

### Discussion Questions

- Why does being dead in our sins keep us from obeying the Gospel call?
- How do you know if God has given someone a new heart? Has he given you a new heart?

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

We've talked this week about the effectual call. God calls people outwardly by the call of the Gospel. Some believe and some reject the Gospel. His effectual call, however, is not the same. When God changes a sinner's heart they always repent and believe. Why is it important to remember that God is the one who does this work? It helps us to be humble. If I did the work of believing and saving myself then I might think I'm a better person than the one who didn't believe. But it wasn't my doing! God did it! How could I boast as if I was the one who brought myself back to life? On the other hand, it's important as we talk about the new birth and the effectual call to never forget the goal of God's work here. God does all these things in the heart of a sinner with one end in mind. He does this work so that the sinner will embrace Jesus Christ! We ought not to worry and fret over whether or not God has effectually called us. If you are worried about whether you are saved, then obey the Gospel. Repent of your sins and believe in Jesus! If you do that then you are called by the Father. John 6:37 *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*

### Discussion Questions

- How does the effectual call help Christians to be humble?
- How does the effectual call meet our needs as sinners? (review the readings from this week)

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



## West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

### Baptist Catechism Question #34

Q: What is effectual calling?

**A:** *Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the gospel.*

### Suggested Memory Verse

*Ezekiel 36:26-27 I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

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

Have you ever heard someone calling your name from the other side of the house? Maybe it's your Mom or Dad calling you for dinner. Maybe there is a chore to do. Sometimes it could be to announce a surprise guest. People call us for many things. The Bible speaks of two different calls by which God calls people. The first call is named the universal call, or the outward call. This is what happens when people share the gospel and call on others to turn and believe in Jesus for salvation. This call goes out to everyone who hears, yet not everyone who hears answers the call. There are many who never answer this call. How many times did you hear the gospel before you believed in Jesus? The second call in the Bible is the 'effectual call'. While not all who hear the outward call of the gospel listen the 'effectual call' is very different. Everyone who hears this call will answer and believe. John 6:45 *It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—* The reason the effectual call is so different is because it actually changes the person who hears it. The one who God calls with an 'effectual call' is given a new heart to hear and believe what God has said. Jesus calls this change being 'born again' and it is something that only God can do in our hearts.

#### Discussion Question

- Why do you think it is necessary for the effectual call to change people in their hearts?
- Have you been born again? How would you know if you had?

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

If you've known many teenage boys you may have noticed that they can become quite smelly and dirty. This wouldn't be a big issue if they were quick to wash and put on deodorant regularly. Unfortunately, some teenage boys are not easily convinced of their need of a good bath. This resistance to bathing is quite persistent until one day, things change suddenly. The change typically comes about when a certain girl grabs his attention. Overnight the teen boy wakes up to his state and showers become a daily necessity! It wasn't that he didn't need a good washing before, he just hadn't seen his own need. We are much like these smelly boys with regard to our sin. We are born in sin and live our lives wallowing in iniquity. Yet, before Jesus wakes us up we think we are ok. We aren't that dirty surely! Graciously, Jesus doesn't leave us there. Part of the 'effectual call' and being born again is that God 'persuades' us of our sin so that we can repent. Ezekiel 36:31 *Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations.* Isaiah realized this when he saw God in his vision. Isaiah 6:5 *And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"*

#### Discussion Questions

- Why don't we like to admit our sin?
- What is the consequence of ignoring your sin?
- Has Jesus shown you your sin and how much you need to be saved?

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

We've been looking at the 'effectual calling' when God gives new birth to a sinner. He does this through the Gospel and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Yesterday we saw how God 'persuades' us of our sin so that we can begin to hate it. Only then can we see our need to repent and be cleansed by Jesus' blood. Additionally, the catechism says that the Holy Spirit gives light (understanding) to our minds in the knowledge of Christ. We don't usually think of understanding as something we need to be given. When I want to learn something I read a book or listen to a teacher and then work to understand what is taught. That is how we learn 'fleshly' things. It takes something more to learn the spiritual truth of the Gospel. The Bible teaches that the Gospel is foolish to the sinners of the world. They can't understand how true the Gospel is. It sounds silly. It sounds like a lie. If we, as sinners, are going to see that the Gospel is true we need God to enlighten our minds to understand it. *1 Corinthians 1:23-24 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.* Paul says here that 'for those who are called' the preaching of Jesus is power and wisdom.

#### Discussion Questions

- Why is it different trying to understand the Gospel vs other sorts of knowledge?
- How should you respond if God has given you understanding of His Gospel?

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

In the 'effectual call' God 'persuades' and 'enables' us. We've been taking about how he persuades us. He persuades us of the truth our sin. Further, He persuades us that the Gospel is true. He persuades us that Jesus is the savior we need! Now, he not only persuades us of these truths, He also 'enables' us. What does the Holy Spirit enable us to do? He enables us to repent and believe. Before God calls us we are effectively dead. The Bible describes us as being dead in our trespasses and sins. We may be alive physically, but our spirits are dead. Dead men can't do much. All they can do is lay there. You can try and persuade them all you want but you'll never get them to walk or talk. Ezekiel 36:26 *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.* This new heart not only makes us willing to repent and believe. Out of the new heart God gives us the ability to begin loving and obeying all His commands. Philippians 2:13 *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*