

the Father and He loves you personally. He is the one who created you and is the perfection of kindness. Go to Him in prayer! *‘Give Him all your anxieties, for He cares for you’.*

Discussion Questions

- Is there any practical way to produce effects that lead to salvation?
- How do you balance the responsibility of listening to the Word and the inability of the flesh?
- Are there any anxieties or needs you need to lay before God right now?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

In this life there are innumerable things we must balance. Strength and gentleness, being hungry but not overeating, work and social life. It is the same with our faith in the One True God. In this great mystery, God has Sovereignly declared that we have responsibility but also has declared that it is not our own power that will create the solution. So, what must we do? Now I am not attempting in this short paragraph to answer this complicated matter. But I want to point you back to the answer found in the catechism! We must attend to the preached Word diligently, lay it up in hearts, plead to God for the effect, and practice it in our lives. Now do we do these things because we are trying to earn our way to God? Not at all. We are to do them because the Risen Savior Jesus Christ has brought light into the world and we have woken up from the sleep of our darkness in sin and desire to walk in the light as He is in the light. This is the work of regeneration, that you desire to live for the One who died for you, Jesus Christ. You can always go to Him to till your soul; you can always go to Him to give you ears to hear His Word. He is the Savior of Sinners, everything that has happened and is happening and will ever happen is all about His glory and insurmountable beauty. Live for Him.

Discussion Questions

- What are some ways you can grow in your diligence to attend to the Word of God?
- Have you gone to Jesus for salvation? Have you seen the beauty of the Son of God?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, August 10th, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #95

Q: How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

A: *That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Proverbs 8:32–34 “And now, O sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways. [33] Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. [34] Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. (ESV)”

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever been in a situation where someone had just told you something and you completely missed what they said? Even though you heard the words come out of their mouth and they were speaking your native language, because you weren't listening it didn't bring forth understanding. This can often happen with when we hear or read the Word of God because truly listening to something active engagement with the thoughts and ideas being presented to your soul. This is inherent to the idea of the Gospel. The Gospel is *good news*, and 'good news' is something that is meant to be listened to. But listening isn't always a walk in the park; there are several reasons why. For one, the Gospel is a message that is pointing to the most fundamentally alarming truths. You deserve *hell* because of your sinful corruption. That is an uncomfortable thought to engage with. If you ever do evangelism, you will notice how prevalent it is that people don't want to hear the good news of Jesus because they don't want to hear the bad news. You could also just be uninterested for some reason. May this never be the case for us who are believers in the only Son of God. For as the Apostle Peter says, through Jesus we are recipients of '*precious and very great promises*'. We have been redeemed by Almighty God through Jesus because of His infinite love and compassion for each of us.

Discussion Questions

- Why can it be so hard to listen sometimes?
- What is something you can do during Church to help yourself listen?
- Why does the world not want to hear the Gospel?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

In the Epistle to the Romans Paul states one of the most pivotal truths in Scripture, that '*faith comes by hearing and hearing through the word of Christ*'. What a vital necessity it is for us to hear the Word of God! For it is the primary way the Spirit of the Living God changes our hearts. But are we simply to just listen to the Bible as if it is simply our hearing and understanding it that saves us? Of course not! God is sovereign but we are responsible to not just to hear but to act in truth with what we hear. The Epistle of James makes this very clear in its first chapter. James says '²² *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.* ²³ *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.* ²⁴ *For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.* ²⁵ *But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*' This is what repentance is, that we act in consistency with the truths we hear in the Bible, not as though it is a list of rules but because we believe in the glorious Gospel and desire to walk in accordance with the truth of Jesus Christ! Are you walking with Jesus today?

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to be a 'doer of the Word'?
- In what way does Paul mean that hearing the Word of Christ produces faith?
- Have you become a doer of the Word?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The parable of the sower is one of no little importance. It shows up in all three of the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). Parables are stories that Jesus used to reveal truths to those who believe and conceal from those who don't believe. Most Jews in Jesus' time heard His parables but they did not truly listen to them. This parable is paramount to understanding the meaning of our catechism this week. Jesus describes in this parable a man sowing seed in a field and that there are in general four different types of locations where seeds land: *pathways, rocky ground, amidst weeds, and good soil*. Jesus in Matthew 13:18-23 then explains the meaning of this parable in private to his disciples. The seed that is sown is the Word of God and the sower is Jesus. The seeds that land among the path are those who hear and reject the Word. Those who are the rocky ground hear but have no root, so they fall away. The ones in the weeds lose interest due to the things in this world that choke the Word. But those who are in good soil believe wholeheartedly and bring forth much fruit. We need to take this deeply to heart. Don't ever reject the Word, till away the rockiness of your soul, bring out your strongest weedkiller. For we live for the Great Gardener who gave Himself for us; we live for eternity with Him. Repent and hear His Words today.

Discussion Questions

- What is the quality of your soil today as you receive the Word?
- What can you do if you feel like your heart is not in the right place?
- What does it mean that when you receive the Word well you bring forth much fruit?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Is the receiving of the Word being effectual to salvation something we can wrought in ourselves? Is it something we can produce if we are emotional enough or think hard enough? Not at all, don't even try... In the Gospel of John, Chapter 6, it says "*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life*". When Jesus says *the flesh is no help at all* he is making an absolute statement. John the Baptist even says in John 3:27, "*A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven*". You cannot help yourself; you are *helpless*. But believe me this great neediness and wretched state we are in is not one that should bring you to despair. Jesus' arms are open to you right now as though He were right in front of you ready to embrace you. Salvation and grace to sustain you is ever available to you. God's love is unbelievably unbelievable in how magnanimous it is in Jesus Christ. He is always willing to give You the grace that is sufficient for you as the loving Father that He is. If you come to Jesus Christ, who is ever willing to save anyone who comes to Him, then you are a child of God