

Discussion Questions

- How do you know when a rule is from God or man-made?
- Have you ever followed the popular opinion of society knowing it was not from God?
- When should you follow Christians?
- Is the Bible your only sufficient, certain, and infallible standard of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The Word of God was largely written in Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament). What if it had never been translated into your language? You would either have to learn Hebrew and Greek to read and understand the Bible or depend on others to tell you what it said. It is important that the scriptures (God's revelation to man) be made intelligible to the people who hear it, because giving understanding is the whole purpose of revelation. 1 Corinthians 14:6 says, *“Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?”* Paul continues and says in verses 9–11, *“So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.”* The entire worship service is to be structured in such a way as to build up the church, according to verse 26, *“What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”* This is especially true when it comes to reading the scriptures in a manner understandable by the people gathered.

Discussion Questions

- How many languages do you speak and or understand?
- Since we have so many English translations, is there any value in learning Hebrew or Greek?
- How important is the translation of the Bible into the languages of unreached people groups?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, October 1st, 2023)

Baptist Catechism Question #4

Q: What is the word of God?

A: *The holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God, and the only certain rule of faith and obedience.*

Suggested Memory Verse

2 Timothy 3:16–17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When we say “the WORD of God,” we mean both the revelation of God through His son Jesus Christ and the words written and recorded for us by holy men as they were taught by the Holy Spirit. We often say that the word of God (the Bible) is inspired. Most dictionaries define *inspired* as “to influence, move, or guide by divine or supernatural influence or action.” In other words, God guided the hands and thoughts of the men who wrote scripture. Some people would question whether the Old Testament is inspired by God as well as the New Testament, but we believe that *all* of the Bible is inspired and perfect. There is a big plaque on Pike’s Peak commemorating the lyrics to the patriotic song “America the Beautiful,” which was written by Katharine Lee Bates in July of 1893 as she sat, inspired by God’s creation and its beauty. From the mountain top at 14,000 feet, she could see as the song says... “O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain, For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!” God’s creation inspires us to an extent, but even greater is the inspiration that God revealed to the authors of scripture, and to us... through His Word. “*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*” --2 Timothy 3:16–17

Discussion Question

- Have you ever been inspired to draw, write a poem, compose a song, or create in some way?
- What does it mean that scripture was breathed out by God?
- Does God’s inspired Word affect you by teaching you? Correcting you? Training you? Or does it just not really affect you? Why or why not?
- God’s Word to us contains the Gospel (the good news). What makes it good?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The men God used to pen the Bible often seemed aware that what they were writing was inspired. David said in 2 Samuel 23:2, “*The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.*” John said in Revelation 1:1 “*The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John...*” Peter said in 2 Peter 1:21 “*For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*” God even authenticated his revealed Word in the early church. Hebrews 2:4 says, “*while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.*” When the written word of God was complete and written down, there was no need for any more revelation, which we see in 1 Corinthians 13:9–10, “*For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.*” That word *perfect* is talking about scripture. It is now complete, and the Bible warns us of adding to it or taking anything away. “*You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.*” -- Deuteronomy 4:2

Discussion Questions

- In what ways does God communicate to you?
- If someone told you that God revealed something new to them, what might you say?
- What makes the Word of God unique and special?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

People don’t naturally like rules, but God has given us commands and rules in His Word. Unlike unbelievers, God’s people have a changed heart that makes them desire to follow His commands. Scripture says in Psalm 119:105, “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*” It is useful, desired, and needed because, as Isaiah 53:6 shows us, “*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way...*” His commands are perfect and life-giving, as we see in Psalm 19:7 “*The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul...*” The Bible also says that the law of God is plain and simple to understand. Proverbs 8:8–9 says “*All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are all straight to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.*” God’s Word is the only rule we have in life and faith, and it is sufficient for salvation.

Discussion Questions

- What kind of rules do you have in life?
- Do you find comfort in having rules and boundaries?
- Have you gone astray and turned from God?
- Do you desire to obey God or run from His commands?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

All of us have opinions--some good, some bad. When we hear or read the opinions of others, we should be careful not to elevate these traditions and man-made rules to the level of Scripture. The Bible warns us about this in Matthew 15:6, “*So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.*” The authority of churches and of the men who work in the church should never rival the authority of scripture itself. We read in Isaiah 28:7 “*...the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are swallowed by wine, they stagger with strong drink, they reel in vision, they stumble in giving judgment.*” Similarly, just because many people are doing something does not make it a good reason to follow unless they are following Christ and His commands, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*” Not even the voice of angels is to be considered authoritative unless they speak God’s words. Galatians 1:8 warns, “*But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.*” Indeed, the Bible is our only sure and infallible rule for faith. “*And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...*” --2 Peter 1:19