

would God ever succeed in sending the promised child to destroy Satan and save his people? God did this by sending his son to be born in an unusual and miraculous way. Jesus was not born in the usual way to a mom and dad. The Holy Spirit sent Jesus into the womb of a virgin named Mary. While Joseph would act as Jesus' dad on earth, he was not the one who took part in creating the baby Jesus. This miracle of the virgin giving birth showed that Jesus was not conceived in sin. He was born holy and blameless, a perfect sacrifice for sinners!

Discussion Questions

- How was Jesus' birth different than ours? How was it the same?
- Why is the virgin birth so important in the life of Jesus?
- Some people say belief in the virgin birth isn't all that important. What is wrong with that thinking?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever read stories where the main character discovers that their parents aren't their real parents? Usually in such stories the main character finds out their real parents are very special, perhaps the king and queen! Suddenly they go from being very ordinary to special or extraordinary. Where they were poor, they suddenly discover they are rich. Where they were average, they suddenly find themselves popular. Where they were weak, they suddenly find themselves with power. While some of us may dream about discovering we were actually born into a special family we can't actually escape the shame of our birth families. We are all born into the family of Adam and Eve. As we discussed earlier this week, this means we were born in sin, guilty from birth, with nothing but shame before the creator God. While we may long to wake up in a different family, we can't change where we were born. What we actually need is to be born AGAIN into a new family. This is what Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 *you must be born again!* If you are born again by the Spirit of God then you will discover that you have the riches, power, and righteousness of Jesus Christ as your new inheritance. 1 Corinthians 15:49 *Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever wished you suddenly found out you were really part of a different family?
- How is the Christian life different than these fairy tales? How is the Christian life a better tale than these?
- Have you been born again into God's family?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, January 14th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #19

Q: Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

A: *The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself but for his posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression.*

Suggested Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 *For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

One enjoyable activity some families engage in is a practice of reviewing the family history. Do you know who your grandparents were? Your great-grandparents? How far back can you trace your family tree. When did your ancestors come to the US? What other countries did they come from? Do you know why they moved? Your family history may contain great men and women, heroes of the past. It likely contains villains as well. Whether you can trace your family history for generations, or no farther back than a single generation or two, you actually share the same family history with every other human being on earth. You, like every other human being, are descended from a single man and woman. We read about our family story in the opening pages of Genesis. Genesis 3:20 *The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.* After the fall and God's curse Adam and Eve began to have children. Every single person alive today is one of those descendants. What does it mean that we are all born from Adam and Eve? C.S. Lewis relates, *That is both honour enough to erect the head of the poorest beggar, and shame enough to bow the shoulders of the greatest emperor on earth.* You are a creature who is created in the image of God. That is a great honor. You are also a child of Adam, sharing in his sin. That is a state of great shame.

Discussion Question

- Why is it important that everyone is descended from Adam and Eve?
- How does the theory of evolution change who people think they are?
- How does becoming a Christian change your family history?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

One of the most difficult things I (Pastor Joshua) do in my job as a doctor is to watch people die. It doesn't happen all the time but when it does it is a very sad and sobering experience. I didn't grow up seeing many people die. Over time I have slowly had to face the death of my grandparents. In my job I have seen it more often than many people do. What strikes me each time is that death is something each of us will face one day. Have you ever thought about that? We will all eventually die. This is the result of Adam and Eve's sin in the garden. Genesis 2:17 *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.* Because Adam ate the fruit he (and all of us) died. Romans 5:12 *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—* Sin was the punishment and consequence of sin. It is not something we can escape. Not only will we die physically, when our bodies fail us. We will also die spiritually. We face an eternal judgement of unending death in hell. The only way to escape death is through trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for us!

Discussion Questions

- Have you thought about the fact that you will die? How does that make you feel?
- If the thought of death scares you, what should you do?
- Why do you think Jesus had to die? Spend some time praising Jesus for his sacrifice for us!

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever seen a court room? When a person is accused of a crime it is in a court room that the verdict is decided. Are they guilty or are they innocent? This is a common setting for books, movies, and plays. After all the evidence has been heard and the jury has deliberated, the judge strikes down with his gavel. With great authority he declares his verdict. "Guilty!" When justice prevails then the guilty party is condemned and the innocent go free. When someone is found guilty he hangs his head in shame and defeat. What do you think that feels like? For everyone descended from Adam and Eve that feeling of shame and guilt belongs to us all. We have all been found guilty of Adam's sin. Romans 5:18 *...one trespass led to condemnation for all men...* Because Adam was our representative in the covenant of works then he made his decision for all of us. If he had been faithful to God we would have been innocent with him. Adam was not faithful. He sinned against God and because of his sin we are all guilty with him. The only man not found guilty with Adam was our Lord Jesus Christ. If you want to be free from guilt for Adam's sin you can only do this by turning to Jesus Christ in faith. If you believe in Jesus then he takes Adam's place as your representative. Jesus' innocent verdict is given to you!

Discussion Questions

- Does it seem fair that we are all guilty with Adam? If it doesn't seem fair, consider whether it seems any more fair that you can be innocent because of Jesus.
- Is there a difference between justice and fairness? Is God always just? Is He always fair?
- Are you under the weight and shame of your sin? If so, have you considered asking Jesus to set you free?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

How do we become sinners? According to the catechism all of us who are descended from Adam *by ordinary generation* sinned with Adam when he ate the fruit in the garden. Ordinary generation is the normal way that moms and dads have had kids since the beginning. In the beginning God told Adam and Eve to *be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.* Men and women since that time have continued to have children just like Adam and Eve had children. And each and every child born in this usual way has been born a sinner. Psalm 51:5 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.* David understood that he was a sinner from the moment he was conceived. Since all people born in this way are sinners, how