:* Clip of Schmidt from New Girl singing the Shema, *Optional Illustration:* Experiencing God’s Gift (Personal Story)

I. Introduction

- A. Welcome! I'm glad you're here because we are starting a new series called *With All You Are*, which may sound a little weird, but bear with me; I'll eventually explain it.
1. There is a story in the gospels where a person asked Jesus which commandment was the greatest. That's a loaded question! It required Jesus to think about every verse in the Bible, which at that time only included the Old Testament, and decide which verse summed up all of the others, which commandment encapsulated the whole life of a follower of God.
 2. Jesus answered the question by quoting an ancient passage from the book of Deuteronomy called the "*Shema*."
 - a) **NOTE: If you want to reference this story, it can be found in Matthew 22:36-40, Mark 12:28-34, and Luke 10:27, though Mark is the only Gospel where Jesus quotes the whole Deuteronomy verse**
 3. The person who asked Jesus this essentially asked Jesus to answer why we are here, our purpose, and the one thing we are called to pursue more than anything else. This series is about Jesus' answer to those questions.
- B. **Optional Illustration: Why Am I Here?**
1. **NOTE: You could open with a story of how you asked or tried to answer that question. You could tell a story about a job you wanted as a kid or a passion you had that you thought was your purpose. This is an excellent opportunity to tell a funny story and get the students engaged.**
 2. For example, I told the story of how I was certain that I was going to be a doctor, so when I was a freshman in high school, I shadowed one. When I saw the doctor treat someone, I fainted, which made it pretty clear that I shouldn't be a doctor, but it made me ask, "If not to be a doctor, then why am I here?"

II. Tension

- A. WE ALL ASK, "WHY AM I HERE?" EVENTUALLY
1. This question lies at the heart of our experience as human beings. None of us chose to be born – it just happened to us. There wasn't a "being human" syllabus day where someone explained exactly why we were given our lives and exactly what we are we are supposed to do with them. No, we're just here, and we have to figure it out. So it's normal, and even important, that we, at some point, ask the question: "Just why *am* I here?"
 2. THE WAY WE ANSWER THIS QUESTION IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT SETS THE DIRECTION OF OUR LIVES. Knowingly or unknowingly, we shape our lives around the things that are most important to us. We are shaped by how we view the world, what we believe about life, and what we choose to place our hope in.
 - a) For example, people who believe that the reason we are here is to make as much money as possible will center their life around the pursuit of more wealth. It will affect the decisions they make, how they spend their time, how they treat the people around them and more.
 3. There are so many different ways people answer the question, "Why am I here?" There are so many things that people believe their purpose to be. But

whatever it is we believe is the reason we're here, it will become like the sun to the solar system of our lives. Everything will revolve around it.

- B. THAT is why our answer to this question is so important. It shapes who we are and dictates who we become! So when Jesus answers this question, we better pay attention to His answer because Jesus knew what He was talking about.

III. Scripture

A. JESUS' ANSWER

1. Jesus says that the greatest commandment is Deuteronomy 6:4-5, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord 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." He adds that the second is like the first, Leviticus 19:18, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
 - a) This passage is from Moses' final speech to the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land, where he reminded them what it meant to be followers of God. And as we are also followers of God, it applies to us as well.
2. Jesus was not the first to say that Deuteronomy 6:4-5 was the greatest commandment. In fact, it was widely believed to be the greatest commandment by all faithful Jewish people in Jesus' day. And it is still believed to be the greatest commandment among most faithful Jewish people today.
 - a) Have you ever seen a Jewish person wearing a little box on their forehead? Inside that box is a scroll with these verses on it. Or have you ever visited a faithful Jewish person's home and seen a little container on their doorframe with what looks like a little "W" on it? Inside that container is a little scroll with these verses on it. Or if you're a fan of the show *New Girl*, the Shema is what Schmidt starts singing after he saves a biker from choking to death (yes, this is a real thing). These verses are a HUGE deal!
 - b) **Optional Illustration: Tefillin/Mezuzah OR "New Girl" Clip**
 - (1) **You could show pictures of these things. Just search for "Tefillin" and "Mezuzah" on google images. There's a bunch there.**
 - (2) **You could also show the clip from *New Girl* of Schmidt singing the Shema. Just google "Schmidt sings the Shema," and there are youtube videos.**
3. Jesus believed that this verse was the answer to why we are here – this verse told us our purpose and showed us what we are called to spend our lives pursuing. So what is this verse commanding us to do?

B. DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5

1. When we first read this verse in English, it seems as though it's commanding us to love God with all our heart, soul, and might. Pretty standard Bible stuff, right? And while that is true, this passage is doing something far more than simply commanding us to love God. I know that sounds weird but bear with me. To

understand what it's doing, we have to learn a Hebrew word, the first of four total that we will learn over the next few sessions.

2. This passage is called the "*Shema*" (pronounced sheh-MAH)
 - a) **NOTE: I have my students point to their ear when I say *shema* to drive home "*shema*" as "*listen*." I have motions for each of the words we will learn in this series because, in Hebrew, the language this verse was originally written in, the first words of this verse are "*Shema Israel*."**
3. The word "*shema*" is usually translated as "hear" or "listen," but it means more than that. It means to take in, appropriate, comprehend, or understand something fully and be shaped by it. If you read closely, the first commandment in this verse is not to love God. It's actually "**HEAR, LISTEN UP,**" because THE LOVE WE HAVE FOR GOD IS A REACTION TO WHAT WE HEAR. So what are we commanded to hear, to understand, to let shape us?
 - a) "Hear O Israel, The LORD *OUR* GOD, the Lord is one."

C. GOD HAS GIVEN HIMSELF TO US

1. Consider the implications of this statement: "The Lord *OUR* God." If you want, you can add "is" between "Lord" and "our." So what does it mean that God is *OUR* God?
 - a) Think about how people who are married introduce their spouse: "This is *my* husband..." or "This is *my* wife..." That doesn't mean that married people *own* their spouse, but it does mean that they have given themselves to their spouse and are forever known as *their* husband or wife. This is the idea that we are commanded to hear, listen to, and understand: God has given Himself to us like someone gives themselves to their spouse. "The Lord is *our* God."
2. This is a radical idea! That God would allow Himself to be known and be in a relationship with humanity. God did not have to do that! God doesn't *need* us. God doesn't need anything. But God chose to provide us a way to be in a relationship with Him. GOD CHOSE TO GIVE HIMSELF TO US.
 - a) Think about that for a second. What does that say about you? What does that say about how God views you? It says that you are made, known, and loved so deeply that God has given Himself to you and chosen to make a way for you to know Him.
3. Part of Jesus' answer to the question "Why are we here?" is to *hear*, to *understand* the astonishing reality that God has given Himself to humanity in love, to know us and to love us, and then let that reality shape the way we view ourselves and view those around us. Our purpose is to spend our lives trying to comprehend the depth of God's love for us and for those around us.
4. We didn't have to *do* anything or *behave* in any certain way for God to do this. It's a gift. A gift that we get to spend our lives coming to grips with. Our relationship with God, the reason we are here at all, is only possible because of this undeserved, incredibly loving, and transformational gift.

D. **Optional Illustration: Experiencing God's Gift**

1. **NOTE: You could talk about how this has been true in your own life – how you have experienced the gift of God's love and grace. Maybe there was a moment**

you realized this or a season where this set in your heart, and you saw fruit in your life. The goal is to communicate that we are broken and undeserving but to especially emphasize the love of God.

IV. Application

- A. Maybe you've never experienced this gift before. Maybe you're sitting here and hearing for the first time that God has given Himself to us to know Him and love Him. Or maybe you've been following God for a long time but have forgotten your purpose, the call to know God and His love. If any of those sound like you, here are two steps I think you can take.
- B. CONSIDER WHAT THE LOVE AND GIFT OF GOD MEAN FOR YOUR LIFE
 1. You were made to know God. God has deemed you worthy of love because you have been created in His image, so anything you're chasing to make you feel like you are worthy enough or good enough isn't necessary. We begin with the fact that we are loved, and everything after that is just gravy.
 2. But this takes time. We don't understand the gift of God's love by accident. We have to be intentional about it, and there are so many ways we can do this. There are so many ways we can slow down and remember that this whole thing is a gift from God. Maybe for you, it's journaling, walking in nature, listening to worship music, or whatever it is that slows you down and fills you up. However you slow down and remember to consider the gift of God's love, I challenge you to set time aside every day this week to intentionally lean in and *hear* the love and gift of God.
- C. CONSIDER WHAT THE LOVE AND GIFT OF GOD MEAN FOR THE WORLD AROUND YOU
 1. There are so many people who do not yet know how loved they are and how valuable God views them to be. You have never looked eyes with someone who didn't matter infinitely to God. Can you think of anyone in your life who needs to hear that? Make it your goal to show them. The gifts of God's love and presence are not things we can hold tightly to our chest. God gives Himself to us so that when we receive Him, we, in turn, share His love with others.

V. Gospel

- A. Maybe you want to start the journey of believing that God has given Himself to you and the world. Well, the good news is that THE STORY OF ALL TIME HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT GOD'S LOVE AND OUR RESPONSE TO IT.
- B. 1 John 4:16-19 says, *"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because He first loved us."*

- C. The story that God is telling the world has always started with a gift. Of course, comprehending that gift would be the reason why we are here. We love because God first loved us. Jesus came to show the world just how much God loves us, no matter what we have done or what we will do. Jesus came as a gift to us to show us we are loved and that we belong with Him.
- D. Jesus willingly gave His life away on the cross for you as the ultimate example of this love. Even though we are all sinners and undeserving of God's love and forgiveness, Jesus sacrificed Himself and then rose back to life three days later so that we might be forgiven. As long as we acknowledge that we are sinful, confess that Jesus is the Lord of our lives, repent of (turn away from, ask forgiveness for) our sins, and commit to following and pursuing God for the rest of our lives, we can obtain forgiveness of all our sins. We gain a relationship with God. We receive unconditional love and eternal life. And by doing all of this, Jesus has invited every one of us into the life we were made to live. To discover the reason why we are here: to know God and to understand how much God loves all of humanity.

VI. Conclusion

- A. We are all invited to say yes to Jesus, to believe what He said about us is true, to choose to follow Him, and to live our lives seeking to comprehend the incredible gift that He has freely offered to us. He says that the greatest commandment, the reason why we are here, is Deuteronomy 6:4-5, and that starts with us *hearing* and *understanding* God's gift to us, but it doesn't end there. Once we do that, Deuteronomy says, we will love the Lord our God with "all of our heart, all of our soul, and all of our might." Over the next three sessions, we will learn three more words to explore precisely what it means to love God with these three parts of us. And we will see that we are called to love God with a love that encapsulates every aspect of who we are and transforms us into who we were made to be.
- B. Let's pray.

With All You Are Sermon Series | Session 1 Discussion Questions: Hear O Israel

Series Overview | When asked what is the most important commandment in Scripture, Jesus responds by quoting Deuteronomy 6:4-5, the command to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and might. These parts of ourselves are not random, for when we love and pursue God with all of these, the love of God will change who we are and transform us into who He made us to be. This series will take an in-depth look at how to love God with each of these aspects of our lives.

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Key Takeaway | To truly love and pursue God with all we are, we must first know His great love for us.

Scripture Focus | Deuteronomy 6:4

With All You Are | Session 1 Discussion Questions

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking

1. If you never had to worry about having enough money, what would you spend your life doing? Would you pursue your passions? Would you still have a career? If so, what career? If you could spend your life doing anything, what would it be?

Discussion Questions

1. Read Deuteronomy 6:4. What does this teach you about God? What does it teach you about yourself?
2. Why do you think Jesus says this is the most important commandment in the Bible? What do you think makes it so important?
3. What would say your purpose in life is? What direction do you think that purpose is taking you? Does that need to change? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think God has to get our attention before giving us any other commands? What do you think is distracting you from realizing God's love for you? What makes that so distracting?
5. In your own words, what does it mean that God has given Himself to us? Why do you think this is important? How does it make you feel that God would choose to be in relationship with you?
6. What makes it so hard to accept that God loves you as much as He says He does? Why do you think that makes it difficult for you? Have you ever had an experience where you felt the love of God? Explain.
7. What ways work best for you to slow down and connect with God? How can you do more of those things?