

good or perfect. God's standard for humanity is perfection – that we live in obedience with His purposes; but nobody has. This disobedience from us is called sin, and sin separates us from God and His goodness. And if we die in this natural state it will lead to God's judgement forever in Hell. Which is beyond our worst imagination in how awful it is. But God is love and He has sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. All God requires for us to be saved is to come to Him and give our lives to Him. Jesus said in John 14:6, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"*. Go to Jesus for life!

Object Lesson: A dead branch from a tree and a living tree branch. Explain that if we do not go to God, the Source of Life, we will wither like a dead branch.

Ask & Explain Q: Who can give life to our souls? **A:** Only Jesus Christ can forgive our sins and give us new spiritual life.

Go Deeper Why does Scripture describe salvation as being made alive?

Day 5 - One Day God Will Raise Our Bodies Too

Scripture: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live," John 11:25

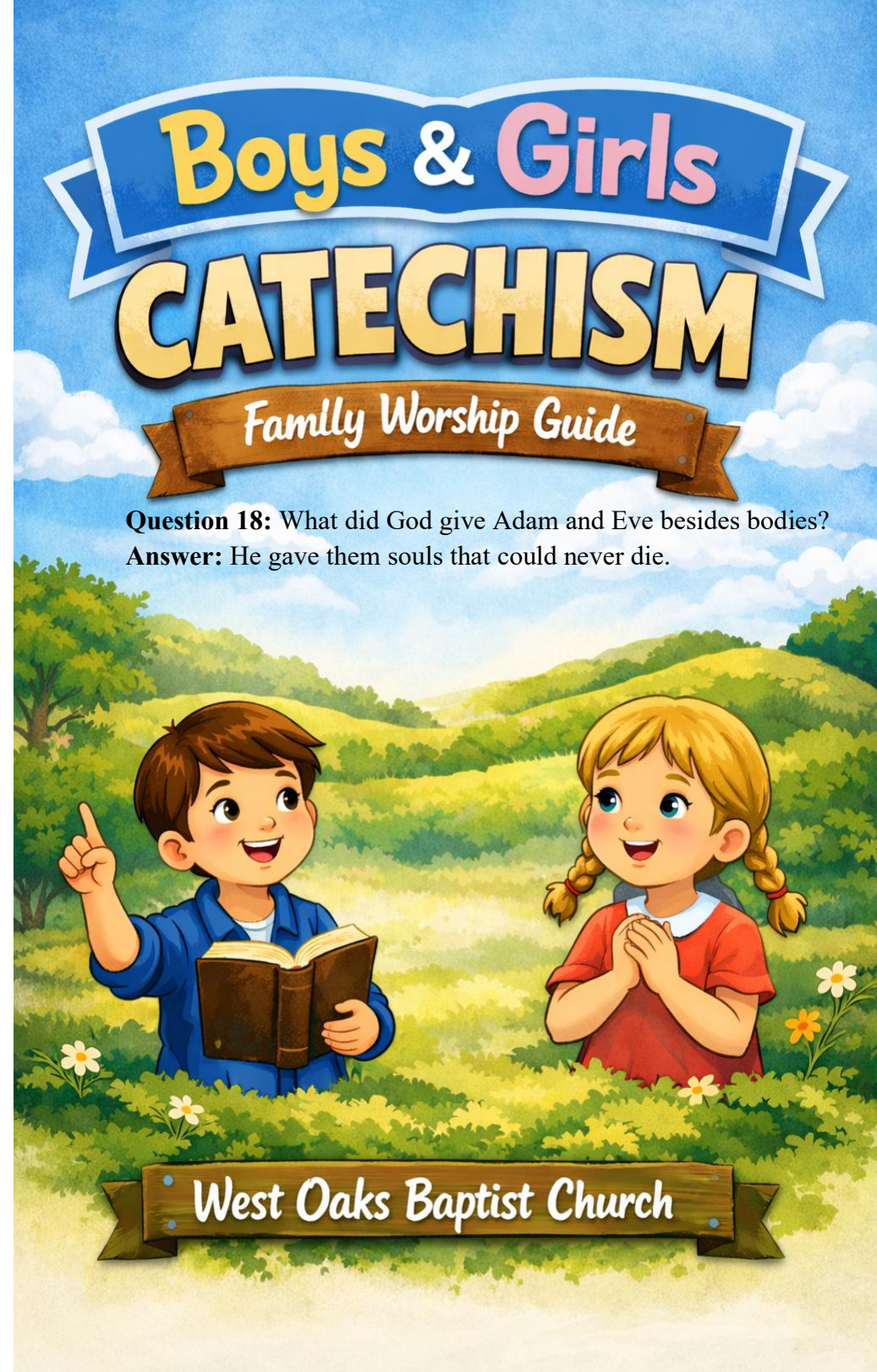
We as people are made in God's image. We have a body and a soul. And as we talked about, one day our body will die but our soul will never die. But this does not mean that we will be left without anybody forever. For there is a day when Jesus will raise up all people who have ever lived, including you! And He will clothe our spirits with new bodies. If you are a Christian, and I beg you who hear this to become one for Christ's sake, you will receive a glorified body. But if you are not a Christian, then you will receive only a vessel prepared for judgement. This day of judgement that is coming is, through Jesus, the ultimate summation of all things. Where all justice will be dealt against evil, and all good will be rewarded. Live for that day, use your earthly body to store up treasure in heaven that you will one day enjoy with your heavenly body in the presence of Jesus, the God who made you and loves you beyond what words can describe. For when that day comes you will realize that every ounce of effort you could ever give for His glory was worth it.

Object Lesson: Show a picture on your phone of a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis. Explain that one day through Christ we will emerge

Ask & Explain Q: What will happen to believers when Jesus returns? **A:** God will raise our bodies and we will live with Him forever.

Go Deeper

Why is Christ's bodily resurrection essential to the Christian hope?



Day 1 - What Is a Soul?

Scripture: ...then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. Genesis 2:7

God made you and all mankind. And when God made Adam, the first human being, He didn't just make Him out of nothing. As we talked about in last week's catechism, God made Adam's body out of the dirt on the ground. But Adam's soul God made from His own breath. Now that might seem like it is not a big deal, but it is a huge deal! God made mankind in His own image, and He used His very own breath, which is more than just exhaled air, to give us life. That life that is in us is called a 'soul' or a 'spirit'. It is not something you can touch like your body, but it is a real part of you! In fact, your soul is what makes you truly you! When God made us, He didn't want us to be robots which have to do what they are programmed to do. So, God gave us a soul which makes us each unique and special. God is infinite and good, and this all-knowing God of love gave us our souls as a gift to us so that we could worship and know Him with all our hearts and strength!

Object Lesson: *A glove without a hand inside Explain that we are not just a body, but a soul with a body. Like a hand in a glove.*

Ask & Explain Q: *What is a soul? A: The soul is the invisible part of us that God created to know, love, and worship Him.*

Go Deeper *How does knowing every person has an eternal soul change the way we treat others?*

Day 2 - Made in God's Image

Scripture: So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

We are made in God's image. This means that we don't just have regular souls (*perhaps like an angel*) which is special in and of itself, but our souls are made in God's image. This makes us very special because we directly represent and reflect who God is. Because we are made in the image of God we can do things other creatures, such as a dog, cannot. We reason, we love in special way, and most of all we can worship the God who made us. God has made us and gifted us with a soul made in His image. And that precious gift is one that we must use to His glory. One day, if your parents give you permission to drive their car – that would be very cool! But with great power, comes great responsibility. You better not get in an accident! In the same way, since we are embodied spiritual beings who are made in the image of God, we have been given great gifts. And with this great gift of our image-bearing soul we must live for God with all our heart, mind, and strength. God made us for His own glory, and everything He gives us is to allow us to enjoy and glorify Him with all our beings.

Object Lesson: A mirror. Explain how being made in God's image means that we were made to reflect who God is.

Ask & Explain Q: Why did God give us souls? A: So we could know Him, love Him, and glorify Him forever.

Go Deeper

What does being made in God's image teach us about human dignity and value?

Day 3 - Our Souls Never Die

Scripture: and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:7

Think back to your earliest memory. Probably your earliest memory was when you were around 3 years old. While we can remember times when we were younger, we cannot remember a time before we were born. And this is reflective of the reality that God created us, that we have a beginning. However, while we do have a beginning, we will have no end. As creatures whom God breathed life into, we will never cease to exist. Romans 11:29 says *"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."* We have received from God the gift of life and being made in His image, therefore those gifts will never be revoked. But one day our souls will separate from our bodies which will die. And our souls will return to the God who made us. And there we will be judged by God according to what we did in our lives. Hebrews 9:27 says *"it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment"*. So, when we die we will be judged, and we desperately need to be prepared for that day. The only way to be saved from hell and have eternal life is through trusting in Jesus Christ.

Object Lesson: A seed planted in the ground. Explain that when a seed dies in the ground a plant springs forth in the same way when our bodies die our spirits will spring forth from our body.

Ask & Explain Q: Does your soul ever die? A: No. Our souls live forever because God made them for eternity.

Go Deeper How should eternity shape the way we live today?

Day 4 - Sin Brings Death, Christ Gives Life

Scripture: And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2

As we talked about in the last lesson, we will be judged one day. God has given us great gifts. He made us and has given us every good thing in our life. And so with the life He has given us, we are accountable to Him. He will judge us, and this is a terrifying truth. For God is holy and good. And if we are totally honest, we should realize that we are not