

Discussion Questions

- What are some miseries that Jesus never experienced?
- What are some miseries that Jesus shared with us?
- What sort of miseries do you struggle under?
- How can you find relief from your misery?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When the catechism speaks of the miseries of our sinful state it concludes with the final miseries of death and hell. The unbelieving world thinks that death is a natural part of this world. They imagine a world of ages of evolving creatures that live and die and slowly develop into man. The Bible describes a very different reality. Death is not something normal, but abnormal. When God created the world there was no death. Adam and Eve were meant to live forever. The animals and creation were never intended to end in death. God created a perfect world that was imbued with His life. When Adam and Eve sinned they realized the reality of the judgement that God had promised. 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.* All the creation was not immune to the effects of this curse. Romans 8:22 *For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.* For the unbeliever, death is not an end to misery but merely the beginning. 2 Thess 1:9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might. Jesus pictures this misery as a fire that is never quenched. Revelation calls this death a lake of fire where torment is experienced forever. These miseries are for those who have not repented and believed in Jesus for salvation.

Discussion Questions

- What do you think it was like before sin was in the world?
- What are some things that would have been very different?
- Is death a misery to the believer, like it is to the unbeliever? Why or why not?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, February 4th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #22

Q: What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

A: *All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under His wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Last week's question helped us understand what it means that we are born in sin. This week we turn from the nature of sin and consider how miserable it is to be a sinner. People don't often think about how miserable they are because they are sinners. We may bemoan our difficult times, our struggles, and our trials. Do we consider how miserable we are simply because we have sinned against God? The question this week lists two major consequences of our sin that then lead us to be miserable. The first consequence is that we have *lost communion with God*. From the moment we are born it is as if the most important person in our life is missing. Before the fall Adam and Eve walked with God in the garden. Genesis 3:8 pictures a regular occurrence in which God would come to them and walk with them *in the garden in the cool of the day*. That is how we were all made to live, walking daily with God. Can you imagine the joy of life as it was intended before the fall. Instead of the first face you see after birth being your parents, you would have seen your God. Day by day you would have grown to know and delight in this God, seeing Him face-to-face without the veil of sin. How devastating that the most important person to us, who made us, is hidden from us.

Discussion Question

- Do you often think about your God. Does He often slip your mind?
- How does Jesus relieve the misery of our broken relationship with God?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The second consequence of our sin listed in the questions this week is that we *are under His wrath and curse*. We talked yesterday about how our sin destroyed our communion with God. Unless God saves us we are born, grow, and die without ever knowing the God who made us. The consequence of our sin goes beyond simply not knowing God. We are actually enemies of God. God's wrath against sin is against us from our birth. The curse He pronounced in the garden is on us. This is what our sin deserves and God is right and just to judge us in this way. Ephesians 2:3 says we *were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind*. All of the miseries that come from our sin are a result of our separation from God and being judged by Him. The joy of the verse from Ephesians is that Paul tells the Christians they *used* to be cursed this way. Not anymore! Ephesians 2:4-5 *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved*. Those who have believed in Jesus are no longer children of wrath but are saved by His grace!

Discussion Questions

- Why is it miserable to be under God's wrath? Why don't people often feel miserable in this condition?
- Has God shown you how miserable it is to be His enemy? What can you do about it?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When you think of being miserable or experiencing misery, what do you think of? Most people think of external things such as sickness, hunger, thirst, and lack of basic necessities. You can also experience misery when you are missing loved ones, lacking friendships, or being mistreated by other people. The catechism speaks of the fall into sin making us *liable to all miseries in this life*. Some of the miseries we experience are simply a result of living in a fallen world. When you get sick, experience weakness, or lack of necessities, this is often not a direct result of your own sin. You live in a fallen world, as a fallen creature, and the effects of the curse are all around you. Other miseries in this life are a result of your own sin. There are diseases that result from sinful lifestyles. Sometimes people lack basic necessities because they are lazy and won't work enough to provide for themselves. Sometimes people sin in criminal ways and end up in jail or prison. Whichever sort of miseries you experience it is important to remember that you experience those things because you are a sinful person living in a sinful world. The amazing thing is to consider the experience of Jesus Christ. He was without sin. He never experienced misery as a result of his sin. Yet, he took on a life of sharing in our misery so that he could redeem us and give us a life of blessedness before God.

Discussion Questions

- What are some miseries that are part of living in a fallen world?
- What are some miseries that come as a direct result of our sin?
- How do the miseries of this life change for the Christian?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

We talked yesterday about external miseries that are common to our lives as sinners. There is another class of miseries that we are less likely to think of; *internal* miseries. Sometimes we can be very aware of these internal miseries. There are people who experience depression and anxiety. People can live their lives filled with fear of what may come tomorrow. Job speaks of this experience in Job 27:20 *Terrors overtake him like a flood; in the night a whirlwind carries him off*. There are other internal miseries that people may be less aware of. All sinners born in Adam are born in slavery to Satan, a most miserable condition. Romans 1:24 speaks of God giving men over to their sins. *Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves*. The crazy thing about this sort of misery is that the sinner thinks he is happy! He denies being miserable. This foolish state of believing a lie is itself one of the greatest miseries. 2 Thess 2:11 *Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false*. Jesus was sinless and never experienced the misery of a mind darkened by sin. He never delighted in what was wrong, nor desired what was evil. Yet, Jesus did take on the miseries of a human nature in a world wrecked by sin. He experienced the misery of hunger in the wilderness. He experienced the misery of sorrow at the death of his friend Lazarus. He experienced the hurt of betrayal when his disciples abandoned him. He took on our miseries so he could save us!