

government they will keep us safe and provide for us. Sometimes we worship things that we think will make us happy. This could be sports, entertainment, video games, or even time with friends. We can tell we are worshipping other things when they start to push away at the time we set aside to worship God.

Discussion Questions

- What things tend to take away your time to worship God on Sundays at church? What about daily at home privately or with your family?
- Why is the worship of God so important?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever won a race, a sports competition, or a game played with friends? It can be fun to strive hard and then have victory at the end. The way we respond to winning (or losing) can be a sign of how well we are worshipping God. The truth is that for many of us we swell up with pride when we win. On the contrary we often grumble or complain when we lose. The reason we do this is because we have misplaced worship in our lives. We are worshipping our own skill, or the fortunes of luck, to bring us success. Test taking is another common area of idolatry for students. At Texas A&M I have seen countless students put pennies on the Sul Ross statue before a big test, hoping to gain some luck or fortune in their endeavor. The Larger Catechism expands on our question this week by saying the 1st commandment forbids *ascribing the praise of any good we either are, have, or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other creature*. If we desire to do well on a test, we ought to study hard to the glory of God, and then trust God with the results of the exam. When we play games or compete in sports we ought to do the same. Strive hard as unto the Lord and let Him give you victory or defeat. Contentment with God's provision is at the heart of true worship.

Discussion Questions

- How good of a winner (or loser) are you? What might that say about your heart?
- What are some area of your life you will determine to praise God in no matter the results?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, September 8th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #52

Q: What is forbidden in the first commandment?

A: *The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying the true God, as God and our God, and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due unto him alone.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Romans 1:25 they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

How straightforward are the 10 Commandments? On the one hand, these rules are very straightforward. They go directly to the heart of what loving God looks like. On the other hand these rules are anything but simple. They extend to encompass everything we do in our lives. They affect how we spend our time, our work, our play, our relationships, and our finances. One of the common ways our forefathers in the faith have helped us to delve into the commandments is by asking 2 questions of each commandment. Last week we looked at the first question, ‘what does this commandment require?’ This week we look at the opposite question, ‘what does this commandment forbid?’ This form of the question is helpful for us as sinners in need of a savior. It could be easy to hear the positive command, ‘worship God only’ and think we are doing pretty good. It’s when we hear the negative command, ‘don’t give your worship to any other thing’ that we are brought face to face with our sin. If God forbids giving glory to anyone or anything before Him, we must ask ourselves, ‘have I done that?’ If you are honest with yourself you will acknowledge that you have not worshipped God alone. There are things in your life that you have put before God. The joy of the gospel is that when the law shows us our sin, we have an opportunity to repent of our sins and be forgiven by our savior, Jesus.

Discussion Questions

- Do you sometimes wonder how applicable the 10 commandments are to your day-to-day life?
- What are some ways you can grow in applying the 10 commandments?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

How would you feel if you woke up tomorrow and everyone acted like you didn’t exist? They could see and hear you, but they purposely ignored you. They wouldn’t return your greetings. When mealtime rolled around they refused to serve you food. No smiles, laughs, conversation, or any other interactions at all. How would you feel? You’d be hurt for sure. What about God? How sinful would it be to ignore Him? The question this week deals with what is forbidden in the 1st commandment. The first thing forbidden is denying that God is God. Many people in the world today call themselves atheists and they do this very thing. They say God doesn’t exist. Psalm 14:1 *The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.* It isn’t just atheist who need to hear this commandment from God. The truth is that all of us have at one point or another treated God as if he wasn’t God. We do this when we make decisions for our day to day lives with no thought of what God would have us do. We do this when we disobey God’s Word. We do this when we skip His worship. We do this even when we do good deeds but don’t do them for God’s glory. The 1st commandment reminds us of who God is. When it shows us our sin we must turn to Jesus for forgiveness.

Discussion Questions

- What are some ways you have acted like God doesn’t exist? Do you need to repent before God for this?
- Spend some time praising God for being God and your God.

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The 1st commandment tells us *You shall have no other gods before me.* Our question this week draws out one of the things we are forbidden from doing in the commandment. We must not deny God the worship He is due. You ought to worship God for several reasons. He is the creator and therefore He is the only one who deserves worship. He is also our savior. We ought to worship God because he has saved us through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus. It is our sin that keeps us from worshipping God as we ought. The most obvious time this shows up is on Sunday. Ever since Jesus rose from the dead Sunday has been set apart as a special day to worship God. He has commanded his people to gather for worship on this day. Many refuse to do so. Many others make excuses to avoid having to take time out for this worship. Even those who usually attend services will acknowledge the temptation to stay home from worship. It’s not just Sundays that we skip God’s worship. Psalm 145:1-2 *I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.* We ought, as the Psalmist does, to worship God daily. This involves times of private Bible reading, prayer, and even singing. It also involves gathering with family or friends to worship God.

Discussion Questions

- How much time and attention do you give to God’s worship?
- How do you make sure you have space on Sundays, and also on other days, to worship God?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Our catechism question this week instructs us not to give worship or glory to any other than God alone. We are not to worship other gods. This commandment is obvious in its application to many false religions. The Greeks and Romans worshipped false gods. So did the early Celtic peoples and the Vikings. Even today there are many religions that worship false gods, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, an animism. The first commandment is not limited to religions that name other gods and worship them however. We often worship things without calling them gods. This is behind Paul’s declaration in Colossians 3:5 that covetousness is idolatry. Coveting something that doesn’t belong to us is a form of worship of that which we desire. We might desire our neighbors money, possessions, or even family. Those things have become idols in our hearts when they make us discontent with what God has given us. We can also engage in worship of idols when we trust people or things in the place of God. Maybe we want to have enough money so we don’t have to trust God to provide for us. Maybe we think if we can get the right people into power in the