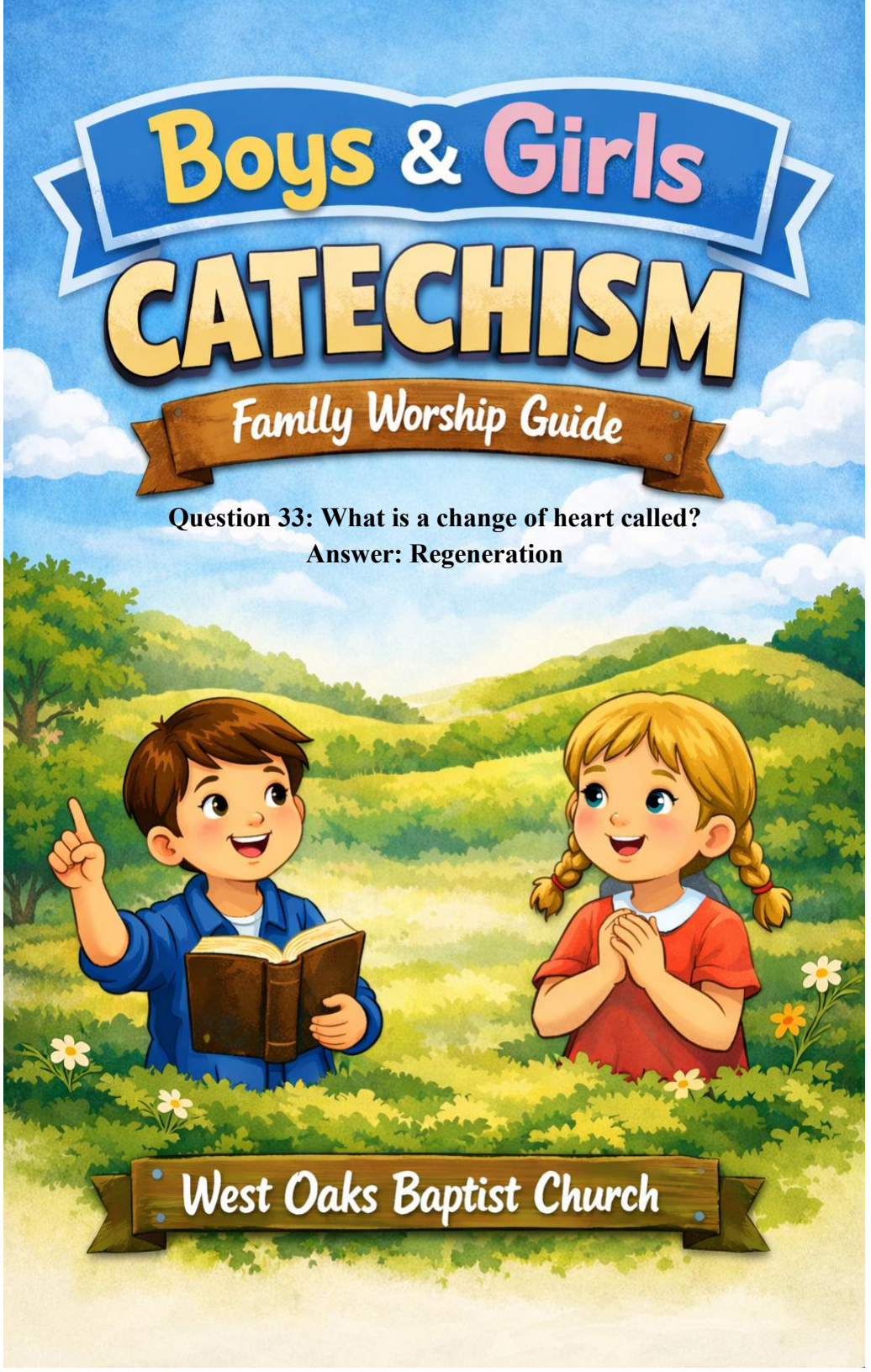
Day 5 – Our New Life Produces Good Works

Scripture: Titus 3:7–8 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. [8] The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

After explaining that God saves us by His mercy through the washing of regeneration, Paul describes the wonderful blessings that follow. Through Jesus Christ, believers are justified by grace and become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. But Paul does not stop with these blessings. He immediately encourages believers to devote themselves to good works. This order is important. Good works do not cause regeneration, and they do not earn our salvation. Instead, good works are the fruit of the new life that God has given to us. Think about a fruit tree, apples do not make an apple tree alive. Rather, a living apple tree produces apples because it is alive. Likewise, Christians produce good works because God has given them spiritual life. **Regeneration** changes our hearts, and changed hearts begin producing changed lives. God's grace not only saves us but also transforms how we live.

Question: How does the illustration of a fruit tree help explain the relationship between regeneration and good works?
Prayer Point: Ask God to help us demonstrate our new life in Christ through loving obedience.



Day 1 - We Need a New Heart

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.

When we think about becoming better people, we often focus on changing our behavior. We might try to be kinder, more patient, maybe even more obedient. The Bible teaches us that our greatest problem is not simply what we do, it is who we are. Because of sin, our hearts naturally turn away from God. Through a man named Ezekiel, God promised something wonderful. He said He would remove His people's hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh. A heart of stone is hard and unresponsive toward God, while a heart of flesh is alive and responsive to Him. This change is called **regeneration.** It is not something we can accomplish through hard work or determination. God Himself must give us new spiritual life. When God changes our hearts, we begin to love what He loves and desire to obey Him. True obedience flows from a heart that God has made new.

Question: Why do we need God to change our hearts instead of simply trying harder to be good?
Prayer Point: Ask God to give us hearts that love Him and delight in His commands.

Day 2 – We are Saved According to His Mercy

Scripture: Titus 3:3–5 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. [4] But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, [5] he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit…

Paul reminds Titus that we as Christians were once foolish, disobedient, and enslaved to sinful desires. This shows us how deeply sin affects every single part of our lives. We cannot rescue ourselves from this condition by becoming religious or performing good works. Paul announces wonderful news, God saved us according to His mercy! Our salvation does not begin with something good that we have done. It begins with God's kindness and love toward us as undeserving sinners. **Regeneration** is an act of God's mercy. He gives spiritual life to those who cannot produce it themselves. We do not make ourselves worthy of God's grace before He changes our hearts. This should humble us and help us with a thankful spirit. If salvation depended upon our own goodness, no one could be saved, but because salvation depends upon God's mercy, even the worst sinner can be made new through Jesus Christ.

Question: Why does Paul emphasize that God did not save us because of our righteous works?
Prayer Point: Thank God that salvation depends upon His mercy rather than our goodness.

Day 3 - The "Washing of Regeneration"

Scripture: Titus 3:5–6 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, [6] whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior…

Paul describes God's saving work as the "washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." These words teach us that **regeneration** involves a wonderful transformation within us. Sin has corrupted our hearts, making us spiritually unclean and unable to love God as we should, but the Holy Spirit works powerfully to cleanse us and give us new spiritual life. This washing is not only an outward washing with water, It describes the inward cleansing that God accomplishes through His Spirit. Baptism points to this wonderful reality, but the Holy Spirit is the one who actually changes our hearts. Notice that Paul says God pours out the Holy Spirit richly through Jesus Christ our Savior. God does not give us just enough grace to improve our behavior. He gives us new life! **Regeneration** is therefore not a self-improvement program, it is a supernatural work of God's grace that changes us from within.

Question: What is the difference between outward religious actions and the inward work of the Holy Spirit?
Prayer Point: Praise God for the cleansing and renewing work of the Holy Spirit.

Day 4 - You Must Be Born Again

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?"

When Nicodemus came to Jesus, he was already a very religious man. He knew the Scriptures and carefully followed many religious rules. Yet Jesus told him that unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus was confused because he thought Jesus was speaking about physical birth, but Jesus was describing spiritual birth, the new life that comes from the Holy Spirit. Just as we had no control over our own physical birth, we cannot cause our own spiritual birth. Jesus compared the Spirit's work to the wind. We cannot control where the wind blows, but we can see its effects. Likewise, we cannot see **regeneration** happening inside someone's heart, but we can see its results. A regenerated person begins to love Christ, repent of sin, and desire obedience to God. Being born again is necessary for everyone, even the most religious person.

Question: What evidence might we see in someone whom the Holy Spirit has caused to be born again?
Prayer Point: Ask God to bring new spiritual life to those who do not yet know Christ.