

the right direction when they were plowing a field. If the animal ever rebelled by kicking out, it would result in the prick being driven even further into its flesh so that the more an ox rebelled, the more it suffered. Our deeds betray us every day, revealing the rebellious nature of our sinful hearts, pushing back against God's law.

Discussion Questions

- Are there any particular things in God's law that your heart tends to want to rebel against?
- How does this inward rebellion in your thoughts show up in your words and deeds?
- If you know the story of Paul (Saul), explain how God responded to his rebellion. How does this give us hope?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week's question and answer might lead some people to despair. After all, what hope is there if every one of us is so far from keeping the law perfectly that we actually break it in multiple ways each and every day? There is much hope because Christ is no mere man, and He offers up His perfect obedience on behalf of hopeless sinners. Paul describes this hope for us in 2 Corinthians 5:17–21. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Discussion Questions

- Are you a new creation? Share with others how that happened.
- Are you unchanged by the Gospel? Ask others to pray for you.

Baptist Catechism Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, June 15th, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #87

Q: Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

A: *No mere man since the fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word, or deed.*

Suggested Memory Verse

1 John 1:10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

An honest look at the ten commandments brings us to an important conclusion: we can't keep God's law perfectly. In fact, no mere man can! Romans 3:10-12 says...*as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."* No one **does** good, no one **is** good, not a single one! In our fallen humanity, righteousness simply is not possible. Ecclesiastes 7:20 *there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.* No mere man, that is. There is one man who could fit the description, and His name is Jesus. Scripture does not speak of Jesus as a mere man but as both fully God and fully man. John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* Jesus IS perfect and can keep the law unlike us mere humans. 2 Corinthians 5:21 *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* It is this perfection of Jesus the son of God, His perfect works, His perfect obedience, that allowed him to pay the acceptable price for our sin. Praise God for making a way of our salvation through Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

- Why is it sometimes hard to admit that we haven't kept God's law perfectly as we ought?
- Why is it important that Jesus was both fully God and fully man?
- Could anyone else have paid for our sins? Why?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Not only do we fail to keep the whole law perfectly, we actually break the commandments of God every single day. We do this first in our thought life. King Solomon is an example of a man with great power, wealth, and wisdom and yet he was also guilty of the greatest folly of sinful thoughts. When Solomon got old, scripture gives this as an example of thoughts going wrong. 1 Kings 11:3-4 *He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.* Even Peter, one of Jesus' most devout followers, was led astray by sinful thoughts of fear and man-pleasing. Mark 14:71-72 *But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.* God knows our thoughts. When Jesus was talking to the Pharisees, He knew what they were thinking and said... "Why do you think evil in your hearts?" (Matthew 9:4) Our wandering thoughts break God's commands daily, and it is not hidden from Him. Psalm 139:1-2 says *O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.*

Discussion Questions

- How often do you think your thought life goes against God's commands?
- What do you think it would be like to go a whole day with pure thoughts that only glorify God?
- Why is it important that God knows our every thought?
- Have you asked Jesus to forgive you for your wrong thoughts about Him or His commands?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

It is bad enough that we break God's commandments daily in our secret thoughts, but very often we also break them by our words. How many words do we use on any given day? Have you been mindful of every single one of them? We will give an account of our words on judgement day. Matthew 12:36-37 *I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.* Our words are important and can hurt others or build them up. Our words can be used to promote the things of God or speak against Him. James 3:5-10 says our tongue is the smallest member of our body but it can do the greatest harm. The scripture continues and says...*but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.* We are to be careful with our words, but even on the best days we still break God's commandments with our words. As sinful humans, we don't naturally seek God. Our thoughts lead us into sin, and our words betray our true intentions with even more sin. This is why we need Jesus as our Savior, our redeemer!

Discussion Questions

- How often do you reflect at the end of the day over the words you have spoken? Do you ever pray for forgiveness for the things you have said?
- Consider for a moment that Jesus never sinned, even with His thoughts and words. How does that make you feel?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

We break the commandments of God every day by our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. Our outward actions are many times a direct result of our inner beliefs and values. If our inner beliefs are aligned with God's commandments and will for us, then our deeds will reflect that good and perfect alignment. But if our inner beliefs and values are at odds with God's commandments, our deeds will reflect that discontentment. Look at the deeds and actions of Paul (Saul) before God saved him. At the moment God came to him, listen to what God says...Acts 26:14 *And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'* A goad is a pointed stick that was used to prod oxen along and steer them in