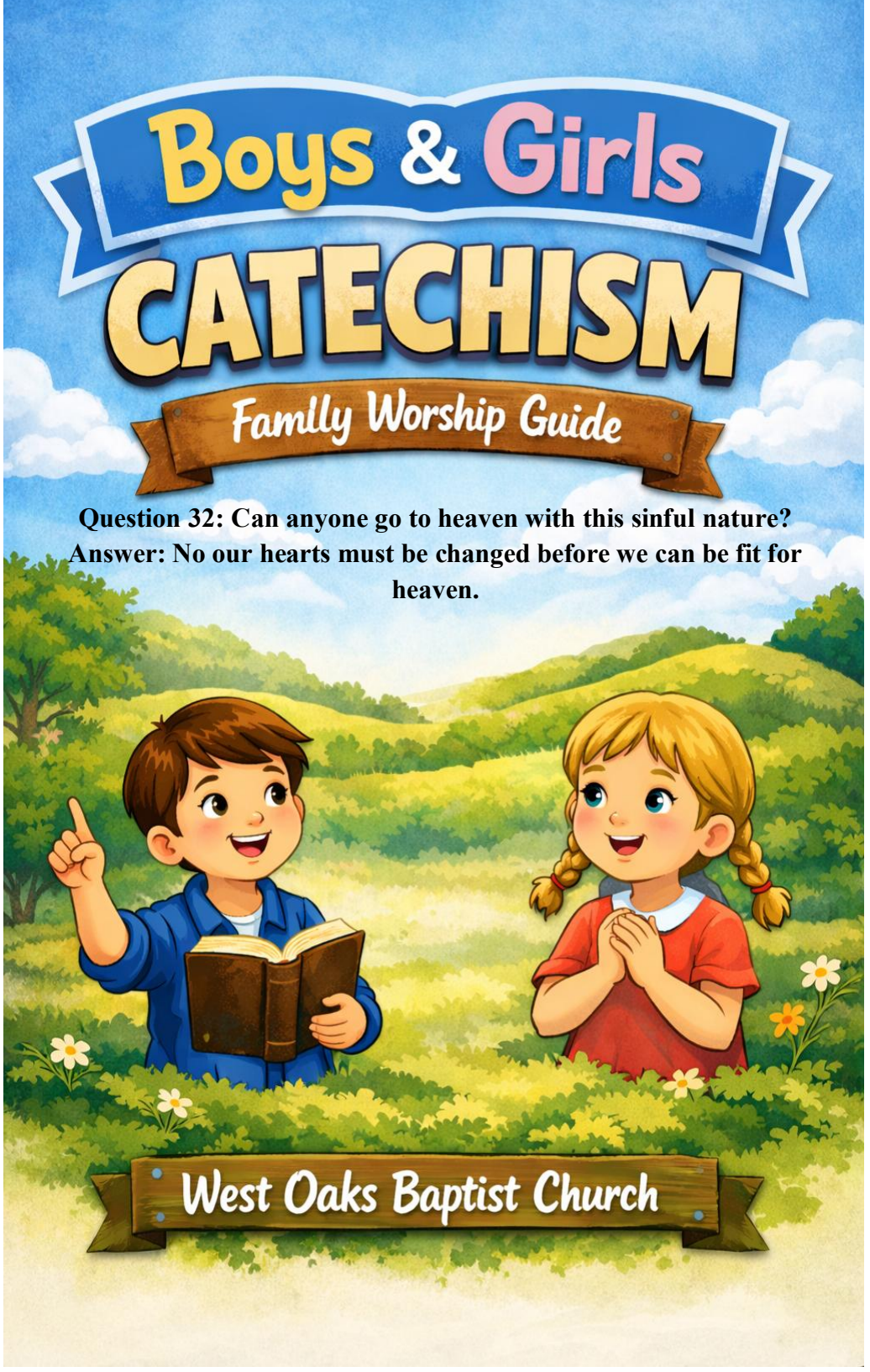
Day 5 - Made Fit for Heaven

Scripture: Colossians 1:12–14 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. [13] He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Paul gives thanks to the Father, who has qualified believers to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. This is a remarkable statement. We do not qualify ourselves for heaven through personal goodness, or obedience to God's law. Instead, God qualifies His people through the saving work of Jesus Christ. He delivers them from the domain of darkness and transfers them into the kingdom of His beloved Son. In Christ, believers receive redemption and the forgiveness of sins. God also begins transforming their hearts through the Holy Spirit, making them increasingly holy. Although Christians continue struggling with sin in this life, God will complete His work when they are glorified. Heaven will contain no sinful desires, rebellious thoughts, or disobedient actions. God's redeemed people will finally love and worship Him perfectly. Our hope rests not in our ability to change ourselves, but in God's power to save and transform us completely.

Question: Who makes believers fit for heaven, and how does He accomplish this?
Prayer Point: Thank God for qualifying His people for heaven through Christ and pray for continued growth in holiness.



Day 1 – We Need a New Birth

Scripture: John 3:3–4 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus told Nicodemus, a respected religious teacher, that no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. Nicodemus had a lot of religious knowledge, and familiarity with God's commandments, but none of these things could give him entrance into heaven. He needed something that only God could accomplish, a new birth. Our problem is not simply that we occasionally do sinful things. We possess a sinful nature that affects our thoughts, desires, and affections. We cannot make ourselves spiritually alive through better behavior or greater determination. Just as we contributed nothing to our physical birth, we cannot produce our own spiritual birth. The Holy Spirit must give us new life, changing our hearts so that we love God and desire holiness. This is why salvation is entirely a work of God's grace.

Question: Why is being religious or morally good insufficient for entering heaven?
Prayer Point: Ask God to give us hearts that love Him and trust in Christ alone.

Day 2 - A New Heart of Flesh

Scripture: Ezekiel 36:25–27 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. [26] And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promised to cleanse His people from their sins and give them new hearts. He described removing their hearts of stone and replacing them with hearts of flesh. A heart of stone is spiritually unresponsive. It is resistant to God's commands, and unwilling to submit to His authority. Notice how often God says, "I will." He promises to cleanse, remove, give, and put His Spirit in His people. This transformation is not something sinners can accomplish for themselves. It is God's gracious work. A new heart does not mean that Christians immediately become sinless, but God changes their desires so that they begin to love what He loves and hate what He hates. His Spirit works within them, producing growing obedience. Heaven is a place of perfect holiness. Therefore, those who enter must first be made spiritually alive and ultimately freed from every trace of sin.

Question: What does the difference between a heart of stone and a heart of flesh teach us?
Prayer Point: Thank God for His promise to cleanse sinners and transform their hearts.

Day 3 – Our Hearts Are Sinful

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:9–10 [9] The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? [10] "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

The Bible teaches that our sinful condition reaches much deeper than our outward actions. Jeremiah describes the human heart as deceitful and really sick. We often excuse our sins, justify our selfish desires, and even convince ourselves that our motives are better than they truly are. We may successfully hide our sinful thoughts from other people, but nothing is hidden from God. He searches our hearts and examines our innermost thoughts and desires. His perfect knowledge reveals why we cannot simply improve ourselves enough to become acceptable or fit for heaven. Sin is not merely a collection of bad habits that need correcting, it is a corruption of our nature that requires God's transforming grace. This truth should humble us rather than lead us to despair. God knows the full extent of our sin, yet He graciously provides salvation through Jesus Christ.

Question: Why must God change our hearts rather than merely improve our outward behavior?
Prayer Point: Confess the sinfulness of your heart and ask God to reveal and remove sinful desires.

Day 4 - God Makes Sinners Alive

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8–10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Paul describes our natural spiritual condition in startling language in Ephesians 2, such as we were dead in trespasses and sins. Spiritually dead people cannot make themselves alive. We need God to act on our behalf. But Paul introduces wonderful news with the words, "But God." Because of His great love and rich mercy, God makes sinners alive together with Christ. Salvation is not the reward for our good works. It is God's gracious gift, received through faith. This new life changes both our standing before God and the direction of our lives. We are saved by grace, not by our own achievements, but God also creates us in and through Jesus for good works. Good works do not purchase our entrance into heaven but instead they demonstrate the transforming power of God's grace. The same God who raises spiritually dead sinners to life also prepares them for an eternity in His holy presence.

Question: How does being spiritually dead demonstrate our complete dependence upon God's grace?
Prayer Point: Praise God for His mercy in making sinners alive together with Christ.