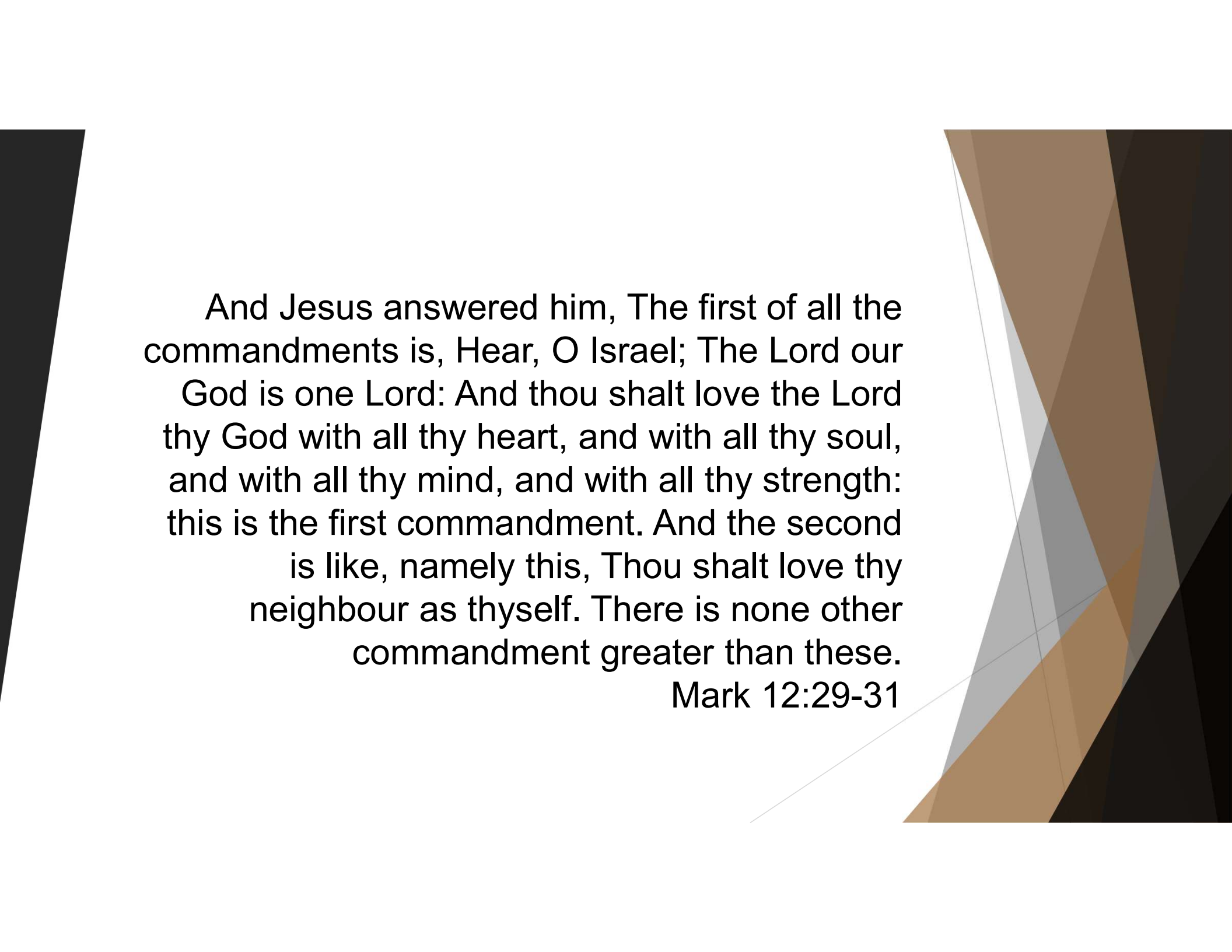


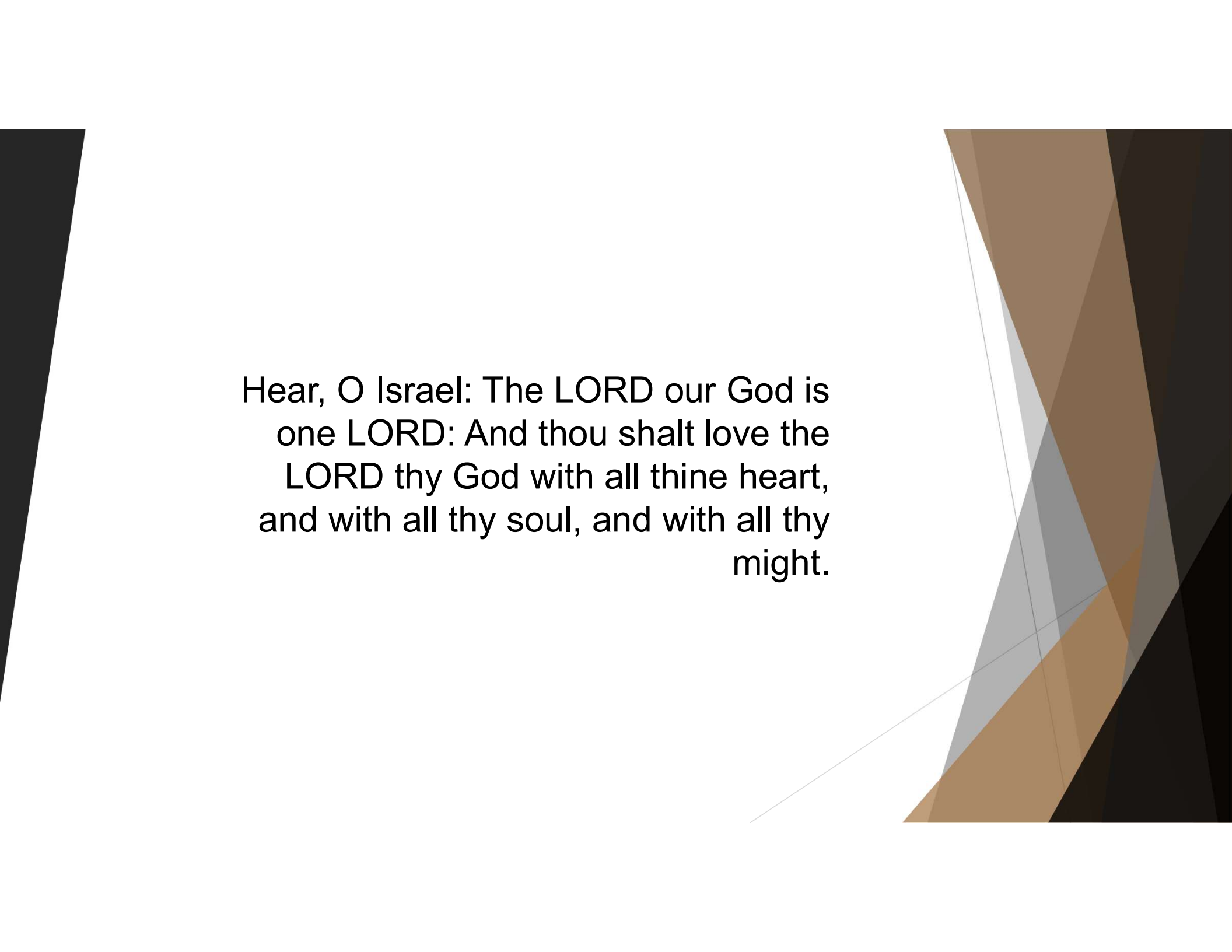


# Apologetics and the Family

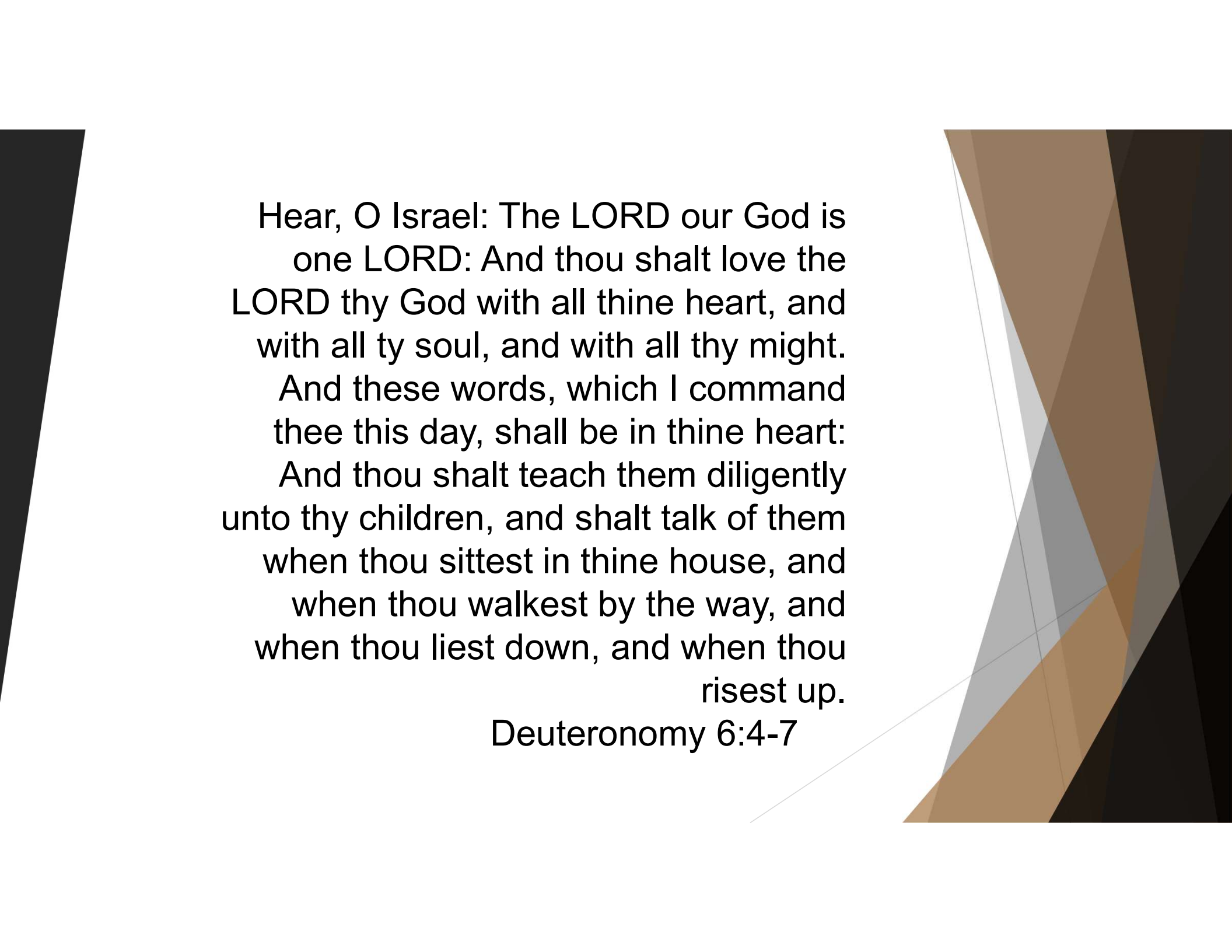


And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:29-31



Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is  
one LORD: And thou shalt love the  
LORD thy God with all thine heart,  
and with all thy soul, and with all thy  
might.



Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is  
one LORD: And thou shalt love the  
LORD thy God with all thine heart, and  
with all thy soul, and with all thy might.  
And these words, which I command  
thee this day, shall be in thine heart:  
And thou shalt teach them diligently  
unto thy children, and shalt talk of them  
when thou sittest in thine house, and  
when thou walkest by the way, and  
when thou liest down, and when thou  
risest up.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

## The Why Question

- It's important to show our children THAT we believe.
- But it's also critically important to teach them WHY we believe.
- The WHY question is an important part of being wholly convinced of something.

## **There's Cause for Concern**

“If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.”

And if we don't teach our children why Christ is true, the world is very eager to teach them why He isn't true.

## There's Cause for Concern

- Most studies indicate between 45-48% of youth leave church after their freshman year of college and never return. (Lifeway Research, 2007)
- Some research indicates that up to 46% of youth have spiritually “checked out” by the end of middle school. (Cultural Captives, 2012)
- The presence or absence of doubt was found to be the single best predictor of Christian affiliation and spiritual health, compared to several hundred other factors. (Larry Barnett, Next Generation Project, 2016)

## Our Motives

- Fear is a legitimate motive.
- But it's never a sufficient and sustainable motive.
- The best motive is a desire to develop followers of Jesus who love and worship Him “with all their mind.”



## **Our Motives**

**While apologetics is a defense of the faith, it should never get defensive.**

## What Do You Do?

- Think to ourselves, “Oh no, my child is asking a hard question! They’re doomed!” Then pretend we didn’t hear the question. 😊
- Say, “That’s a foolish question. Now eat your cereal and stop throwing Cheerios at your sister!”
- Simple answer, “Of course we’re not all a dream. Dreams aren’t real. You are. That’s easy.”
- “That’s a really good question. Let’s spend some time this afternoon talking about it. Ok?”
- And then do what any good parent would do. Panic and google “How to prove we’re not all a dream!” 😊

## Practical Ideas

- Read books with kids or give them books to read.
- Schedule discussion time
- Model it
  - Let them know what questions you are wrestling with.
  - Model that we're not asking hard questions of the faith because we don't think it's true but because we're convinced that it's true.
- Invest in the relationship. Relationships are key!
- Pray, pray, pray.
- Did we mention pray?!