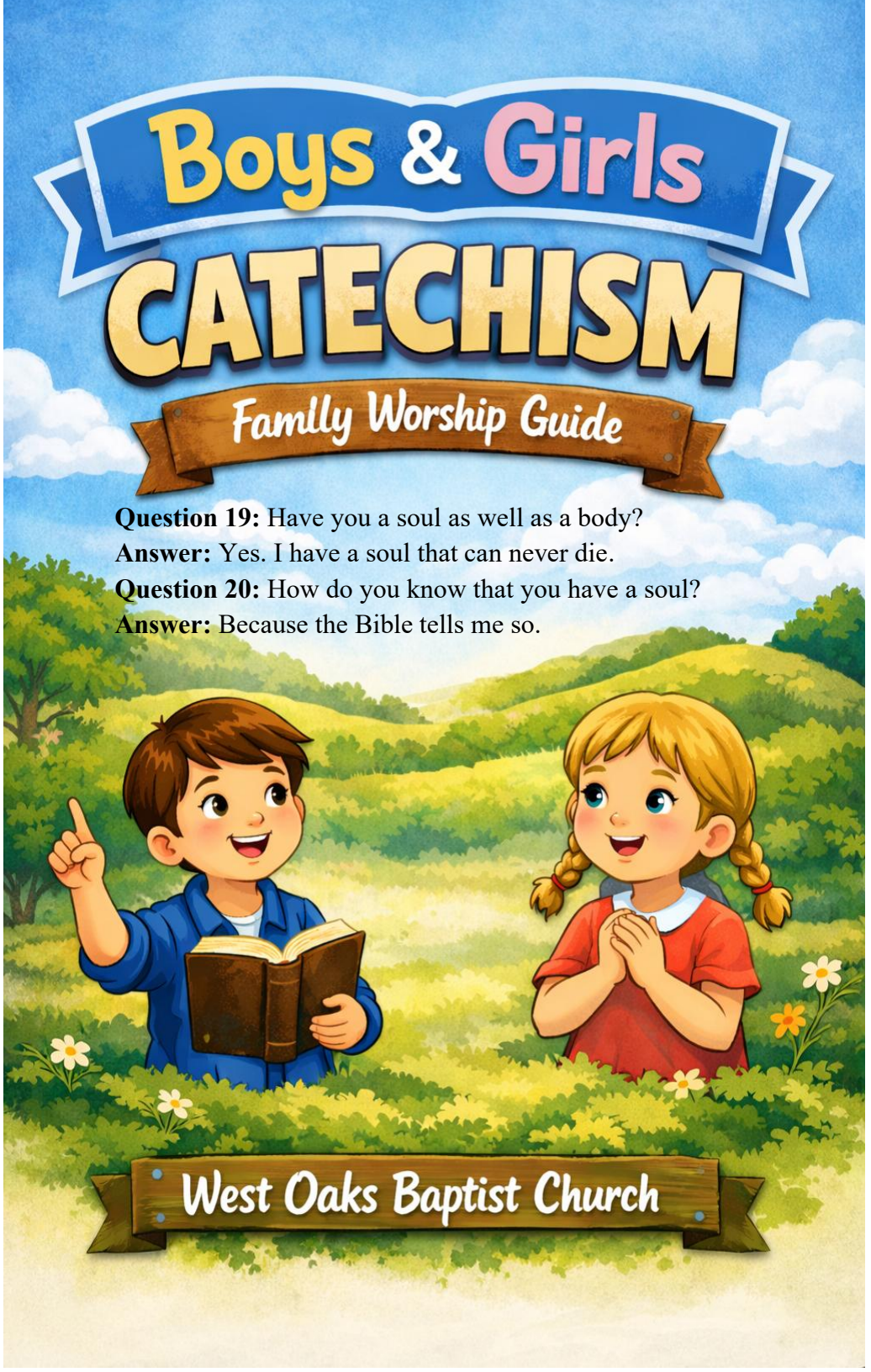
Ask – Why do you think it is important that you love God with your soul? What might it look like to miss loving God with your soul?
Explain – Someone who doesn't love God with his soul is likely to be more interested in how things look on the outside. He may be more interested in following his own rules than concerned about what God thinks of him. He will ultimately care more about pleasing himself than pleasing God.

Day 5 – Love God with your body.

Scripture: 1 Cor 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

We have been talking this week about the importance of our souls. God made us body and soul in his image so that we might glorify him. Unlike this world, our souls will last forever. This means we must prioritize saving our souls rather than just gaining in this life. Since our souls will last forever it is important that we not die under God's judgment, lest we spend eternity in hell. Rather, we should believe in Jesus and love God with our souls. With how much we have emphasized the eternal nature of the soul vs the passing nature of the body, some people have wrongly thought what we do with our bodies doesn't matter. Nothing could be farther from the truth. 1 Cor 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. God teaches us that Christians use their bodies for the glory of God. We do the same with our families, possessions, jobs, and finances. The reason we can give all these things to the love and service of God is BECAUSE we know they are passing. Our love of God comes first. Everything else then follows!

Ask – If you say you love God but don't obey him, do you think your love is real? Are there parts of your life where you aren't living like you love Jesus?
Explain – Obeying God is a natural expression of loving him. If you love him you will want to live every part of your life in a way that pleases him.



Day 1 – The Bible tells me so

Scripture: Mark 8:36-37 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?

Have you ever thought about what it will be like in heaven? Christians know it will be wonderful because we will be with Jesus. The weird thing is that we will just be souls without a body until the resurrection. This is difficult to imagine since we are so used to having body and soul together. It's so normal for us to be in the body that many people now think we are just bodies and have no immortal souls. This belief is convenient since it gives people an excuse to live the way they want to. They don't like listening to God and obeying him. If there is no soul then there won't be anything to worry about after death. Unlike so many people who believe this way, Christians know they have immortal souls. Mark 8:36-37 tells you that you have a soul and it is more important than the rest of this life. If you believe the Bible then you will be concerned about what happens to your soul when you die.

Object Lesson – Have everyone point to their own heart. Then have them feel their heart beat with their hand to their chest.
Ask – Can you see your own heart? If you can't see it how do you know it is there?
Explain – You know you have a heart because your parents have told you it's there. You can also see evidence of it, such as when you feel your heartbeat in your chest. Likewise, you can also know you have a soul. The surest evidence you have that you have a soul is that the Bible tells you so!

Day 2 – What will last?

Scripture: Mark 8:36-37 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?

Have you ever accidently left milk out of the fridge for too long? What happens to it? The milk will go bad and start to stink. At that point it must be thrown out. Everything in life is a little like milk. Eventually it will go bad and decay. Food spoils. Cars break down. Clothes get holes and start to look ragged. Likewise our bodies slowly start to decay as we age. Eventually everything in this life falls apart. Jesus helps us to realize what lasts and what doesn't when he speaks to the disciples about their souls. Mark 8:36-37 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? You have a soul that will never die. It is more important that you do what is good for your soul than that you gain money, possessions, or health. Ultimately, believing in Jesus is what your soul needs.

Object lesson – Make a list of different things in this life (money, cars, food, houses, friends, movies, clothes, education) Try to include things that are used up quickly as well as things that last better.
Ask – What is the eventual end of everything on your list? Talk about how even the more permanent things in life will eventually be gone.
Explain – Jesus said it is more important to gain your soul than even the whole world. The world is coming to an end when Jesus returns. Only your soul will go with you into eternity.
Go Deeper – Think about how you spend your time. What is it that you work for? Do you spend you time primarily working to gain things that won't last? What would it look like for you to work for things that will last?

Day 3 – Fear God

Scripture: Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Have you ever been worried about what other people think of you? You might worry what your friends think. You might also worry about what your teacher thinks, your parents, or your boss. In extreme cases we can be afraid that others will hurt or even kill us. Jesus understands our tendency to worry about or be afraid of other people. This is why he directs our fears to the right place. As we have talked about, everything in this life is not going to last. Even your body will one day die. This limits how much human beings can do to you. God is not so limited. He is both judge of this life as well as our souls in the one to come. Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. If God has the power to punish us in hell, then we should worry more about him than other people. The good thing is that God is a loving God who has made a way for us to live forever with him. All you have to do is to believe in Jesus and he will never destroy you. He will give you eternal life.

Object Lesson – See if someone has a phone. Take a quick selfie with your family.
Ask – Do you think people worry about how they look before they share a selfie with others? Do you worry about that?
Explain – We are often overly concerned about what people think of us. This is a form of fear. Put away your fear of others and ask God to save you. His opinion of you is what matters!

Day 4 – Love God with your soul.

Scripture: Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Why did God make you with an immortal soul. We learned last week that God did this to make you in his image. Jesus further tells us the purpose of our souls when he gives the greatest commandment. Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Your soul, the innermost part of you, is specially designed to love God. Loving God surely involves our actions. We show love by what we do. Yet, love never starts with or ends with our actions. We can pray, sing, read, and serve. All of these are important to loving God but they must come from a heart and soul that love God.