

He takes lightly. It's not something that you can make restitution for. You can't do enough or pay enough to make up for your sin. You need the payment Jesus paid on the cross. If you believe in Jesus, His blood pays for your sin and removes your guilt before God.

#### Discussion Questions

- Have you sinned against another (maybe a family member?) and still need to apologize for it? Is there something you need to give back as restitution?
- When you apologize for sins against your family members or others, do you remember to turn first and apologize to God?

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

The story of Adam and Eve's sin in the garden is more than a myth. It's more than a story for children to read. The fall really happened and the truth of the fall affects you each and every day. Last week we talked about the covenant of works that God entered into with Adam in the garden. When Adam sinned he broke this covenant with God and was cursed because of it. Adam didn't do this alone. He was a sort of king, acting on behalf of all his descendants. That means that we all broke it too. The bible alludes to this in Hosea when God speaks about Israel and her sin. Hosea 6:7 *But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.* What Adam did in the beginning, sinning against God, we continue to do over and over again. The fall is our own story and it is a tragedy. Praise God that He didn't let that be the end of the story. God promised in Genesis that He would send a redeemer to save us from the fall. Jesus is that redeemer. If you have trusted in Jesus to save you then your story ends with all that Adam lost being given back to you in abundance!

#### Discussion Questions

- What is the tragedy of Genesis chapter 3? How does it affect you?
- How are you like Adam and Eve?
- How is Jesus the answer to the tragedy of the fall?

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



### West Oaks Baptist Church

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

#### Baptist Catechism Question #16

**Q:** Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

**A:** *Our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

*Ecclesiastes 7:29 See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.*

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

Have you ever wondered about the tragic encounter in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Genesis? How could Adam and Eve make such a mistake? Realize that they were given a gift of freedom to choose of their own will whether to follow God or to believe the lies of Satan. While their sin was encompassed by the sovereign plan and decree of God, Adam and Eve had a free choice and were not forced to eat the forbidden fruit. Ecclesiastes 7:29 *See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.* It can be easy to think that we would make a better choice than Adam and Eve did. If you think you would have done better, remember that Adam and Eve were without sin in the garden. You and I are not like that. We are born with a sinful nature and are slaves of sin. Consider in your own life the many times you have chosen to follow Satan rather than God! Every time you have sinned in your thoughts, or disobeyed God in your actions, you have shown this sinful nature at work. You could not make a better choice than Adam. Only Jesus was able to make the good choice. He chose to follow God's will and die on the cross so you and I could be saved!

### Discussion Question

- What examples can you think of when you have chosen to follow sin and Satan rather than God?
- Why do you think God has to be the one to give a sinner the power to choose Him?
- If you are a believer, how has your ability to choose to follow God changed since turning to Jesus? Can you think of examples?

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

Often we call the events of Genesis chapter 3 "The fall of man". We fall when we stumble and trip. Humpty Dumpty fell down a hill. In the Greek story young Icarus fell out of the sky when his wings melted near the sun. The greater the height at the beginning the greater the fall when it comes. Adam and Eve fell from a great height when they sinned against God. Initially they were created perfect and in the image of God. We can better understand Adam's fall when we look at the different aspects that the fall impacted in Adam's life. Adam experienced a fall from knowledge. Where he once knew God and His law perfectly, and even knew the character of God intimately, his mind became darkened by sin. Ephesians 4:18 *They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.* He also fell in regards to holiness. Adam was made perfect and holy before God. He could walk with God in the garden without fear of judgment. In the fall Adam became unholy, no longer welcomed into the life of God due to his sin. Thirdly, Adam's fall was a fall from freedom. As we looked at yesterday, Adam was created with a freedom of will, enabling him to choose to follow God. When he chose to sin Adam became a slave to sin. John 8:34 *Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.*

### Discussion Questions

- Mankind has gained much knowledge of science in recent years. How do people show that they are still fallen in their understanding?
- Hebrews 12:14 speaks of a *holiness without which no one will see the Lord.* How can Jesus restore your relationship with God?

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

Yesterday we considered the effects of the fall on our knowledge of God, our holiness, and our freedom. Today we look at further effects of the fall on Adam and all mankind. In his fall into sin we see that Adam fell from rest. In the beginning God created Adam with both a task to perform as well as regular cycles of rest and worship. Adam slept daily, slumbered in the creation of Eve, and was given a pattern of weekly rest from labor. The ability of Adam to rest indicates the initial peace he had in the garden. He did not worry to close his eyes. He did not fear to set down his work each sabbath. This peace was lost in the fall. Isaiah 57:21 *"There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."* The loss of peace points to another effect of the fall, the fall from communion with God. Initially Adam walked with God in the garden. After his sin Adam responded very differently to the presence of God. Genesis 3:8 *and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.* Adam lost communion with God and instead experienced fear before his maker. Finally, Adam fell from happiness. The garden was intended to be a place of beauty, sustainment, and delight. Genesis 3:24 *He drove out the man.* Adam was driven out from his place of happiness to experience misery in a fallen world.

### Discussion Questions

- What daily work is the most difficult for you to put aside on the Lord's Day?
- Have you ever felt the desire to hide your sin? Have you ever tried to hide from God?
- How does Jesus give you rest, boldness before God, and delight?

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

Often when we sin we hurt those around us. We lie to our brother. We steal and slander. With anger we attack with our words and seek to hurt those who have offended us. It is easy to see when our sin hurts someone else. Dealing with such sin requires that we apologize to the one we hurt. Sometimes there is restitution to make. What is more difficult to see is that all our sin is not primarily against other people. We see this in Adam and Eve's sin in the garden. They sinned against God by believing the Devil's lies that God's Word isn't true. They sinned against God when they ate the fruit God had forbidden. All sin is primarily against God. David realized this when he considered his own sin with Bathsheba. Psalm 51:3-4 *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.* When you sin the Person you need to be most concerned about is God. He created you and made you for holiness. Your sin isn't something