

to have two natures. One of the most delightful truths about God is that He, though a Spirit and completely different from us, took on a nature like ours. He did this in order to save us, so that we can now relate to God in and through Jesus Christ. He is called the God-man, the one mediator between God and man. The apostle John put it this way: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (ESV) The invisible God became visible in Jesus Christ. God, who is a Spirit and does not have a body like us, took on human nature. All so that He could live, suffer, die and raise to give us eternal life.

Object lesson: Have you ever had a difficult subject, like math, or science? How did it feel when you grasped a new concept or were able to solve a difficult problem?

Going deeper: Some biblical concepts are easy to grasp, and others take time and faith to understand. Even the apostle Peter, who saw the risen Lord said of the scripture “There are some things in them that are hard to understand.” If you struggle to understand some ideas, don’t lose heart. You’re in good company!

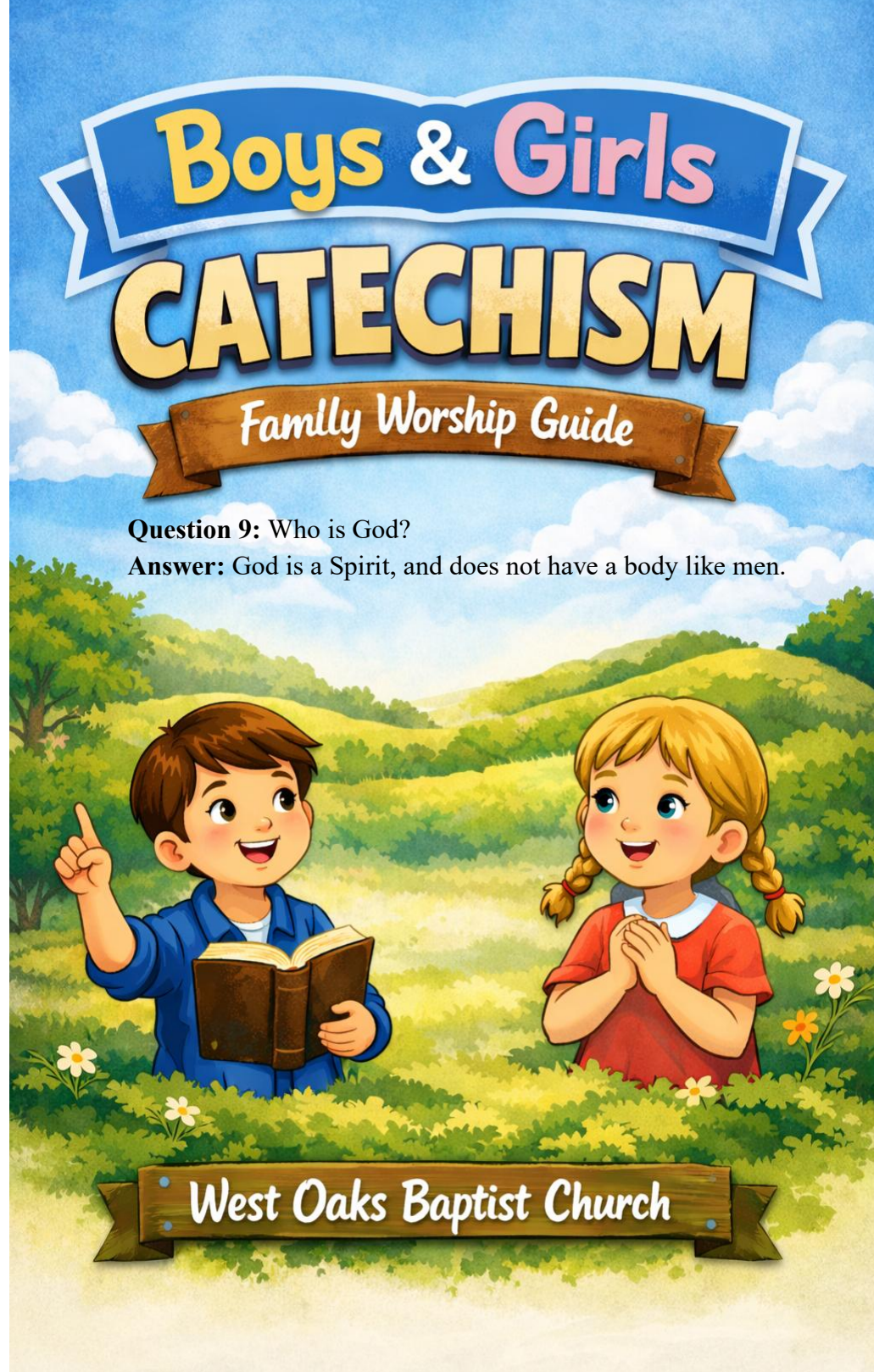
Day #5

Hebrews 2:7-8 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor,8 putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

In Jesus Christ, we see the union of divinity and humanity. Jesus was the perfect man who represented us before a Holy God. And He, by virtue of His victorious resurrection and ascension to heaven, is due all worship, honor, and praise. The verse for today’s catechism study says that he was made a little lower than the angels. In his human nature, he was humbled and lived a human life, with all its difficulty. Though he faced every kind of difficulty, trial, and temptation that you and I face, and he never sinned. He never turned his back on God. He never failed to love the Lord God with all his heart, soul, mind, and might. This leads us back to the verse: John 4:24 (ESV) God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. Everything that we learn about Jesus leads us to worship God in spirit and truth. As we look upon the marvelous life, the submission in death, the glory in the resurrection, we are led to worship God.

Ask: Is your worship of God focused on the person and works of Jesus Christ?

Going deeper: As a meditation for worship, Consider Hebrews 1:1-4 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...



Day #1

Scripture – John 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Last week we discussed the importance of understanding the triune nature of God, so that we might relate to God rightly. This week will explore an attribute of God that help us to worship him rightly. We know, without anyone explaining to us, that God, who created you and me, is not at all like you and me. One of the key distinctions is that God is a pure spiritual being. He doesn't have a body, nor is he made up of parts. He is One whole, and He could be described as very existence itself. We, on the other hand, are a mixture of flesh, and spirit. We are both earthly and spiritual beings, with a nature that is given attributes of God, being made in His likeness. Jesus tells us that God is Spirit, and He is not limited by location and time. And neither is true worship! Spiritual worship has an inward reality that goes beyond the rituals of the Old Covenant. In speaking of these things, Jesus was pointing to himself as the means and object of all true worship of God. Understanding this will help us to rightly conceive God in our minds, and to respond to Him correctly in worship.

Object lesson: Have you ever seen in person, or on a screen forms of false worship? Oftentimes false worship

involves veneration of statues or figures.

Ask: According to today's scripture reading, what specifically is wrong about this kind of false worship?

Going deeper: Can you think of ways you can offer God worship "in spirit and in truth"?

Day #2

Scripture – Timothy 1:17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

One of the implications of God's nature as a Spirit is that we cannot see God. True worship of God requires faith. Faith is required because, though we cannot see Him, He is as real as anything we can see with eyes! True worship, consequently, is a spiritual reality. True worship happens in a spiritual realm that we cannot comprehend with our senses. Worship according to the Old Covenant was very different. There were sacrifices that you could see, touch, smell, and in some cases, even taste. If you were a priest, you could have seen the inside of the tabernacle or the temple, with its golden gleaming furniture, with the smell of incense, and the bleating of the animals outside. And yet, even in the Old Covenant we see that God instructs His people to look beyond the symbols to the spiritual reality of the True and Living God. Stephen, before his death testified to the Jewish elders in Acts 7:48-50 (ESV) 48 Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, 49 "'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? 50 Did not my hand make all these things?' The nature of true worship, even under the Old Covenant, is worship that is done in faith to God, who we do not see. Though we may see physical representations of God in the Old Covenant, God is a Spirit, and we must approach him by faith, and not by sight.

Object lesson: Have you ever played "pin the tail on the donkey" or been a party with a piñata?

Ask: Would either of these games be fun if the blindfold is taken off?

Going deeper: Here is a question for self reflection: Do you struggle with doubting God's existence? If so, ask God to help you to believe in Him, by faith.

Day #3

Scripture – I Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

Another implication of God's nature as a Spirit, is that He is not limited like you or I by time and space. We can't be in two places at one time. And we definitely can't be everywhere at once! But God can. We call this attribute of God's nature "omnipresence", and it means being all, every, everywhere, or entirely present. Imagine that- God can rightfully say He is everywhere and entirely present. One of the most pervasive themes in the New Testament is the "everywhere present" nature of God. Previously, under the Old Covenant, the Hebrew people acknowledged that God's throne and His dwelling place was in heaven, and his designated place of worship was the temple. However, the apostles testify that there is a new temple, one that has legs! It's a new kind of temple where God can dwell. That dwelling place individually, is you and me, all those that belong to Jesus Christ. Collectively, this temple is the Church. God is no longer worshiped according to outward rituals in a physical place, but in a new and living way, made possible by God's presence with us, even inside of us! This is the marvelous reality of the gospel of Jesus Christ- that through faith in Him, we can be made new, and be made into a holy place for God (who is Spirit) to now live in us.

Object lesson: Describe the most beautiful building you remember being inside

Ask: What makes a building beautiful? In what ways has God made his church (think the people, not the buildings) beautiful?

Going deeper: In what way is God's everywhere presence made known through the Church?

Day #4

Scripture – Philippians 2:6-8 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

When we consider the reality that God is Spirit, we run into a hurdle. Jesus, we confess, is God. And God is Spirit. So, how can these two truths be? Besides the nature of the Triune God, the greatest mystery of our faith is the incarnation of the Son of God. We have to look at how the scripture describes the Lord Jesus. He is, in fact God, pre-existent with the Father before the world began. We also read that Jesus took to himself the form of a servant, submitting to a death on the cross. So then, we have a Savior that is both God Almighty, and at the same time a man. He is the God-man, the one person in history