

not just a willingness but an eagerness to hear and obey scripture. In Acts 13:42, the people “begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath.” The Bereans, too, “received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so” (Acts 17:11). Sadly, there are others who push scripture aside and refuse to believe. Acts 13:46 says of the Jews, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.” Even today, there is a reward for those who revere God’s Word and its message, but judgment and destruction for those who despise it (Proverbs 13:13).

Discussion Questions

- Do you devote attention and brain power to listening to God’s word? How?
- Do you believe what you read and hear in the word of God? Give an example.
- What is your attitude when listening and why does that affect your learning?
- Have you ever pushed scripture aside as unbelievable or just not important? Explain.

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

We should take every opportunity to read, learn, and use scriptures. It is a great advantage and a privilege that we have God’s word so readily available to us. Listening to God’s word is both a “get to” and an “ought to” as it is commanded throughout scripture, and it is not just a command for us but for the whole earth. Deuteronomy 32:1 says, “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.” In fact, your pastors have been given commands to make sure they are reading it publicly, encouraging members to read it, teaching on it, and preaching it. Paul urged pastors to “devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching” (1 Timothy 4:13). Why? Because we all need to be instructed by God’s Word... often. In family worship, Pastor Shawn requires each of his children to come up with a thought or a question to share. It helps everyone in the family to engage with the text, because we need it. From the youngest to the oldest, the age doesn’t really matter. Scripture is for all people, everywhere, and for all ages. In 2 Timothy 3:15, we learn it is through early exposure to scripture that Timothy came to saving faith: “...from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Discussion Questions

- Can you name the times you get to both read and hear the word of God?
- Does your church publicly read scripture? Have you ever wondered why?
- When is the first time you can remember scripture being read to you?
- Have the scriptures made you “wise” to salvation by faith in Jesus?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, October 8th, 2023)

Baptist Catechism Question #5

- Q:** May all men make use of the Holy Scriptures?
- A:** *All men are not only permitted, but commanded and exhorted to read, hear, and understand the holy scriptures.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Isaiah 34:16a Seek and read from the book of the LORD: (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Not only can everyone use the scriptures, but God commands and strongly encourages us all to benefit from the scriptures by reading them, hearing them, and understanding them. Isaiah 34:16 says we should... “Seek and read from the book of the LORD.” Should we read them for ourselves? Yes! There are many examples in scripture of people reading them for themselves, like the Ethiopian in Acts 8:28 who “was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.” We should also read to other people, including in private and public settings as well as in church. “You shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing” (Deuteronomy 31:11). Why? Deuteronomy 17:19 says scripture is what helps man “learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them.” We should be attentive when it is read and we should be diligent in seeking out to understand it. In John 5:39, Jesus pointed out the importance of understanding the scriptures rightly, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.” We should prefer scripture over any other writing in the world. In Jeremiah 23:28 we read, “What has straw (chaff) in common with wheat? declares the LORD.” Chaff is the leftover useless bits of grains like wheat and does not even compare. So it is with scripture.

Discussion Question

- How have you used or seen scripture used in the past? Give examples.
- Do you think private and public reading of scripture is different?
- Should you do both?
- Does your life match what you read in scripture?
- Is scripture precious to you?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

What is the oldest book you have ever read, besides the Bible? Was it hard to read or understand? Maybe the language had to be translated, or perhaps the thinking of that time period had drastically changed. This should not stop us from reading older writings, and especially scripture. God’s people have been reading “old texts” since ancient times. Acts 15:21 tells us “For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.” Christ often read the scriptures (Old Testament prophets that would have been considered “ancient” to people in His day). Luke 4:16 says “And he [Christ] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.” Those that did not know or read scriptures were wrong and in error. Take for example the Sadducees who asked questions trying to trick Jesus, who simply said to them in Matthew 22:29 “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.” There is a blessing and benefit to reading the word of God. Don’t miss out on absolute truth. Revelation 1:3 says, “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.”

Discussion Questions

- Should you read older books and writings? Why?
- Do you read the Bible regularly and give it an importance over other books?
- What happens to those who don’t read scripture?
- What kind of blessing might people receive when reading scripture?
- What is the ultimate blessing anyone receives from reading scripture?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

What are the different ways you can “hear” something? Most dictionaries give three basic definitions: 1) to perceive or become aware of by the ear 2) to gain knowledge of by hearing, and 3) to listen to with attention. Should we hear the word of God? John 8:47 says, “Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.” If you hear God’s Word, you should also want to hear all of it. A great example is when Cornelius gathers the gentiles to hear Peter. In Acts 10:33, he says, “Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.” God’s Word should be listened to with reverence and delight. Listening to Jesus teach in the temple, “the great throng heard him gladly” in Mark 12:37. Some things in the Bible may be hard to understand. Even Peter said this about Paul’s writings in 2 Peter 3:16, “There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.” But, we are to be diligent as we seek to hear God’s Word with understanding. In fact, Peter encourages us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Not everybody understands (Romans 1:31), so we should pray for knowledge (Psalm 119:18).

Discussion Questions

- What are different ways you can “hear” God’s word?
- What happens to people that only hear or read part of scripture instead of the whole?
- Do you listen to God’s word with reverence and delight? Explain how.
- What do you do with the hard things to understand in scripture?
- What can you do to help your understanding of scripture?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

We talked last time about hearing the word of God, being diligent in reading so we may grow in knowledge and understanding. It takes attention and brain power. The Bible also says this takes faith! 2 Chronicles 20:20 says, “Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed.” Our attitude when reading and scripture should be one of humility. James 1:21 says to “...receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” We should also have the readiness to obey what we hear, taking it to heart and being careful to do what it says (Deuteronomy 32:46). In fact, children of God often have