

comes and gives life to. Our second part is active. Once we have been gifted faith we are called upon to receive the Spirit as our Helper and the Comforter of our souls.

Object Lesson – Have you ever had food stuck in your teeth and didn't realize it?

Ask – How did you end up finding out about the food?

Explain – You often can't see what's stuck in your own teeth. A friend or helper has to help you by telling you about it. Likewise, we in our sin need someone outside ourselves to tell us our state. This includes the gospel preacher who speaks with words, and the Holy Spirit who speaks those words into our hearts.

Go Deeper – If you are a believer do you still need the Spirit to convict you of sin? Why or why not?

Day 5 – The Trinity works in Unity

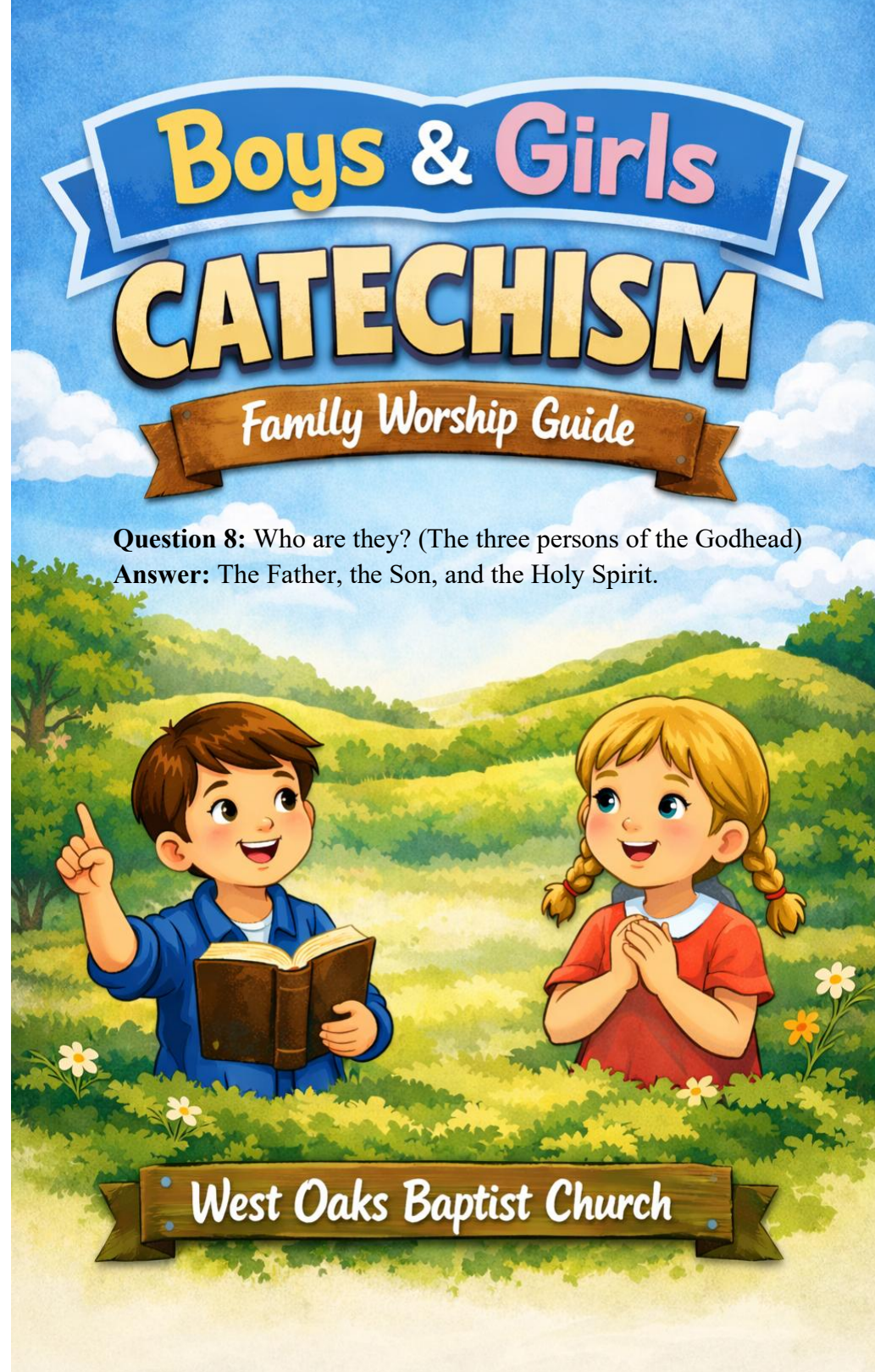
Scripture – 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

We have spent this week considering how our communion with God comes to us from each person of the Trinity. We are loved by the Father who then calls on us to love Him in return. We receive the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ who we commit to daily serving as our Bridegroom. We are filled with the Spirit, who communicates to us all the benefits of our salvation. While we ought consider the role each person of the Trinity plays in our salvation, it is important that we don't lose sight of the Unity of God. God is One. He has a singular will. As such the persons of the Trinity can never be completely separated in their activity. Numerous verses in the New Testament highlight this. One example from Paul is helpful. 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. When we consider the spiritual gifts we often think of the Holy Spirit and his activity. Yet Paul ascribes the gifts to each one of the Trinity.

Ask – What can happen when we don't pay attention to the different ways the Divine Persons work in our experience of salvation?

Explain – God in His word frequently identifies different ways in which the Persons of the Trinity work to carry out our salvation. To ignore these teachings is to lose an understanding of what God has done. We also lose a chance to commune more closely with him.

Go Deeper – What danger is there of forgetting the Three Persons are completely unified in their will and works?



Day 1 — Fellowship with God

Scripture – 1 John 1:3 (ESV) that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Why is it important that we learn about the Trinity? The teaching of the Trinity tells us that there is one God who exists in three Persons. Some people have thought the Trinity is too confusing and we shouldn't worry too much about trying to understand it. The reason we need to learn about the Trinity is because we want to have a relationship with God. You can't have a relationship with someone you don't know. The people you have close relationships with are those you know well. What is true about people is even more true about God. The Apostle John teaches us that having a relationship (communion) with God is something that we gain through each of the persons of the Trinity. 1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. If you want to grow in your own relationship with God you need to learn to start relating to each of the three persons of the Godhead. We will spend this week exploring how to do that.

Object Lesson – Think of your closest friends. How often do you spend time with them?

Ask – If you never saw your closest friends or spent time with them, would you really have much of a relationship with them?

Explain – We need to have a living and growing relationship with God. That involves spending time with him and getting to know him.

Go Deeper – How much time have you been spending recently in communion with God? Do you need to repent and seek him again?

Day 2 – The Love of the Father

Scripture – Romans 5:8 God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We are looking this week at the Trinity and how we experience our communion with God through each of the divine persons. When we think about God the Father, one of the defining components of our relationship to him is love. Love is both that which God extends to us and the which we extend back to him. It is important to remember that order. 1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us. God is the one who chose to love us, even when we were unlovable. He reached out to make a way for the relationship between us to be restored. It is this love of God the Father that Paul highlights in Romans 5:8 God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Notice that even while we focus on the love of God the Father for us, we can't help but see how Jesus is the one who demonstrates that love for us. Our experience of any member of the Trinity is never in isolation. Every time we focus on one divine person, the other two are right there.

Ask – Why is it important that God loved us first?

Explain – Before God loved us we were sinners who would never choose to love him like we should. We needed God to save us. Once he changed our hearts and forgave our sins we could then love him back.

Go Deeper – How should we respond to the love God has shown us?

Day 3 – The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Scripture – John 1:16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

When it comes to communion with the divine Persons we are probably most familiar with having a relationship with Jesus. We know that Jesus died to establish a relationship with his people. When we believe in Jesus for salvation we know that we are coming to him, expecting him to save us. If we are to try and narrow down the main characteristic of relationship we have with Jesus it is one marked by grace. John 1:16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. Jesus came and died for us. We did not deserve his sacrifice. Rather he offered it freely as a gift. He did this to form an unbreakable bond with his people, a marriage bond. Jesus has committed himself even as a husband promises to love his wife 'till death do us part'. He will never leave you Christian. While the relationship we have with Jesus is one of grace, undeserved, that doesn't mean we stay inactive in this communion. We also, in response to our loving Husband, commit ourselves to Him. You do this when you first believe in him. You then are called to daily receive and embrace Jesus for all of your days.

Object Lesson – What is your most recent gift that you received?

Ask – Did you work for your gift or pay your own money for it? Would it have been a gift if you had worked for it?

Explain – Romans 4 says if we had worked for our salvation it would be owed to us. The problem is God could never owe us salvation. We deserve judgement for our sins. God gave us salvation as a free gift.

Go Deeper – How are you to receive this free gift? Read Romans 4:1-8.

Day 4 – The Help of the Spirit

Scripture – John 16:8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. His activity is highlighted by the work of the Father and the Son because the Spirit comes to work out the salvation of God in our lives. In this way his work is actually the most personal and His communion most sweet. Jesus speaks of the Spirit in terms of a Helper and a Comforter. How does he come to us? John 16:8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: The Spirit begins by convicting us of sin and bringing us to trust in Jesus for our salvation. His work then continues in the work of sanctification through the rest of our lives. Jesus promises this as well. John 16:13a When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth... What is our part in the communion we have with the Spirit? Our first part is passive. We are dry, dead bones that the Spirit