

# <sup>1</sup> HEAR ME #BJBIBLEPROJECT 1: SHEMA

*"Hey, honey, would you please fuel up my car?" "Mom, I told you this morning I already refueled it! You aren't deaf are you?"*

*"Wow dear, don't jump on the couch!" \* Starts to jump happily on the chairs and table. "Hey, what are you doing? Didn't you hear me? "" I did, so I stopped jumping on the couch! "*

*"I just want you to really hear what I'm saying." "No, Miss, you just want me to be really obedient."*

To hear, listen, understand, focus. As previously announced, the next 6 months, we want to focus on the six key words of the Shema. Every first Saturday of the month, one word from this prayer will be in the spotlights and we will try to challenge you to read and reflect on this word, also in other Bible verses. By focusing on these words we hope to hear more than what only the words literally tell us. We hope that we will come to a deeper understanding together so it will affect our actions as well. And today we start very appropriately with the Hebrew word Shema



## **SHEMA: HEAR!**

What does hearing mean? When my children or husband tell me something, their words reach my ears. But when I don't pay attention, my brain simply doesn't save the message so a few minutes later I just don't remember what they've said. Recognize?

Or sometimes you did hear and recorded something, but you don't fully understand what the other meant and your reaction just isn't what they wanted. Or you did understand, but preferred to respond to the letter rather than what the other meant. For example: One time my neighbor angrily shouted to our children that they weren't allowed to play football on the sidewalk ... so they stopped and took a basketball.

And other times, hearing simply means doing what the other person asks of you, regardless of whether you understand or agree with it.

To hear. It is so much more than simply catching sound waves with your ear.

*"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." ESV Deut. 6:4-5*

In order to fully understand this text, you must first place it in the context of the book as well as the Torah. Israel escaped from Egypt after nearly 400 years; where they were oppressed and where other gods were worshiped. After a miraculous rescue, they stranded in the desert, but without the rules and laws of Egypt they seem like a bunch of children on the loose and so God gives them His law. From the status as a slave people they grow again to God's people. Unfortunately, they need a lot of years for this rehabilitation. The book of Deuteronomy starts when they arrive at the border of the promised land. The whole book is actually one big speech by Moses in which he wants to tell the people some final important things, laws and rules, before they go into the country. He reminds them of the Ten Commandments and then gives them this confession of faith that became an important prayer.

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<sup>1</sup> This document is a part of the #BJBibleproject. Thebibleproject.com inspired us to create a creative bible journaling challenge with their wordstudy of the Shema. Please do not multiply this without our permission! Thank you! [Sara@lindenhols.nl](mailto:Sara@lindenhols.nl) [www.saralindenhols.wordpress.com](http://www.saralindenhols.wordpress.com)

After years of slavery the Israelites are about to settle again in a new country. A country with its own culture and where its inhabitants also have their own gods.

Moses doesn't want the Israelites to "just" hear the law of God. He wants them to understand deeply what they mean and why it is important that they act accordingly, because he wants to prevent a repeat of those years of slavery. He wants to prevent that all those years of restoring and growing to how God intended them to be as His people, will be broken down bit by bit.

*Listen carefully! There is only one God. Love Him with all your heart, your whole soul and with all your strength! Let this penetrate you! Act on this!*

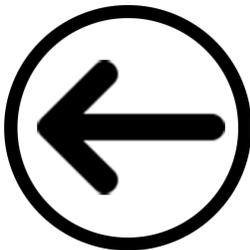
Watch this movie from the bible project, (we have permission to post this) and summarize for yourself what the Shema means to you.

<https://youtu.be/6KQLOuJKaRA>



### ***Contemplate and Question yourself.***

Over the next few weeks, read and ponder these next Bible verses in which the word Shema occurs. With the full meaning of this word in your mind: what do these texts teach you? Do you read them differently now? Psalm 27: 7, Proverbs 20:12 and Exodus 19: 5



### ***Go be creative!***

Lucinde makes special monthly packages for this project that can challenge you to process creatively. You can buy it in her web shop.

No obligation! I'm going to work with it every month in both my Bible and my journal.

As you can see, I was visually inspired by the bible project. So you don't have to be a great inventor or artist yourself. With the acrylic paint from Lucinde's package I painted the background. And I drew a man that reads in the style of the film. (When you watch the video you can also take a screenshot and print it and cut it out - then you don't have to draw at all!). If you enjoy hand lettering: you can also process the text or a few words in that way in your journal.

In my Bible, besides the paint, I also used the letter-stickers of the monthly package. But I will show that later this month via my Instagram and in our Facebook group.

We are very curious about what you learn, think, experience and create through this project this month. Share it in our Facebook group or via Instagram.

Be inspired by and an inspiration to other people! We use the hashtags #BJbibleproject and #Bijbeljournalinggroep to find each other on social media. Follow us on Insta or join the Facebook group to not miss giveaways, updates and other creative processing! February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019 you will find the next blog on Lucinde her website!

[www.facebook.com/groups/bijbeljournaling/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/bijbeljournaling/) (you have to answer 3 questions to let us know you're not a robot or a phishing-company.)

[www.instagram.com/saralindenholts](https://www.instagram.com/saralindenholts) Follow me for more Bible Journaling, and updates on the project!

[www.thebibleproject.com](http://www.thebibleproject.com) If you can spare the money: donate to this awesome project these guys started! They are our inspiration to create this BJ challenge.

[www.lucilight.nl](http://www.lucilight.nl) The monthly creative packages can be purchased on this website + next month Lucinde will post the second blog in this project.