

## Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Let's focus on two words from this week's catechism question: "Fully" and "Effectually". The word "fully" is easy for us to understand, but the word "effectually" may be a new one for you. The root word is "effect." We use that word to describe a change that happens. "Effectually" brings to mind the idea of a desired outcome. God's word, that is the bible, as we've discussed is the final and full revelation to mankind by God of his own character and attributes. It provides for us full revelation, and it's exactly what we need to know about what God is like, what he requires of us, and how we might be saved. This is what the catechism question is telling us: God's word, found in the Bible alone, is what we need to understand him fully. Yet the bible is not all we need! God's word gives us the content that we need to understand, but not the faith to believe that what he says is true. For that we need his Holy Spirit. In that sense, God's word is not "effectual" for the salvation of sinners, that is, not everyone who hears the word preached or who opens the bible is saved. Just because someone hears something from the bible doesn't mean it will have an "effect" on them. The bible is full of stories of those who heard the word but did not change because the Holy Spirit was not working in them to believe.

### Discussion Questions

- Scripture reading: Isaiah 6:9. Question: Who are those who have a dull heart and hear God's word "without understanding"?
- Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 3:6. Question: What can the Spirit do that that God's moral law, by itself, cannot?
- Scripture reading: Luke 11:13. Question: How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

# Baptist Catechism Family Worship Guide



## West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

### Baptist Catechism Question #3

**Q:** How may we know there is a God?

**A:** *The light of nature in man and the works of God plainly declare there is a God; but his word and Spirit only do it fully and effectually for the salvation of sinners.*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (ESV)

## Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Imagine if you woke up suddenly alone in a cave and it was pitch black. Would you be able to tell you were in a cave? I bet you could. If you shouted, you'd hear echoes of your voice off the walls and ceiling of the cave. You could feel the stillness of the air around you. You could feel the roughness of the ground and walls around you. Now imagine yourself in a cave that is lit up with bright lights all around, and there is a guide with you pointing out all the amazing things to see. This would be a totally different experience, wouldn't it? Because we are made in the image of God, there are things we can understand about God simply by living in God's world. Like being in the cave with no lights on, you could know that you're in a cave, but you'd know nothing about the marvelous things inside the cave. When we have God's word (a light), and the Holy Spirit (a Guide) helping us, we can see clearly who God is, and all that we need to know about God and what he requires of us.

### Discussion Question

- Scripture reading: Psalm 119:105 Question: How can God's word light our path?
- Scripture reading: John 16:13-14 Question: Jesus, before his death, promised his disciples that he would not leave them alone but that he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them and guide them. How does the Holy Spirit help us to know Jesus?

## Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The bible tells us that we are God's creatures, created in his image. It also teaches us that we are fallen creatures, who are separated from God by our sin. We are not only those who sin in all kinds of ways, but we are by our very nature sinners and not able to love God or obey him. That is, unless Christ sets us free from our sin and gives us a new heart! At the same time, humans are not so hopelessly lost that we are without the knowledge of God. He has given men a light in the darkness of their sin so that they may know that there is a God. This light doesn't give us a clear picture, but it does show us that He exists. God has made himself known to humans. By looking at what he's made and listening to our thoughts, we can know that God exists.

### Discussion Questions

- Scripture reading: Proverbs 20:27 Question: The bible tells us we are created with an inner voice that is a witness to God and his truth- have you ever heard your "inner voice" telling you that God is real? What was that like?
- Scripture reading: Ephesians 4:18 Question: The scriptures teach us that our thinking has been damaged by the fall of our first parents Adam and Eve, and that they passed on to us this way of thinking. The bible describes this way of thinking as "darkened". How can our darkened thinking be changed?
- Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 2:14 Question: We read in the scriptures that knowing the truth about God is only possible if we are born again. Can you think of a time in your life when you really understood something true about God?

## Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The book of Romans teaches us that because God created us and all things - that we can look around us and know that behind what we can see with our eyes, there is an invisible power. We can't see God, but we can see the works of creation and understand that God made everything we do see. God also reveals himself through what we call "providence." Providence means God's care and control over His creation. The Lord tells us that he sends sun to shine and the rain to fall on both the good and evil, and that the fruitful harvest is evidence of God's love and care for his creation. The good things that God provides for all people is another proof that points to God's existence.

### Discussion Questions

- Scripture reading: Romans 1:20. Question: If you were to explain to a friend who didn't know God, what kinds of things could you point to that demonstrate God's power and God's love?
- Scripture reading: Psalm 19:1. Question: What about the night sky displays God's character or attributes?
- Scripture reading: Psalm 139:14. When you look at your body, what does that reveal to us about who God is?

## Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever heard someone start a sentence like this: "I think that God..."? Lots of people have lots of ideas about what God is like- what He cares about, what He says is right and wrong, and how we can please Him. Some people have even started their own religions, claiming to have an inside track on the truth about who God is. Thankfully for us, we don't have to guess what God is like! God has revealed himself in this holy word, by speaking to men in ages past, he inspired them to write down the words that they handed down to us. These writings, taken together are what make up our Bible. God has inspired and preserved this special book and has given it to his church so that we might know God. The bible tells us what God is like, what it is that he requires of us, and how we may be saved. You see, God wants his people to have a clear picture of who His, and we find this picture of him, his attributes and character, in the bible alone.

### Discussion Questions

- Scripture reading: 2 Timothy 3:16. Question: What, according to this passage, is the scripture good for?
- Scripture reading: 2 Peter 1:19. Question: Based on the discussions from the past couple of days, why do we need a light? How does God's word provide the light we need?
- Scripture reading: 8:20. Question: There are many people who claim knowledge of God but go to other sources besides God's word for that knowledge. Why should we reject such knowledge, and how can we do to help us know the difference between "knowledge" and God's word?