

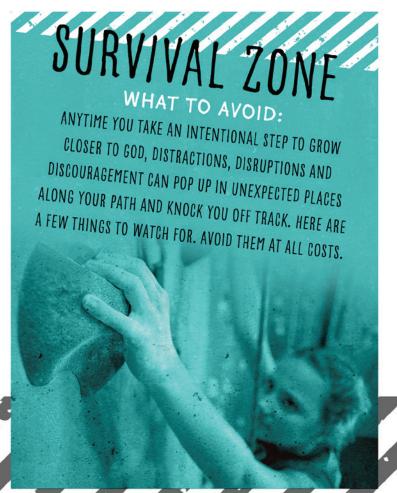




THE QUEST

TO BE ON A QUEST MEANS TO "BE IN SEARCH OF," SEEK, LOOK, EXPLORE, OR PURSUE SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT. IT IS AN EXPEDITION. QUESTS CAN BE DANGEROUS AND OFTEN REQUIRE UNKNOWN RISKS, BUT IF YOU ARE WILLING TO PERSEVERE, A QUEST CAN BE A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT. IF YOU AGREE AND ARE WILLING TO COMMIT TO THE CONDITIONS, SIGN YOUR NAME BELOW TO INDICATE YOU ARE WILLING AND READY TO BEGIN YOUR "QUEST TO FIND GOD'S BEST."

I. COMMIT TO THE QUEST TO FIND GOD'S BEST.





TIME OUT

ONE EXAMPLE MIGHT BE TECHNOLOGY. AT THE END OF AN ADVENTURE-FILLED DAY AT QUEST, YOU MAY BE TEMPTED TO GO HOME AND CHILL OUT WITH YOUR FAVORITE VIDEO GAME, MOVIE...WHATEVER. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE A BREAK FROM YOUR NORMAL MODES OF ENTERTAINMENT DURING THE WEEK AND STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR QUEST.

REFLECT ON WHAT GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU. PRAY FOR YOUR QUEST AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR GROUP. SHARE WITH YOUR PARENTS SOME OF THE THINGS YOU ARE LEARNING SO THEY CAN BENEFIT FROM YOUR QUEST TOO. GET YOUR REST. EACH DAY IS ACTION-PACKED, SO MAKE SURE YOU ARE GETTING TO BED ON TIME.



RESPECT PROPERTY

Respecting property requires that you take care of your stuff and the stuff around you. Keep track of your belongings. Help pick up trash and keep the campus clean. Always leave a space cleaner than you found it, even if it isn't your mess.

RESPECT OTHERS

Respecting others means that when others are talking, you are not. Always use words that honor others. Always seek to encourage those around you, especially those in your group. Do everything you can to maintain harmony within your group.

RESPECT LEADERS

Respecting leaders means, if your leader or teen guide asks you to do something, respond immediately and without reservation. When a leader talks, you listen. No exceptions. When responding to instructions, a great attitude makes all the difference.

DAVID WAS THE YOUNGEST SON OF JESSE. ALL OF JESSE'S OTHER BOYS WERE BIG AND STRONG, BUT DAVID WAS SENT OUT INTO THE FIELD TO DO WHAT NOBODY ELSE WANTED TO DO: WATCH SHEEP. EVEN THOUGH DAVID HAD A LOWLY TASK, HE TOOK HIS JOB SERIOUSLY AND DID HIS BEST TO BE A GOOD SHEPHERD.

LONG BEFORE DAVID EVER PUT ON A CROWN, HE WAS IN TRAINING. DAVID WAS ON A QUEST FOR GOD'S BEST. HE DEVELOPED HIS SKILL AS A WARRIOR AND A LEADER. HIS WEAPONS WERE A SLING AND SHEPHERD'S STAFF. LONG BEFORE DAVID MET THE ROAR OF THE COLIATH, HE STRENGTHENED HIS HEART IN THE LORD. THE SCRIPTURE SAYS WHEN DAVID RECEIVED HIS ANOINTING TO BE KING, THE POWER OF GOD'S SPIRIT FELL MIGHTILY ON DAVID. DAVID DETERMINED IN HIS HEART TO BE ALL IN ON A QUEST FOR GOD'S BEST, AND GOD TOOK NOTICE.

THEME: ALL IN

ALL IS ALL: HEART - MIND - SOUL - STRENGTH

ALL | ÔL |

USED TO EMPHASIZE THE CREATEST POSSIBLE AMOUNT OF A QUALITY





BATTLE BAG

PROP

BATTLE PLAN

1 PETER 2:9 "BUT YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE BELONGING TO GOD, THAT YOU MAY DECLARE THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT."

THE BATTLE IS REAL.

THERE IS A BATTLE FOR WHAT CAPTIVATES THE ATTENTION OF YOUR HEART.

THERE IS A BATTLE FOR YOUR THOUGHTS. MIND AND IDENTITY.

THE WEAPONS WAGED AGAINST US CAN APPEAR AS FEAR, ANXIETY, ANGER, SICKNESS, GRIEF, OR DISAPPOINTMENT. GOD IS OUR ROCK. GOD IS FAITHFUL. GOD HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE NEED THROUGH CHRIST JESUS. DAVID WAS ANOINTED TO BE KING EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A BOY. YOU ARE ESSENTIAL IN GOD'S KINGDOM.

LIKE A SKILLED SHEPHERD PROTECTING HIS FLOCK, YOU MUST ACCEPT YOUR KINGDOM ASSIGNMENT. YOU MUST PURSUE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, MIND. SOUL AND STRENGTH.



YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A BATTLE BAG TO EQUIP YOU ON YOUR QUEST. THE OBJECTS IN YOUR BAG WILL GROW IN SIGNIFICANCE AND MEANING AS YOU UTILIZE THEM.



ABOVE ALL ELSE, CUARD YOUR HEART. TURN THE ATTENTION OF YOUR THOUGHTS TO GOD. THE KEY TO YOUR QUEST IS TO SURRENDER YOUR HEART MORE AND MORE. THEN, LIKE DAVID, YOU WILL HAVE A HEART AFTER COD.



GOD IS YOUR DEFENDER AND DEFINES YOU AS PRECIOUS, REDEEMED, FORGIVEN, FULL OF PURPOSE AND LOVED.



YOUR QUEST FOR GOD'S BEST INCLUDES HONING YOUR SKILLS TO BATTLE BACK AGAINST THE INFLUENCES OF THIS WORLD.



YOU ARE CHOSEN, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, ANOINTED TO BE SET APART FROM THE WORLD FOR COD'S PURPOSES. THERE IS NO OTHER QUEST THAT CAN COMPARE TO WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

SHEW.

From the Hebrew word shama meaning to listen *and* obey.

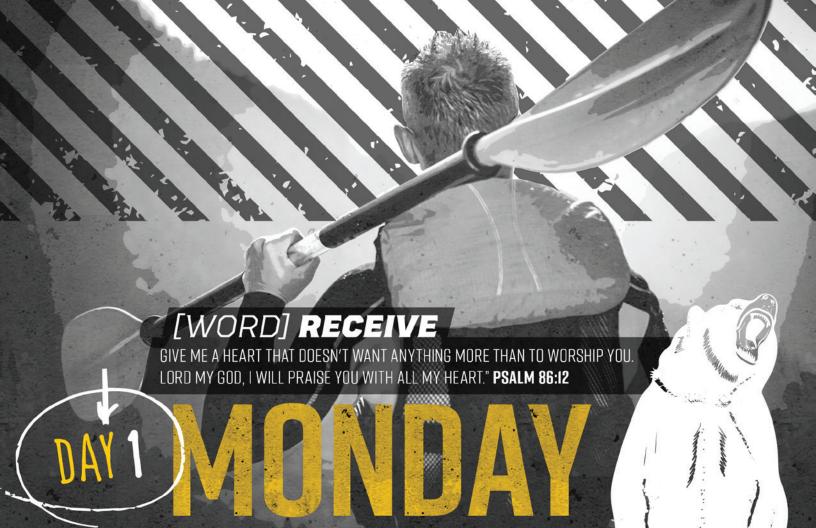
The Shema is a declaration of faith, a pledge of allegiance to One God. It is quoted upon arising in the morning and before going to sleep at night.

The Shema Yisrael includes: Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, 11:13-21, Numbers 15:7-41. It affirms that there is only one God, that God is personal, and that God must be loved and obeyed at all times. It also expresses the Jewish people's wholehearted faith in and love of God.

The Shema is written by hand on small scrolls and placed in a box called a MEZUZAH and fastened to the doorpost of Jewish homes. The first line of the Shema, "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One" (Deuteronomy 6:4) is repeated throughout prayer services, Shabbat (or Sabbath rest), holidays, and daily as a morning blessing, and as a bedtime prayer.

HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. THESE COMMANDMENTS THAT I GIVE YOU TODAY ARE TO BE ON YOUR HEARTS. IMPRESS 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. TIE THEM AS SYMBOLS ON YOUR HANDS AND BIND THEM ON YOUR FOREHEADS. WRITE THEM ON THE DOOR FRAMES OF YOUR HOUSES AND ON YOUR GATES. DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9 (NIV)

STORYJOURNEY



DAY 1 - ALL IN BATTLE BAG

DEUTERONOMY 6:5

Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your strength.

All is All: heart, soul and strength

Write down your own definition for the word "ALL":

David is the only man in the Bible who holds the title, "A man after God's own heart." In Psalm 86, David wrote: "Give me a heart that doesn't want anything more than to worship you. Lord my God, I will praise you with all my heart." (Psalm 86:12) ii

When it comes to loving God, David was ALL IN. But why? Where does a heart like that come from? How did David go from being a simple shepherd to a king and a man after God's own heart?

TENDING SHEEP

When David was young (around your age), he tended sheep in the hills of Bethlehem. He led them to green grass and fresh water. Sometimes they would travel into the wilderness to find food and water. David would watch over them. His tools were a staff and a sling which he used to protect the sheep from wild animals in the countryside.

ON DISPLAY

Have you ever been camping or looked up in the sky on a clear night and seen dozens of stars? Romans 1:20 tells us, "Ever since the world was created, people have *seen* the earth and sky. *Through everything God made*, they can clearly see His *invisible qualities*—His *eternal power* and *divine nature*. So they have no excuse for not knowing God."

God's creative fingerprint is everywhere! It is undeniable. David experienced God's invisible qualities and eternal power out in the fields while watching sheep! He had settled in right in the middle of God's grand cathedral of nature. Even though David was out in the hills watching sheep, he was also watching and aware of God ALL around him. Imagine if David had a cell phone. Can you see it? David, out in nature, *kinda* watching sheep while playing a game or texting friends or watching videos—right?

WHAT WAS IN DAVID'S BATTLE BAG?

BAG: Collects meaningful moments on your quest.

HEART: Defines your focus.

STONE: Answers the question, "Who am I?"

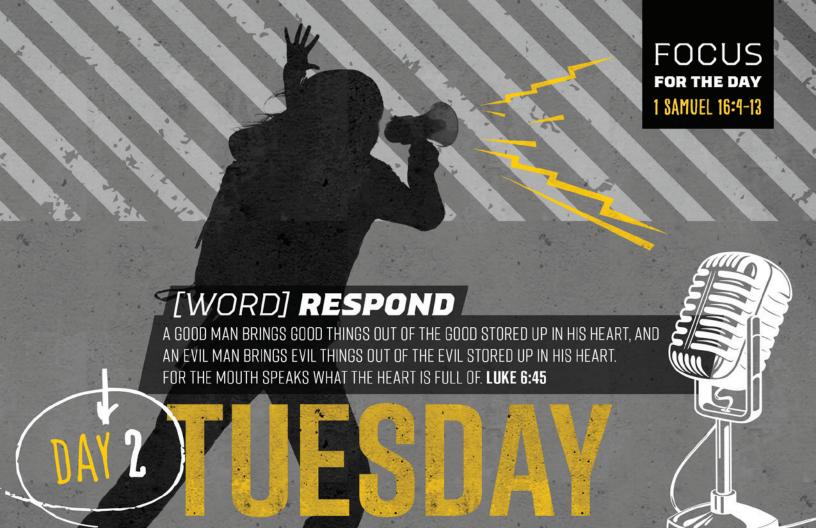
SLING: Defends what God says is true about you.

YOUR QUEST

God has an EPIC invitation on your quest. Go ALL IN. Don't hold back. Step out from your daily distractions and pray like David prayed, "Give me a heart that doesn't want anything more than to worship you!"

Read and reflect the following passage: Psalm 19:1-4, 12-14.

Ask God to work in you and around you this week at quest. Practice David's prayer and ask God to show you what it looks like to be ALL IN.



DAY 2 - ALL IN = SET APART HEART AFTER GOD

1 SAMUEL 16:7b 1

The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

What character qualities would you look for if you were picking out the next king (or president)? List your top 3:

- 1.
- ~
- 3.

Why are those 3 the most important to you?

DAVID AS ANOINTED

The prophet Samuel arrived in David's hometown, Bethlehem, to anoint a new king. Meanwhile, David was out in the fields watching sheep. David's brother Eliab possessed a king-like appearance. He was big, strong and most certainly looked like a king. Samuel was pretty sure he had found the right guy. What did God say to Samuel? (1 Samuel 16:7)

What is MOST important to God?

HEART AFTER GOD

God did not pick any of Jesse's eldest sons to be the new King. So Samuel inquired if there were any more sons. There was—one, but he was out watching the sheep. Samuel told them to fetch David immediately! David had no idea Samuel had arrived in town. He had no idea why he was being called in from the field. Imagine what David might have thought: "Am I in trouble?" "Is something wrong?"

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God had taken notice of this young boy's heart. God could trust David, and that's why David was chosen to be the future king of Israel. God could see what was hidden in David's heart and it pleased the LORD.

SET APART

To be "anointed" is to be set apart and dedicated for God's purposes. Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, and when someone is anointed with oil, it reflects an inward heart to be "set apart" for God's purposes. Oil would be applied or poured onto a person's head in a reverent way. Samuel's assignment was to anoint David to be set apart for God's purposes—to be the next king of Israel.

What does being "set apart" mean to you?

A HEART THAT IS SET APART

The scene closes with this statement: And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on. Wow. What an incredible invitation! That same invitation extends to you!

Having a "heart after God" means to live each day seeking more of God in us and around us. God's invitation brings direction and purpose to our lives as we seek God's best.

What does it mean to ask for God's anointing on your life?

YOUR QUEST

Write out Proverbs 4:23:

What would you be willing to <u>set aside</u> in order to be **set apart** and dedicated to God's purposes?



DAY 3 - ALL YOU NEED

1 SAMUEL 17:39 1

David strapped Saul's sword over the armor and tried to walk, but he couldn't, because he wasn't used to wearing them. "I can't fight with all this," he said to Saul. "I'm not used to it." So he took it all off.

FALSE I.D.

People who deal with counterfeits don't study counterfeits. They study the real thing so when the counterfeit shows up, they can recognize it. The same is true of your identity.

How do you identify yourself?

The focus of our thoughts moves from our head into our heart and begins to grow. That's why it is CRITICAL that we consider what we watch, what we listen to, and what we spend time thinking about.

Memorizing scripture requires time and attention. In a QUEST for God's best, **WE WANT GOD'S WORD TO GROW IN OUR HEART!** God's word gives our life direction, guides our decisions, and often can lead us to "speak up" or remain silent in situations where we don't know what to do. God's word is POWERFUL. It shows us our IDENTITY in JESUS. When we're confused, God's word will clear up any doubt about who we are in Jesus.

READ 1 Samuel 18:6-9.

"Something happened..." that changed King Saul's opinion of David. What was it?

What choice did Saul make in his heart?

Saul's choice reflected a heart filled with insecurity, pride, and jealousy. When he heard the praises of the people for David, he was jealous, threatened, and became angry. What could have changed Saul's course?

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God invites us to depend on Him. When we rely on our own strength and wisdom, we are vulnerable to distraction and deception. Each one of us is uniquely created and gifted by God in different ways. When we envy the blessings God has given to others, we become jealous and want those blessings for ourselves. We will never see ourselves properly when we look to others for our identity instead of keeping our eyes on God.

THE WRONG ARMOR

We might not wear armor made of steel, but we do wear armor to protect us from emotional hurt, embarrassment, and rejection.

What are ways we shield ourselves from being hurt by others?

THE RIGHT IDENTITY

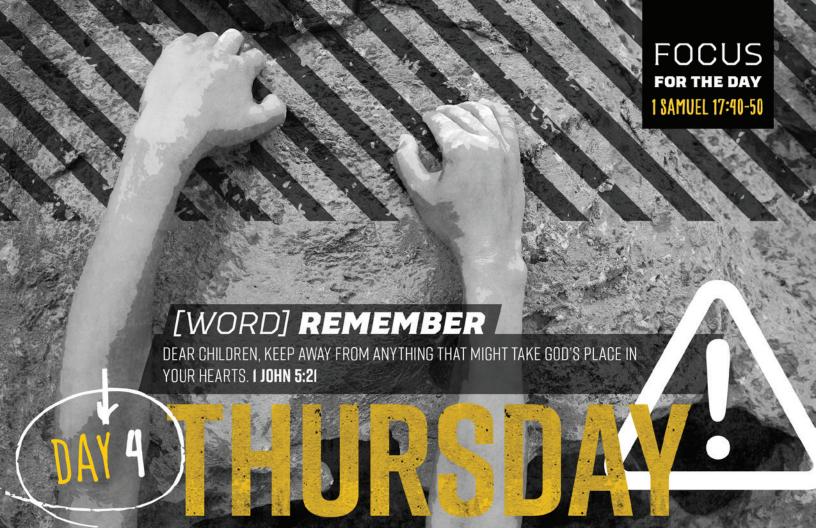
If we don't have a clear understanding of our identity in Jesus, any counterfeit identity will do—even if it doesn't fit. King Saul tried to put his personal armor on David. But the armor didn't fit. The TRUTH is, the LORD was David's strength, not Saul's armor.

"David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the LORD was with him." (1 Samuel 18:14)

YOUR QUEST

Read Ephesians 2:10.

How does this shape your belief and form your identity?



DAY 4 - ALL MIGHTY

1 SAMUEL 17:45 1

David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

1 SAMUEL 17:40²

He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across to fight Goliath.

With one smooth river stone, David silenced the roar of Goliath's accusations. David had fine-tuned his skill with the sling and whipped it with such force it flung the giant face-first onto the ground. "It is in the name of the Lord Almighty that I take my stand," David said.

The Battle for Your Identity

The giant Goliath roared against David, calling him weak, small, and useless, but David battled back with a single stone. You have a stone too.

If you were to write your God-given identity on your stone, what would you write?

The Battle is the Lord's

Nothing can stand against the LORD. Read Ephesians 6:12

ONLY God's power can win our battles. God has given us His identity through Jesus and **THAT** is our armor. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Always remember that.

Our struggle is not against people or circumstances but against the influence of spiritual forces. When we battle against the giants of this world **in the name of the LORD Almighty**, the enemy is defeated and scatters.

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David was victorious against Goliath. David knew where his strength and identity came from. He triumphed with this battle cry: It is IN THE NAME OF THE LORD ALMIGHTY that I take my STAND.

REMEMBER YOUR QUEST

You have a God-given identity.

#1. You are precious to God (Psalm 139:16).

#2. God loves you (1 John 3:1, 1 John 4:19).

#3. God created you as YOU, not to be someone else or something else (Psalm 139:13-14, Psalm 119:73-74, Ephesians 2:10).

#4. God has won the battle (Romans 5:1).

#5. God is with you (Psalm 139:2-4).

REFLECT and REMEMBER

In the Old Testament we find the word Selah.

Selah occurs 74 times in the Old Testament. Its Hebrew meaning is "to pause." It speaks of a *reflective pause*, a *pause to meditate* on the *words just spoken*. Sometimes it relates to musical instruction or a musical interlude of some kind.

For us, Selah is an opportunity to thank God for the strength and salvation He has shown in our lives, and for the glorious way He answers prayer. We, like King David, take joy in such a great and loving God when we pause to reflect and remember what He has done.

God's word is truth. It is your weapon in the battle. It is not a battle of physical strength (otherwise David would have lost). It is a battle for your thoughts and the attention of your heart. Your battle cry is clear: "It's not by might, or by power but in the name of the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY that every lie, every deception is defeated!" AMEN. Selah



DAY 5 - VERTICAL

EPHESIANS 2:101

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

WHAT IS ON YOUR DOOR?

The Shema is written by hand on small scrolls and placed in a box called a MEZUZAH and fastened to the doorpost of Jewish homes. The first line of the Shema, "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One," (Deuteronomy 6:4) is repeated throughout prayer services, on Shabbat (Sabbath rest), on holidays, and every day as a morning blessing and bedtime prayer.

A MEZUZAH is a reminder that everywhere we go, God is actively at work and invites us to be constantly attentive to His Spirit.

ALL IS ALL

When we are ALL IN, God becomes our ALL: to love God with everything we have and are created to be. It is God's invitation to be ALL things at ALL times. He is the center of our attention and we

stay on our quest daily, aware that God is paying attention to us. In Psalm 8, David reflects on God's massive power and creativity, "Who are we, that you would be mindful of us?" (Psalm 8:4)

God invites us to know Him, love Him, experience Him—this is our identity, this is our quest.

ALL IN ALL

God is true.

God is truth.

We have a new identity because of who God is.

Based on your quest, complete the following statements in your own words:

I AM	_ because GOD IS
I AM	_ because GOD IS
I AM	_ because GOD IS
I AM	_ because GOD IS

Now read the list OUT LOUD!

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"The most important command," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31 (NIV)

Jesus' invitation is this: to LOVE the LORD your GOD with ALL of your HEART, MIND, SOUL and STRENGTH. Do you notice anything different about what Jesus said and the Shema?

When Jesus comes into our lives EVERYTHING CHANGES. We become NEW in Jesus. The word MIND takes our HEART, SOUL, and STRENGTH and aligns it with Jesus. We have a new DESIGN. A complete DESIGN. 2 Peter 1 says that through Jesus, we have everything we need!

We must be constantly reminded that we love God with our souls, with our intellect or minds, with our hearts or emotions, and with our strength or actions in the world. It is easy to forget. By memorizing the Shema and reciting it daily, we are reminded that God's attentive presence is ALL around us and ALL we need.

A bronze plaque at Yad Vashem states,

"Forgetfulness is the road to exile, but remembrance is the way of redemption."

We are reminded of the importance of being constantly aware of God in our everyday moments. Jesus knew this when he said, "Do this in remembrance of Me..."

CHARACTER QUEST	CHARACTER QUEST
JOURNAL	JOURNAL
<u>-</u> -	

CHARACTER QUEST	CHARACTER QUEST
JOURNAL	JOURNAL
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