

obeyed. Yet, each of the chiefs above has limits on his authority. God's authority has no limits. That is why he is the 'chiefest Being'. There is no one like him or above him. Exodus 15:11 declares, "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?" Everyone or everything that tries to steal God's authority is an idol and pretend god. Of these Psalm 95:3 says, "For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods."

Discussion Questions

- Read Psalm 92:8. How long will God be the chiefest being?
- What are some common idols (false gods) that people make chief in their lives above God?
- What idols are you placing as chief above God in your own life?
- Is there anything that you need to change in your life to put away any idols you are holding on to?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Since God is the chiefest being what sort of demands does that place on you as his creature? He is your chief so you ought to obey his commands. Can you think what some of those might be? How many of the Ten Commandments can you list? Sometimes we tend to think about obeying God's commands as a list of rules we need to follow. The bible talks about obedience as deeper than that. It is a matter of the heart. Since God is the chiefest being then he ought to be chiefly LOVED and chiefly FEARED! Deuteronomy 6:5 says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" and Deuteronomy 6:13 says, "It is the Lord your God you shall fear." Jesus tells us in the New Testament that the law is summed up in the command to love God with all that we are. While we are familiar with the command to love, we are sometimes confused about the command to fear. The fear of God starts in the sinner as a fear of the one who will judge our sins. In Matthew 10:28 Jesus warns us, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." It is this very fear that should drive you to turn to Jesus in faith and ask him to save you from your sins. If you have done that then the fear of God begins to look a little different for you. You no longer fear God because you are under his wrath. You fear God because he has become the most important (the chief Being) in your life. You love him supremely and as the one you love most he is the one you would most hate to offend. This kind of fear, as well as the love Jesus commanded, can only come from a heart that has been born again!

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think you need a new heart to love and fear God chiefly?
- Do you fear God?
- What kind of fear do you have, fear of judgement or fear of offending a loving Father?
- How do you think those two kinds of fear might look different in a person's life?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, September 10th, 2023)

Baptist Catechism Question #1

Q: Who is the first and chiefest being?

A: *God is the first and chiefest being.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Isaiah 44:6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Being the first is a special place to be. The first one usually gets to start things off how they like and establish rules for those who come after them. The first kids out on the playground start the game the way they like with the rules they choose. Those who arrive later are stuck joining in the game already started. They must join in with the rules they didn't choose, and the teams already established. Families work the same way. When a man and wife marry, they establish a new household. They are the first and the children who come after have to follow the rules, regulations, and habits of the mom and dad. Among the children, it's the first child who sets the course for the rest of the children who follow. It's the same in most areas of life. The first explorer claims the new land for their nation. The first king establishes the rules of his kingdom. The first inventor gets to name his invention (and maybe make a bit of money off it as well!) Being the first is a special place to be. Can you think of other firsts? Of all the firsts you can think of there is a first that comes before them all. That first is God Himself! Before He created all things God always existed. Nothing came before him!

Discussion Question

- How should you act toward God since he is the first Being?
- What do you owe him? What do you need from him?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

God is first in creation, providence, and salvation. God was the only one there before the beginning began. When he decided it was the right time God began his work of creation. The Bible tells us in the very first verse, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) God wasn't just first when he created all things. He continues to be first in keeping everything going just according to His plan. We call this work of directing and keeping things going 'providence'. The Bible tells us about God's providence when it says, "In him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 18:28) Finally, God is first in his work of salvation! God made everything. He continues to keep everything going just according to plan. That plan was ultimately to save sinners by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, to come to us as a man and die on the cross for our sins. God didn't decide to send Jesus as a backup plan. He was first in planning this, "as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world." (Ephesians 1:4) He is also first in saving each of his people. The bible says "We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

Discussion Questions

- Many people deny that God created everything. They say it came about by chance and continues by chance. Do you believe God created you and all things?
- Do you live like every breath comes from God?
- Has God saved you? How would you know?
- What do you think you should do if you haven't experienced God's salvation?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

God is the first Being and all other things came from him. He was first in creating. He continues to be first in providence (keeping and directing). He is first in saving us. We don't go to him first and then he saves us. He comes to us first, when we are lost sinners, and he saves us by his grace. This has important implications for how we live our lives. The bible teaches us that God should be first in our thoughts. We should think of him and pray to him in the morning, at night, and every time in between!!! Read these verses and think about what they mean for making God first in your thoughts. "O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch. (Psalm 5:3) "my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;" (Psalm 63:5,6) "Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!" (Psalm 105:4) Not only ought God to be first in our thoughts. Our very lives belong to him and we should give ourselves to him first, before anything or anyone else. Paul says the Macedonian Christians "gave themselves first to the Lord." (1 Corinthians 8:5) When they did this, that led them to serve Paul and the other Christians with their time, money, and resources. They grew as Christians because they gave themselves to God and believed the Bible which says, "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19,20)

Discussion Questions

- Does making God first in your thoughts mean you can't think about anything else?
- If not, what does it mean for all the other things you need to think about?
- How might your life change if you gave yourself first to the Lord?
- Are there thoughts, actions or outright sins you need to repent of that steal God's place as first in your life?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

What do you think of when you here the word 'chief'? Perhaps you think of a Native American tribe and their wise, old leader? He tells them where to camp, when to move, and how to find food for their families. You might also think of a Fire Chief or the Police Chief. These are the men in charge of all the other fire fighters or policemen. They give orders that are to be followed by all the men under them. Our President is himself called the 'commander in chief'. This means he is the leader who is supremely in charge of all our country's armed forces. You can see that when someone is 'chief' they are the one who is above all the others and to whom everyone else looks for leadership. They command and their commands are to be