

Discussion Questions

- Why is Jesus a particularly excellent advocate? What about him makes him so good at it?
- Have you ever struggled with whether you are saved? How can Jesus's intercession help you in these times?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

We saw before the benefit of meditating on Jesus's sacrifice for us. We also find great encouragement from meditating on Jesus's intercession. Jesus shows this work of intercession when he prays for the disciples in the High Priestly prayer. We see it in Peter's life when Jesus told Peter that he would deny him three times. Jesus encouraged Peter by telling him that he had prayed for Peter, that his faith would not fail. We are reminded in Romans 8 and Hebrews 7:25 that Jesus is advocating even now for us. Let's look at 2 benefits of meditating on Christ's intercession for us. First, we are reminded of the unchangeableness of God's love. Humans will sometimes exhibit great acts of love for others, only to later fail them later when their love grows cold. When Christ was done dying he was not done loving his people. The same love that he showed on the cross is ever active toward us in his prayers for us. His love will never fail us! A second benefit of meditating on Christ's intercession is it encourages us in our own prayers. We often feel weak in our prayers. Sometimes it can seem like the doors of heaven are closed and my prayers are bouncing right back. Remember that Jesus is praying for you. He is pictured in Revelation as an angel who takes our prayers like incense in a censor and presents them to God for us. God will surely hear Jesus!

Discussion Questions

- What are some things that try and separate us from God? How does Jesus save us from them?
- How can you know if Jesus is interceding for you? Is there a way to make sure he is your advocate?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, March 17th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #28

Q: How does Christ execute the office of a priest?

A: *Christ executes the office of a priest in his once offering up himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Hebrews 6:9-20 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The priests of the Old Covenant sacrificed animals for the sins of the people but they couldn't deal with sin. Hebrews 10:4 *For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.* Jesus, as our Great High Priest, offered a better sacrifice. He gave up his life for us! Have you given much thought to the sufferings that Jesus endured for you? Think first about the agony of what Jesus endured in his body. He was beaten by the Romans and a crown of sharp thorns was pressed upon his head. He felt the pain of nails driven through his hands and feet. He gasped breaths as he suffocated hanging from his arms on the cruel cross. He endured the taunts of the Romans soldiers, the Jewish leaders, and even the thieves who hung beside him. At the end of this agony he gave us his spirit and died. Now turn and think on the sufferings that Jesus endured in his soul. The sufferings of Jesus in his body were but secondary to the suffering he experienced as he took the wrath of God for our sins. This is why Jesus cried from the cross, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* We were all sinners under the just wrath of God for our sins. We deserved Hell for our sin. On the cross Jesus satisfied the complete wrath of God for our sins. He experienced “hell” so that we could be freed for Heaven!

Discussion Question

- Give some examples of why Jesus's death on the cross was particularly painful.
- Why did Jesus need to endure God's wrath and not just the abuse of men?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Jesus as High Priest offered up himself for us. What did Jesus's death on the cross accomplish? Why do you think Jesus had to die? The first thing Jesus did by dying was to save us from our sins. We have all wronged the God who made us, and there was nothing we could do to make it right with Him. We couldn't be good enough. We couldn't be sorry enough. We couldn't cry hard enough. We couldn't give God enough to pay for what we have all done. Jesus died so that we would be saved. Isaiah 53:6 *...the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.* Not only did Jesus remove the wrath of God, he also gave us the favor of God! It's one thing for God to no longer judge us as criminals. It is quite another for Him to make us His dearest friends. If you are a believer in Jesus then you are a friend of God! He knows you intimately, accepts you fully, and cares for you completely. As if all of that weren't enough, Jesus also died to purchase your inheritance. Ephesians 1:11 *In him we have obtained an inheritance.* Jesus told the disciples he was going away to prepare a place for them and us. He speaks of a mansion with many rooms. The book of Revelation speaks in terms of a glorious city that fills the New Heavens and New Earth. You have a home that is beyond imagination.

Discussion Questions

- What price did Jesus need to pay to save us?
- Why couldn't you pay the price yourself?
- What are some things Jesus purchased for us, beyond forgiveness?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

We often daydream about things we enjoy. Have you spent much time daydreaming (or meditating) on Jesus's sacrifice on the cross for you? If you do many truths will become more clear and precious to you. Let's look at 3 of them. Meditating on Jesus's sacrifice will help you to see the horror of your own sin. It's easy to read the story of Jesus's crucifixion and become angry at those who murdered Jesus. Yet, we should also be angry at our own sin. Jesus had to die because of your sin (and mine!) If my sin killed Jesus then I shouldn't play around with it anymore. I shouldn't say, 'it's not so bad' or excuse it. Let the horror of Jesus's bloody death help you hate your sin and turn away from it. Second, meditating on Jesus's death shows us how deep God's love is for us. Jesus has such an affection for you, a sinner, that he willingly suffered and died to save you! In Ephesians 3:19 Paul speaks of *the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.* Grow in the knowledge of this love by meditating on Jesus's death. Thirdly, meditating on Jesus's sufferings for you will help motivate you to suffer for Jesus. When we see how Jesus loved us to death, we gain encouragement to love him as he has loved us. Be ready to stand up for Jesus when trials come by meditating on Jesus's suffering for you!

Discussion Questions

- How bad is your sin? Why is it so bad?
- Share about how amazing God's love is. Can you share some ways God has showed His love to you?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The catechism reminds us that Jesus makes continual intercession for us. An intercessor, or advocate, speaks on someone else's behalf. Moses was an advocate for the people of Israel when they had sinned with the golden calf. Because of their sin the people faced God's wrath. Moses appealed to God to show mercy to Israel. The high priest in the Old Testament also made intercession for the people. He took the blood of the sacrifice and brought it into the Holy of Holies to pour it over the mercy seat. Jesus, as our Great High Priest, is the perfect advocate we need. He offered himself on the cross for our sins. Now he has gone into heaven and makes intercession for us. Remembering Christ's intercession helps us when our enemies accuse us. Satan loves to accuse Christians. In Revelation 12:10 Satan is called the accuser of believers who *accuses them day and night before our God.* Just like he accused Job, he accuses us, reminding us of our sins and claiming his rights over us. Often the world, or our own hearts join in this accusation. We replay all of our failures and think 'how could God ever accept a sinner like me?' With Jesus as our advocate none of these accusations hold water. Romans 8:33-34 *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*