

parents who regularly skip the worship of God's people, only to find their children grow up and abandon the church themselves. In the same way, children of angry parents often learn to give themselves to the same kind of anger. We learn sin patterns from our parents. Jesus can save us from these sins.

#### Discussion Questions

- What are some sins that are often passed down in families?
- Do you have any sins that you and your family are prone to? Pray that Jesus will rescue you from these sins.

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

Yesterday we talked about the judgement of God on those who break the second commandment. While the judgement is great, the blessings associated with keeping the commandment are far greater. In God's judgement the sins of the fathers are visited on 3-4 generations for those who hate God. According to God's steadfast love, however, blessings are shown to thousands of generations of those who love God. Think about that. If a generation is around 30 or 40 years then a thousand generations is 30 or 40 thousand years! The blessing God speaks of here is that which Jesus promised the church would experience. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus says, *I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* In the coming Kingdom of God Jesus envisions a church and a family that has no end. A question remains. Who will actually experience this blessing? All mankind has been cursed in Adam. We all sin. We all break the second commandment. In our sinful state none of us actually love God. That means none of us can attain the blessings of God. The wonder of the gospel is that Jesus has gained the blessings of the second commandment for us. He loved God fully with all his heart, mind, and strength. He always worshipped God rightly. He passes the blessing of the second commandment to the thousand generations that are his Church. If you believe in Jesus then the steadfast love of God is yours too!

#### Discussion Questions

- What does the difference between 3-4 generations and 1000 generations tell us about the gospel?
- If you are enslaved to sin, caught in the sin of your ancestors, how can you be free?

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



### West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024)

#### Baptist Catechism Question #54

**Q:** Which is the second commandment?

**A:** *The second commandment is, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

**Psalm 115:4-8** *Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.*

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

This week we move on to the second commandment. In this commandment God instructs the people of Israel not to make and worship images. What is an image? It is when people reproduce the appearance of something in the creation, birds, animals, plants, people, for the purpose of worshipping that image. Images, or idols, in the ancient world took the form of carved statues made of wood, stone, or precious metals. One of the most famous idols in the Old Testament was the Golden Calf that Aaron made for the people of Israel while Moses was up on the Mountain. Another set of famous Golden Calves were created by King Jeroboam and set up at Bethel and Dan for the northern tribes to worship. Idolatry such as this was frequent in the history of Israel and always resulted in God's judgement on the people. The Psalms have an interesting judgement to pronounce on idol worshippers. Psalm 115:4-8 *Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.* People become like what they worship. They are either dead like their idols or full of life like the One True God.

### Discussion Questions

- What are some physical idols that people make and worship today? Can you think of any?
- Sometimes idols aren't physical images, but things, people, or ideas. What are idols you might be tempted to worship?
- Why is it important to worship God alone?

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

Does God care how we worship Him? Some people think 'it is the thought that counts' when it comes to worship. The exact way we worship Him doesn't matter too much, they say. The second commandment tells us that God is very concerned with HOW we worship Him. God instructs us not to make and worship images (idols). That may seem like He's talking about WHO we worship, not HOW. Yet, when we read the story of the Golden Calf in Exodus we find out that the HOW of worship is just as important as the WHO. Exodus 32:4-5 *...And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD."* Notice the people proclaim that the Golden Calf represented the one who brought them out of Egypt. Aaron makes this clear when he sets up an altar to this idol and says the feast and worship will be 'to the LORD.' The people weren't making an image of another god, they were purporting to make an image of the One True God. If we had been present and told them to worship Yahweh only, they might have answered, 'we are!' For us today it is just an important HOW we worship Jesus Christ. We must do it ONLY in the way he commands.

### Discussion Questions

- Can you think of any examples of how people today worship God differently than He commands?
- If you want to worship God correctly, where can you learn how to do that?

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

It may strike out ears a little when we read in the second commandment that God is jealous. After all, isn't jealousy a sin? Joseph's brothers were sinfully jealous of Joseph's favored position with their father. The officials of the Persian empire were jealous of Daniel's position and tried to have him executed in the lion's den. How could God be jealous? The truth is, only certain forms of jealousy are sinful. There is a holy jealousy that even people can exhibit. A husband is rightfully jealous of his wife's devotion to him as her husband. Sometimes this sort of jealousy is translated as 'zealous'. God is rightfully zealous for His own name and glory. He is rightfully zealous for the devotion and worship of the people he has made. When we worship idols we are saying that God is not worthy of our worship. We actually declare that our idols are more wonderful than God himself. God loves His own holy name. He rightfully responds with wrath and judgement against such horrific sin. Jeremiah 1:16 *I will declare my judgments against them, for all their evil in forsaking me. They have made offerings to other gods and worshiped the works of their own hands.* More than general jealousy for the worship of all creation, God is especially jealous for the worship and devotion of His people. He has bought us with the precious blood of His son, Jesus Christ. It is only right that we turn and worship Him for what He has done for us.

### Discussion Questions

- Why do you think some people have a hard time with the idea that God is jealous?
- What would it look like in your life for you to have a greater zeal for God's glory?

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

The judgement on idol worship in the second commandment is a stark one. We are told God visits, *the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me.* Does it seem right that God would judge the children for their parent's sins. Some have developed the idea of generational curses from this text. They say if your parents are evil enough then they can pass down a curse to you that you can't escape. We know this is wrong based on the teaching of Ezekiel 18:4 *Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.* God goes on to say that He will judge the father for his sin and the son for his own sin. While God did judge all mankind in Adam, God doesn't generally judge people for other's sins. Then what is the second commandment talking about? Here God is speaking of the effect of a father's sin leading his children and future generations to follow in his sin. Have you ever seen