

you and I do when we sin. We know God is there and has told us not to sin. Yet, we decide to act like God doesn't exist and sin anyway. The Bible calls such unbelief foolishness (Jeremiah 4:22 "For my people are foolish; they know me not; they are stupid children; they have no understanding. They are 'wise'—in doing evil! But how to do good they know not."), shameful (1 Corinthians 15:34 "Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame."), perverted (Jeremiah 3:21 "they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the Lord their God."), and inexcusable (Romans 1:20 "So they are without excuse."). Only Jesus can save us from such ignorance. Read Psalm 92:8. How long will God be the chiefest being?

Discussion Questions

- When you sin, what are you implying about God?
- Are you regularly aware that God is everywhere?
- Does that idea scare you?
- What would it look like for you to live like God is real and always present?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

A few years ago I (Pastor Joshua) and my family travelled to see a solar eclipse. Before seeing the eclipse I knew a lot about the eclipse. I had seen pictures in books of the sun being covered up by the moon. I had read descriptions of how the sky becomes suddenly dark, the temperature drops in moments, and it appears to be sunset on the 360 degree horizon. Though I had plenty of knowledge about the eclipse I didn't know the eclipse for myself. Finally, my family gathered on the day of the eclipse, and I saw a breath-taking sight. All I had read and all the pictures I had seen paled in comparison to the actual event. Now, what if I had stayed inside that day? What if because I had already learned enough, I decided I didn't need to see the real thing? I would have missed out on an experience that I will never forget. Before coming to believe in Jesus, our knowledge of God is like my knowledge of the eclipse. Creation and our own hearts tell us about who God is and how amazing He is. But in our sin we are like what I would have been if I had stayed inside when the eclipse came. We decide we know enough and God isn't really as wonderful, amazing, and supreme as we have been told. If you repent and believe in Jesus you will come to know the living and true God.

Discussion Questions

- Do you know about God or do you know God?
- How can you tell the difference?
- If you know God tell the story of how you came to believe in Him.

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, September 17th, 2023)

Baptist Catechism Question #2

Q: Ought everyone to believe there is a God?

A: *Everyone ought to believe there is a God; and it is their great sin and folly who do not.*

Suggested Memory Verse

(Psalm 14:1) The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever heard someone say, “God doesn’t exist!” We call people like this who deny the existence of God ‘atheists’. There are other people who don’t completely deny God exists but they say they aren’t sure if he exists or not. These people we call ‘agnostics’. They are happy living like God isn’t real even if they say they aren’t sure. Some of the smartest, richest, and most influential people in the world are atheists. They are teachers, doctors, businessmen, scientists, and politicians. It can be difficult to hear such smart and intelligent people say there is no God. You may be tempted to question God’s existence yourself. Yet the Bible is not surprised at the rise of the atheists. There were atheists back in the days of the Bible. Read Psalm 14:1 again, The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. The Bible says that those who deny God’s existence are fools. They may seem smart and full of knowledge, but they are foolish in their hearts. The reason they are fools is because they know God exists but refuse to accept it. They will believe lies instead of the clear truth of their Creator God. True wisdom is to believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God who created all things and then became one of us to die for our sins. If you believe this you are wiser than the smartest atheist.

Discussion Question

- Who do you know that is an atheist or an agnostic?
- Have you ever felt ashamed of believing in God because other people say you shouldn’t?
- What are some things you can do when you start to feel like the atheists might be right?
- Who can you talk to?
- Where can you go to read the truth about God?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

God declares in His Word that it is foolish to say, “there is no God”. Yet, so many people in our world do this very thing. They think they can get along just fine without believing in the God who made them. Does it sometimes seem to you like the unbelievers are doing just fine? Let’s suppose you met a man who said, “I don’t need to eat food!” He might seem ok for a time. What would happen to him the longer he kept from eating? He would become thinner and thinner. He would become weaker and weaker. Eventually that man who refuses to eat food would grow sick and die. The man who refuses to believe in God is much like the man who refuses to eat. He may appear ok for a time, but something is happening to his spirit, on the inside, that is leading to death. This sickness of the soul will show itself differently than the sickness of the body. We see the effects on the man who refuses to eat when his body grows physically thinner, weaker, and sicker. We see the effects on the man who refuses to believe in God in what he does. Psalm 14:1 says of the fool, “They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does

good.” God gives the man who refuses to believe in Him over to his sin so that he loves it more and more. He can do nothing truly good.

Discussion Questions

- Read Romans 1:24-32. What are some consequences of not believing in God?
- Do you sin in these ways?
- If you are a Christian, how has your faith changed your sin?
- What should you do when you sin like this?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

If you have grown up in a Christian home and grown up going to a Christian church, then you are used to hearing that God exists! Christians talk about God. They pray to God. They read the Bible, a book that is from God and tells us about God. You have probably heard a lot about God. But what about people who didn’t grow up in Christian homes? What about people who grew up in other religions or in parts of the world where there are very few Christians around? How can they believe there is a God? Is it really “their great sin and folly” that they haven’t believed in God? The Bible answers these important questions for us. Who does the Bible say has knowledge that God exists? The heavenly angels believe God exists. Revelation 4:8 relates the angels saying, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” More surprising to us is that the Bible says even the demons believe God exists. James 2:19 says, “Even the demons believe—and shudder!” Finally, the Bible says that every person who has ever lived has known that God exists. Romans 1:19 says, “For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.” God has shown every person the proof of His existence by creating all things and creating us in His image.

Discussion Questions

- What are different ways God has shown you who He is?
- Have you ever excused yourself from obeying God?
- What sort of excuses have you used?
- Does the Bible let us excuse our sin?
- What should you do if you realize you are excusing sin?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Romans 1 tells us that everyone knows there is a God. Romans 1:20 states, “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.” God has shown us who He really is in creation. Have we believed what He has shown us? The Bible says apart from Jesus we haven’t. Romans 1:21 states, “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” We have gone from God telling us who He is to acting like he isn’t there. This is what