**Introducing the Shema Lifestyle**

CPO (Copy, Paraphrase/Put it in your own words, Obey) - Written

1. Make 3 columns on a piece of paper
2. Write the verses exactly as they are in the scripture
3. Re-write the verses in your own words in the 2nd column
4. Write any specific acts of obedience by the verses that apply in column 3 (“I will statements”)

* Some can add a 4th column – to write any evangelism and church planting applications

1. Follow a group review process (as shown above and below) with the rest of the group

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| **5) DBS: DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9 (Shema)**  Use the CPO (Copy-Put in your own words-Obey –written method, then discuss in small groups and then review as a larger group. Use key questions below if they are not covered in the group discussion.   * Is there a difference between loving our religion and loving God? If so, what? * How can we love God with all our heart, soul and strength? * How can we impress these commands on our children? * Can this be applied to our “spiritual children”? How? * Can this be obeyed without speaking? Why/not? * How would you need to change your daily routine in order to impress these commands on your children? * Roughly what is the meaning of ”Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads”? Who sees things that are tied to your hands? Who sees things that are tied to your forehead? * What does it mean to ”Write them on the doorframes and gates”? What is the difference between those two places? Who sees these two places? * What might you have to *stop* doing to live like this? * Who was called to obey these commands? * What significance does all of this have for making disciples?   In discussion with the whole group, use John 14:15 to stress that loving the Lord means obeying Him. Compare this with John 15:10, which says that obedience keeps us in the love of the Lord. (*You can talk about love and obedience being two sides of the same coin. Take a coin and ask if there is any realistic way to separate the two sides.* *Discuss how each side of a coin looks different, but it’s just one coin.)* |

**6)** **Exercise**: Shema Lifestyle (words and deeds)

Such statements and actions show our love for and obedience to God, and become a witness to other people. “Shema actions” show that we care about people and live-out the command to love our neighbors in practical ways. Such actions, however have to be done with corresponding “Shema statements” that clearly express the motive for our love: we are spiritual people who love God, not merely religious people. (Take a minute to discuss the difference of living like this versus doing proclamational “evangelism”).

**Around the world, the number #1 way DMMers find those interested in God is by serving them (healing prayer, kind deed, community service) while consistently, simultaneously, and culturally appropriately pointing to God as the source of our life.**

Have each person write 5 Shema actions (and explanations) that can meet needs.

Examples: Do something unusual for someone and when they thank you, saying “I am blessed by God and want to bless others.” Pray for someone in need (sick, unhappy, unemployed, etc) and talk about how God can answer prayers.

Have each person write 5 “Shema” statements related to normal situations they are in*.*

Examples: “Isn’t this a beautiful day God has given us?” This tells people you believe in God, that God gives us good gifts, and that you have a grateful heart. Saying “I’m learning something very interesting about God…”

Do this in small groups first and then do it in the large group (don’t forget to compile a list).

*Transition* – the following practice and exercise is to prepare people for their fieldwork this week.

**Practice:** In pairs/small groups, role play a conversation or an act of service and resulting conversation between you and a lost person. This should be based on a typical conversation you often have (e.g. with a work colleague over lunch, with an acquaintance you meet while on a morning walk, visiting a sick friend/colleague etc). Try to include a shema statement naturally into the conversation. Then change roles. Finally, have a brief time of feedback to the larger group on how it went.

Explanation to tell the group: Using “Shema” statements and actions can help us stay close to God by living “out loud”. Also, people who are tuned in might be interested to learn more. We see in Deuteronomy 6 and other passages that God wants us to have a Shema lifestyle. Saying Shema statements without Shema actions is hypocritical. But doing Shema actions without explaining that you do them out of love for God will not point people to God. Living a Shema lifestyle is foundational and an important first step in learning to reach the lost.