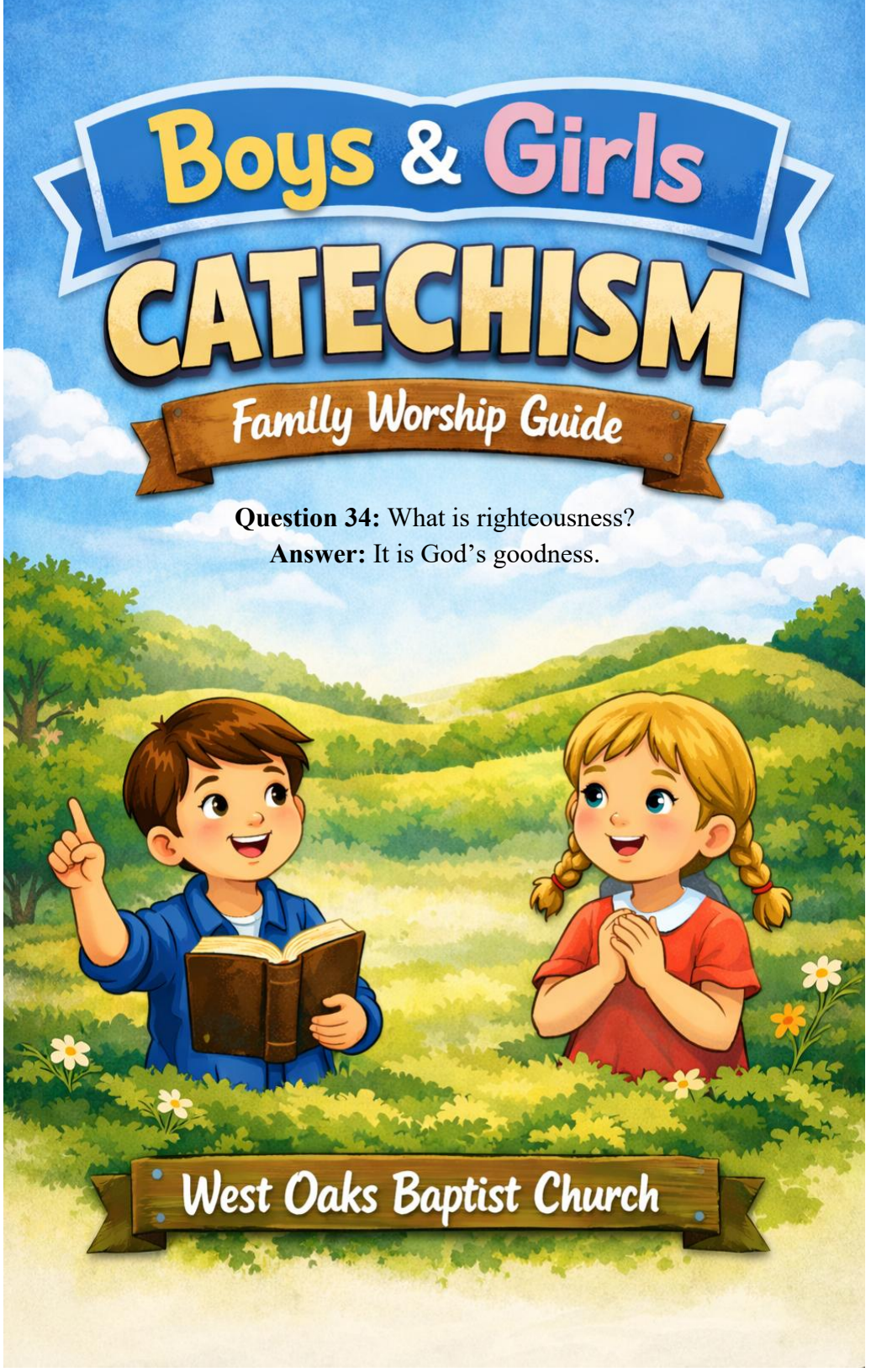
Go Deeper: Why is it so important that righteousness is a gift from Jesus and not something we earn?

Day 5 - Hungering for Righteousness

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied Matthew 5:6

Why did God make you and all things? For His own glory. That is a very true statement! So, if our purpose is to glorify God, then the most enjoyable thing for us to do is to glorify Him. For that is what we were made to do. Sadly, because of sin and death, our hearts don't seek God and His righteousness as they should. And that is in spite of the fact that it is the true longing and desire of every human being. Even those who do not know Jesus long for Him, and they will be restless till they find Him. Lost people, or people who do not know Jesus, they are hungry for righteousness, but because they love their sin they don't seek God's righteousness (John 3). But when we come to Jesus and believe in Him. He gives us new hearts that learn to say no to sin and yes to the things that we long for, God's righteousness. And if you come to Jesus and believe in Him, you will be filled and utterly satisfied. Righteousness is revealed to those who seek it, ask God for He is happy to give it to you.

Object Lesson: Ask the children if they have ever been very hungry or thirsty. Share a snack or a cup of water, and explain how our hearts can be satisfied by God's goodness in the same way.
Ask & Explain: Q: What do people who belong to Jesus begin to want? A: They want to be good and to love what God loves.
Go Deeper: How can we tell whether we are hungering for righteousness or for other things that cannot satisfy us?



Day 1 - God Is Righteous

"The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works." Psalm 145:17

You might have heard this saying before. "God is good, all the time God is good". That is a very true statement. In fact, God is not just good, but He is where all goodness comes from. He is the source of all goodness, like a mighty river is the source of water for a lake. What it means when we say something is good, is that that thing is like God in some way. And something is righteous if it is filled with this goodness of God and if it is aligned with the goodness of God. God is righteous, and His throne is 'established in righteousness' (Psalm 89:14). When God acts in righteousness, it is Him being who He is. God is perfect and that is great news because the Creator God of everything is good and loving. And He never ever acts in an unrighteous or not good way. When God made you, He said you were good (Genesis 1) or righteous. Not because you in and of yourself are righteous but because God loves you and, in His goodness, He wanted you to exist.

Object Lesson: Draw a wobbly line freehand, then draw a straight one with a ruler. Explain that the ruler is the standard that shows which line is straight, and God's goodness is the standard for what is right.
Ask & Explain: Q: What is righteousness? A: It is God's goodness.
Go Deeper: Why is it comforting that the God who rules the world is perfectly good in everything He does?

Day 2 - God Always Does What Is Right

"The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he." Deuteronomy 32:4

God never makes mistakes or fails. As we talked about before, God is perfectly perfect, the perfection of perfection! Everything He does and is, is perfect and righteous. When God made you, it was a perfect decision. And He does not make mistakes! God's decisions and judgements are always right, just, good, perfect, blameless, and awe-inspiring. When you gaze into them, their perfection should make you feel the great desire to worship Him! This perfection and goodness of God is the greatest anchor anyone can have in this life! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul speaks of this truth when He says in Romans 8:28 that "all things work together for good, for those who love God and are called according to His purpose". When there are hard things, or when we suffer or even sin. God works it for His glory and our good, provided we come to Jesus Christ. If you are young, it is important to know that in your life there will be hardship. But God your Father stands above it all and in His goodness, He will supply all your needs.

Object Lesson: Use a balance scale, or hold your hands out like one. Explain that God is a perfectly fair judge who always weighs things rightly.
Ask & Explain: Q: Does God ever do anything wrong or unfair? A: No. God is always righteous in everything He does.
Go Deeper: Why must a good God deal with sin instead of ignoring it?

Day 3 - We Are Not Righteous

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Even though our Father in Heaven, the God of all creation, is perfect, we are not. We sin, we mess up, we even do very, very bad things all too often. We might even try to reach God's goodness in our actions. Maybe we try really hard to be obedient to our parents or we work really hard at our homework, and maybe we say all the right things. But the truth is that even our best behavior is not perfect before God and is still sinful. And when you see the righteousness and goodness of God it becomes plainly evident of how sinful and far we are from God's perfection. And God sees all things; nothing can be hidden from Him. He has seen every second of your life and has always been with you in your thoughts. God in His perfection is just and holy, and the scary thing is that we deserve as sinners His judgement. But God in His righteous goodness gave His perfect and righteous Son Jesus so that He might declare us righteous in Jesus, and that we might be His children forever!

Object Lesson: Place a toy or snack on a shelf too high for the children. Let them jump and stretch to reach it, then show that no one can reach it by trying harder.
Ask & Explain: Q: Are we righteous by ourselves? A: No. We have all sinned and fall short of God's goodness.
Go Deeper: Why is comparing ourselves to other people the wrong way to measure whether we are good?

Day 4 - Jesus Gives Us His Righteousness

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21

As we talked about yesterday, God declares us righteous in Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, He was our substitute and became our sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21). He did this to show God's righteousness that God is both just, in that all our sin is judged and paid for by Jesus, and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Romans 3:25-26). When we come to Jesus and ask Him to save us. He makes us righteous and good because He gives us His righteousness. And He can do this because He died for our sins and rose again. When Jesus rose again, it showed that He had conquered the penalty of our sins, which is death and hell. And that all who come to Him will live forever in Heaven. Jesus said that whoever comes to Him, He will never say no to saving (John 6:37). If you do not know Jesus, ask your parents to lead you in a prayer so that you might begin a relationship with Him and be saved. If you go to Jesus and ask Him with your heart, He will save you and give you life forever with Him.

Object Lesson: Show a dirty shirt or paper with a stain. Cover it with a clean white robe or sheet, and explain that when God looks at us in Christ, He sees Jesus' goodness covering us.
Ask & Explain: Q: How can sinners be made righteous before God? A: Jesus lived a perfect life and died for our sins. When we trust in Him, God gives us His righteousness.