

Object lesson: Think about who you look like. In what ways do you reflect that person? In what ways are you different?

Simple questions: Who shows us what the Father is like? Should we honor Jesus as we honor the Father? While you may resemble your parents, Jesus is the perfect reflection of God the Father.

Going deeper: Why does the truth that Jesus fully reveals the Father matter for trusting Christ personally?

Day 5 — The Holy Spirit Glorifies Christ

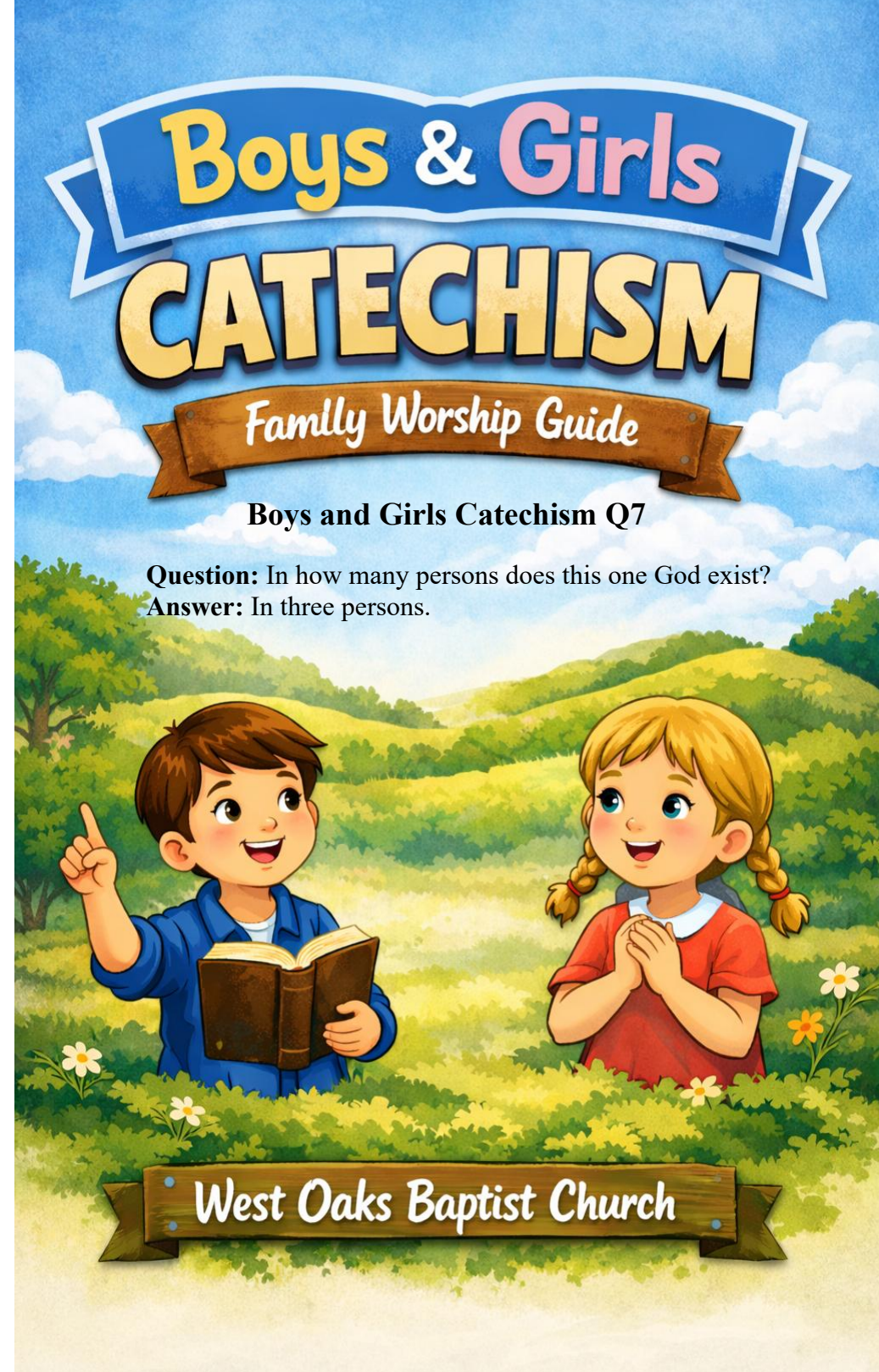
Scripture: John 16:13–14 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth... He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force. He is not just power floating in the air. He is the third person of the Trinity, fully God, personal, active, holy, and good. Jesus says the Spirit guides, speaks, hears, declares, and glorifies Christ. Those are personal actions. The Spirit is someone, not something. What does the Spirit do? He shines light on Jesus. He helps us understand the truth. He convicts us of sin. He gives new life. He helps us believe the gospel and love the Savior. The Spirit does not seek attention for himself apart from Christ. He delights to glorify the Son. This is one of the beautiful harmonies within the Trinity: the Father sends the Son, the Son obeys the Father, and the Spirit glorifies the Son. So when a sinner trusts in Christ, that is the gracious work of God. The Father planned salvation, the Son purchased salvation, and the Spirit applies salvation. The one God saves his people. We should thank the Holy Spirit for opening our blind eyes and leading us to Jesus.

Object lesson: Hold up a piece of paper with a big arrow on it. Have you ever seen a guide? Someone who points and shows you where to go or what to look at?

Simple questions: Is the Holy Spirit a person or just a force? Whom does the Holy Spirit glorify?

Going deeper: How can you tell whether a teaching about the Holy Spirit is faithful to the Bible?



Day 1 — One God

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

There is only one true God. The Bible never teaches that there are many gods competing with one another. There is one Creator, one Lord, one King over all things. He alone made the heavens and the earth. He alone rules over history. He alone deserves worship. This is important because when we speak about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we are not saying there are three gods. We are saying that the one true God exists in three persons. This truth is bigger than our minds can fully grasp, but it is not against reason. God is greater than we are, so we should not be surprised that there are depths in him we cannot exhaust. If we could fit God neatly into our understanding, he would not be the infinite God of the Bible. Yet what God reveals is true, trustworthy, and good. So we begin here as we did with last week's question: there is one God. Christianity is not confused about that. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God — yet there is still only one God.

Object lesson: Hold up your Bible.

Simple questions: How many true Gods are there? Why do we believe that? Why are so many analogies wrong or fall into misunderstandings?

Explain: the best way to talk about the trinity is to just say what scripture says already.

Going deeper: Why is it important to hold tightly to the truth that God is one when we begin talking about the Trinity?

Day 2 — The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Scripture: Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus teaches us to speak of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit together. Notice that he says “name,” not “names.” There is one divine name, one God, and yet three distinct persons are named. This helps us see the beauty of the Trinity. The Father is not the Son. The Son is not the Spirit. The Spirit is not the Father. Yet each is fully and truly God. The Father sends the Son. The Son comes to save sinners. The Spirit applies Christ's work to our hearts. These are not three different ways God appears, as if he changes costumes. They are three real persons who have eternally existed in perfect unity. This matters for salvation. The Father planned it, the Son accomplished it, and the Spirit brings us to enjoy it. We are saved by the one God who works in perfect harmony. When we are baptized, we are marked as belonging to this triune God. When we pray, worship, and trust the Lord, we are dealing with the living God as he has revealed himself.

Object lesson: What is your name? You might have a first, middle, and last name but people do not ask what are your names but what is your name.

Simple questions: Who are the three persons named in Matthew 28:19? How do they work in harmony?

Going deeper: Why do you think Jesus used the singular word “name” instead of the plural word “names”?

Day 3 — We See the Three Persons Together

Scripture: Matthew 3:16–17 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’

At Jesus' baptism, we see something precious and clear. The Son is standing in the water. The Spirit descends like a dove. The Father speaks from heaven. All three persons are present, and each person is distinct. This scene helps us avoid confusion. The Father did not become the Son, and the Son did not become the Spirit. The one God exists in three persons. This also shows us the beauty of God's plan. The Son has come to obey where Adam failed. The Father delights in him. The Spirit rests upon him for his ministry. Jesus is the beloved Son who came to save sinners. He did not come reluctantly. He came in willing obedience to the Father, in the power of the Spirit. When we think about the Trinity, we should not think only of a hard doctrine. We should think of the living God acting in history for our salvation. The Father sent, the Son obeyed, and the Spirit empowered. The Trinity is not a puzzle to Christians who believe what God's Word says, it is a truth that we should praise God for.

Object lesson: Show or think about the picture on a puzzle box. We can learn a lot from a picture. What may seem mysterious at first becomes more clear when we see the big picture.

Simple questions: Who was in the water at Jesus' baptism? Who spoke from heaven? Who came down like a dove?

Going deeper: How does Jesus' baptism guard us against the false idea that the Father, Son, and Spirit are just one person acting in different ways?

Day 4 — Jesus Shows Us the Father

Scripture: John 14:9 Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

Jesus is not merely a teacher who tells us about God from a distance. He is the eternal Son of God who came into the world. That is why he can say, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” He does not mean that he is the Father. He means that he perfectly reveals the Father because he shares the same divine nature. If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. See his holiness, his compassion, his truth, his power, his mercy, and his love. Jesus heals the sick, receives sinners, rebukes hypocrisy, and lays down his life for his people. In all of this, he shows us the heart of God. The Son is not less than God. He is fully God. This gives us comfort. We do not wonder whether God is kind to sinners who come through Christ. Jesus shows us. We do not wonder whether God is willing to save. Jesus shows us. The Son reveals the Father perfectly because he is of one being with the Father. So when we worship Jesus, we are not dishonoring God. We are honoring the Son just as we honor the Father.