

fellow servants who owed him a few pennies, threatened and abused him, demanding payment. When the servant could not pay, he was placed in jail. When the master heard of this lack of compassion, the man who was forgiven the debt was punished most severely. Jesus concludes the story with these words: *So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.* Matthew 18:35

Discussion Questions

- Does the story that Jesus told ever unsettle you? Are there ways that you can relate to this story?
- What kinds of things might you do to that would lead to becoming a more forgiving person?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

We will end this week's look at the 5th petition by focusing on the virtue of forgiveness. The essence of the gospel message is that sinful man can be forgiven. We are given a fresh start, and with the powerful aid of the Holy Spirit, we begin to put to death the deeds of the flesh. As we said before, God's grace changes us. We are dearly loved by God, freed from the treadmill of works, and we now walk in newness of life that God provides day by day. The powerful witness to the world that we now belong to Christ, is that we love one another. This love isn't just a warm and fuzzy feeling; it motivates us to treat one another entirely different than before we came to Christ. The love the Jesus demands of us is a love of action. It is a love that is forgiving and keeps no record of wrongs. This type of love is only possible with God's help. So, when we pray, we are to pray that God grants us forgiveness and that we might forgive those who sin against us. The only way you could live your life without someone sinning against you is if you lived by yourself on a desert island. Real life involves being around people. And even those who are faithfully walking with Christ sin every day. So, if you don't plan on living like Robinson Crusoe, you must ask God to help you be a forgiving person!

Discussion Questions

- Without naming any names, are there people in your life that you find it hard to forgive?
- Sometimes we struggle with forgiveness when there are repeat offenses. Describe how things would change in your relationship with God if He kept a record of your wrongs.
- Why does Jesus tie our own forgiveness of sins with the forgiveness we extend to others?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, January 11th, 2026)

Baptist Catechism Question #112

Q: What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

A: *In the fifth petition, which is, And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins which we are rather encouraged to ask because of his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Psalm 51:1–2 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week we look at the 5th petition from the Lord's prayer. This petition encourages us to ask for God's forgiveness for our sins. In the 5th petition we also ask for God to help us extend forgiveness to others. This week's memory verse is from Psalm 51. The superscription to the Psalm tells us that the psalm was written by David *when the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba*. When David was confronted by the prophet after his grievous sin, he was cut to the heart, and he confessed *I have sinned against the LORD.*" 2 Samuel 12:13b. David's sin was big, and it was flagrant. But our sin need not be so bold as David's to demand forgiveness. For those who believe in God and have had their sin's washed away by the blood of Christ, even the smallest of sins should drive us to our knees in prayer. As those who trust in the perfect righteousness of Christ, we can pray in faith knowing that God hears our prayers of contrition and grants us pardon, for Christ's sake. The life of the Christian is one of on-going confession of sin. As we grow our faith, we make progress in holiness. But we also have a growing sense for our need for deeper transformation as God mercifully reveals our sin to us. Let confession of sin be a part of your daily devotion to God.

Discussion Questions

- Are all sins forgiven by God if we truly belong to Christ? If so, why would it be important to confess our sins and ask for God's forgiveness?
- What advice might you offer a younger brother or sister who feels like they can't approach God with their sin?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

In Daniel Chapter 9, Daniel is praying for his people. He, along with the survivors of Jerusalem had been taken into captivity in Babylon. Daniel prays a prayer of confession on behalf of his people and asks that God be gracious to Israel once more. He says this- *For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy*. Daniel acknowledges the need for God's mercy. He knows that his prayer is not heard because of his own righteousness, but because God is merciful. The passage concludes in such a wonderful way. An angel appears to Daniel while he is confessing his own sins and the sins of the people to let him know that God has heard his prayer and that he is dearly loved. There are several observations that should be encouraging to us in our own prayers of confession. When we approach God as believers, we are asking for forgiveness based on the work of Christ and his promises. We can pray like Daniel, with a clear understanding both of our guilt, and the tender mercy of God which is like an inexhaustible well of water. It will never run dry. Additionally, we can know that God hears our prayers and answers them. 1 John 1:9 tells us *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*. Even before the words leave our lips, God's love will be reaching out to us.

Discussion Questions

- Do you ever feel timid, or even scared to confess your sins to God? What can we learn from Daniel's prayer to help us become bolder when we pray for God's mercy?
- What was it that gave Daniel confidence that his prayer would be heard?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The part of this week's catechism we will focus on today is this: *we are rather encouraged to ask because of his grace*. The catechism answer tells us to be encouraged to ask of God because of his grace. God's grace changes us. Knowing God's grace, we are encouraged to ask for forgiveness. Not only that, but God's grace aids us in forgiving others. So far, we have looked at David and Daniel, men who understood their need for grace and understood their transgression of God's law. The author of Hebrews provides further instruction to us. After describing Jesus, our high priest, the scriptures tell us that Jesus is able to sympathize with us because he was also tempted as we are. He goes on to say, *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need*. Hebrews 4:16. Because we have a high priest who intercedes for us, and who understands our weakness, we can have confidence to go before God to obtain mercy and to receive the help that we need in our weakness. The grace of God changes everything for those who believe. We no longer fear God and the punishment that is due to us because of our sin. We believe that God is gracious, not treating us as our sins deserve. Here is good news- you can ask God for forgiveness, and because of His grace, he will forgive you!

Discussion Questions

- Do you ever think that God tires of you asking for his forgiveness? If the author of Hebrews was sitting next to you in family worship, what might he say to encourage you?
- What is it that gives us confidence before God's throne of grace?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Part of the way we know that God is working in our heart is that we begin to relate to one another differently. Before coming to Christ, we were unreconciled to God as well as our fellow man. The brokenness of sin in our world separates sinful man from God, who is most Holy. Sin also works its way into all our relationships, bringing corruption and ultimately destruction. But by God's grace, part of the work He does in restoring our relationship with Him is how we now relate to our fellow man. Because God has graciously forgiven our sins, we are able to extend forgiveness when we are wronged. Jesus tells a story that illustrates this idea. He tells of a servant who owed a huge sum to his master. And rather than selling him, his wife, and children as slaves to pay the debt, the master heeded the servant's cries of mercy and forgave the debt. But the man who was forgiven went and found one of his