



Calvary
Baptist Church

For the week of:
12/29/24

Family Worship Guide

New City Catechism

Question 14: Did God create us unable to keep his law?

No, but because of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, all of creation is fallen; we are all born in sin and guilt, corrupt in our nature and unable to keep God's law.

WELCOME

Why should we do a family devotional?

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” - Deuteronomy 6:4-8

As long as there have been a “people of God,” the command given to them has always been that they would be instructing their children in the way of the Lord. It is expected that parents will be teaching their children.

But teaching children is more than simply giving rules. It involves showing them HOW to obey the Lord by doing it yourself! These family devotionals are meant to equip you as an individual to grow in your understanding of the Lord and His Word, as well as providing parents with the resources and opportunities to demonstrate for their children what it looks like to pursue God.

How to use this devotional:

This is simply a resource for you to use however works best for your family! Each day there is a selected Scripture reading, devotional, discussion questions, a prayer prompt, and a song to sing together. You may consider splitting parts and having one family member read the Scripture while another reads the devotional and another leads the prayer. Feel free to read additional Scripture as you call to mind passages that relate to what was read. Sing more sing with your family than the one provided if you feel led to. Use this guide in whatever way helps you and your family draw nearer to the Lord together.

MONDAY

Read Genesis 1:24-31

Discuss

“And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good.”

When God looked at the people He made in His image, He said that they were very good. God created man and woman to reflect His glory to the rest of the world. They were to be like Him both in how they looked and in what they did. If these people were made to reflect God, then they were absolutely very good along with the rest of His creation.

Augustine described man in four stages: **Able to sin**: The first state, corresponding to man in innocency before the Fall. **Not able not to sin**: The second state, corresponding to natural man after the Fall. **Able not to sin**: The third state, corresponding to the regenerate man. **Unable to sin**: The fourth state, corresponding to the glorified man.

Before the fall, man was innocent. He was able to sin, or not to sin; able to sin, but not forced to.

Discussion Questions

- What do you think about the way God made man? What do the words “very good” mean?
- What did it mean for Adam and Eve to be “able to sin”? How is that different from us?

Sing

By Grace Alone
Martin Luther

Pray

Thank God for making man in His image!

BY GRACE ALONE

Verse 1:

Out of the depths I cry to You,
Lord, hear my voice of pleading;
Bend down Your gracious ear, I pray,
Your humble servant heeding.
If You remember each misdeed,
And of each thought and word take heed,
Who can remain before You?
Only by grace, by grace alone.

Verse 2:

Your pardon is a gift of love,
Your grace alone must save us,
Our works will not remove our guilt,
The strictest life would fail us.
Let none in their own merits boast,
But let us own the Holy Ghost
For He alone can change us:
Only by grace, by grace alone.

Verse 3:

Though great our sins and sore our woes
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our utmost need it soundeth.
Our kind and faithful Shepherd He,
Who will set all His people free
From all their sin and sorrow:
Only by grace, by grace alone.



TUESDAY

Read Genesis 2:15-17, and all of Genesis 3

Discuss

Sin.

She saw. She desired. She ate.

Theologians argue about what the first sin really was, however, by the time Eve ate the fruit everyone agrees that sin had entered into the world. Eve listened to the serpent. She listened as he twisted the truth and began to speak lies into her heart.

After listening to the serpent, she looked at the fruit and in her heart she gave herself over to consider what it would be like to taste it, to violate the law of God. Considering this, covetousness began to emerge within her heart.

As covetousness blossomed, she reached out, plucked the ripe fruit from the tree, and ate it. Adam, being nearby, was beckoned to eat with her. Together, the first couple fell into sin and all of us with them.

At each point, Eve could have chosen to do something else. She could have ignored the serpent. She could have rebuked the serpent. She could have called over Adam and together chased the serpent from the garden. But she didn't. No made Eve pluck the fruit and eat it, and for his part no one made Adam eat it with her, but they did. Together they ate. Together they sinned against God.

Discussion Questions

- In what ways do you choose to sin?
- How are we like Eve, giving the serpent the opportunity to whisper lies to us?
- Rather than listening to the lies, how should we respond when temptation comes from outside of us?

Sing

Free From Guilt And Free From Sin
Don and Jaree Hall

Pray

Pray to love God enough to turn away from sin.

FREE FROM GUILT AND FREE FROM SIN

Verse 1:

Dark, the stain I cannot hide, Stain of sin, my
guilt to prove. Guilt my own, and foolish
pride, Pride, the reason for my sin, Pride the
reason for my sin

Chorus:

Wash me in the Savior's blood; Make me
pure without, within. Cleanse my heart and
set me free, Free from guilt and free from
sin, Free from guilt and free from sin.

Verse 2:

Light of God came shining down; Son of God,
my soul to win, Laid aside His heav'nly crown,
Paid the price for all my sin, Paid the price for
all my sin, Paid the price for all my sin.

(Chorus)

Verse 3:

Love of God that lights my way, Love
displayed on Calvary; Lamb of God my soul
to save Gave His life to set me free, Gave His
life to set me free!

(Chorus)

Verse 4:

Gone, the darkness, come the Light; Gone,
the night, the day begins. Gone, the wrong,
my soul made right, Free from guilt and free
from sin, Free from guilt and free from sin.

Turn on
captions for this
video. There
were no lyric
videos.



WEDNESDAY

Read Psalm 8

Discuss

What is man that you are mindful of him?

God created man in His image. Man has always been the crowning jewel of God's creation. Even though man is sinful, God has always meant for man to point to Him.

God doesn't make mistakes when He acts. He always does what is perfect and good and lovely. Sometimes however, it takes the lens of eternity to see this.

Think of an oil painting. When you stand really really close to it, it is really quite an ugly thing. You can't see the picture, instead you see all the bumps and seemingly random brush strokes. But when you take a few steps back, suddenly the random brush strokes come together to form the most beautiful scene.

God did not make man sinful. He made man so that man could have not sinned. But God also made man able to sin. And this wasn't a mistake. He knew that Eve would eat the fruit. He always intended to more greatly display His glory in this way.

God wasn't looking at one brushstroke, He was planning the entire painting.

Discussion Questions

- How do you think God was glorified when He made man with the ability to sin?
- Our sin is NEVER pleasing to God, but how does it bring Him glory?
(Hint: Think of what God was able to show about Himself on the cross)

Sing

I Lay My Sins on Jesus
Horatius Bonar

Pray

Pray that God would
strengthen you to live for Him

I LAY MY SINS ON JESUS

Verse 1:

I lay my sins on Jesus,
the spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all, and frees us
from the accursed load;
I bring my guilt to Jesus,
to wash my crimson stains
white in His blood most precious,
till not a spot remains.

Verse 2:

I lay my wants on Jesus;
all fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases,
He doth my soul redeem;
I lay my griefs on Jesus,
my burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases,
He all my sorrow shares.

Verse 3:

I rest my soul on Jesus,
this weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces,
I on His breast recline.
I love the Name of Jesus,
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
like fragrance on the breezes
His Name abroad is poured.

Verse 4:

I long to be like Jesus,
meek, loving, lowly, mild;
I long to be like Jesus,
the Father's holy Child;
I long to be with Jesus
amid the heav'nly throng,
to sing with saints His praises,
to learn the angels' song.



THURSDAY

Read James 1:12-14

Discuss

“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.”

God does not tempt anyone to sin or to do evil. When you and I sin (and we both do all too frequently), we can never blame God. It is always our own hearts that make us sin.

We do what we do because we want what we want. If we desire God, if we love God, if we want a deeper communion with God, then we will do all that we can to foster that including and especially living righteously.

When we sin, it doesn't show that God did something wrong, it shows that we love something more than God. If we love and desire anything more than God, that is idolatry and will lead us into greater sin. If we desire stability, protection, comfort, love, appreciation, or anything else more than God, then we have already sinned and will sin more to get it.

When we sin our question should be: what did I think I would get from that sin?

Discussion Questions

- What usually motivates you to sin? What are you wanting when you sin?
- When we sin, does that show a love for God? Why or why not?
- What would love for God look like in our lives?

Sing

Hallelujah What A Savior
Philip Bliss

Pray

Thank God for loving you
even when you don't love
Him as much as you should

HALLELUJAH WHAT A SAVIOR

Verse 1:

Man of sorrows what a name
for the Son of God, who came
ruined sinners to reclaim:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Verse 2:

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned he stood,
sealed my pardon with his blood:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Verse 3:

Guilty, helpless, lost were we;
blameless Lamb of God was he,
sacrificed to set us free:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Verse 4:

He was lifted up to die;
"It is finished" was his cry;
now in heaven exalted high:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Verse 5:

When he comes, our glorious King,
all his ransomed home to bring,
then anew this song we'll sing:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!



FRIDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Discuss

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Do you remember what we discussed on Monday? Augustine described four stages of humanity: **Able to sin**: The first state, corresponding to man in innocency before the Fall. **Not able not to sin**: The second state, corresponding to natural man after the Fall. **Able not to sin**: The third state, corresponding to the regenerate man. **Unable to sin**: The fourth state, corresponding to the glorified man.

Apart from Christ, all we could do was sin. Even if we did something that wasn't clearly sinful, we did it with the wrong motives. In Christ though, we no longer have to sin. As Augustine says, we are “able not to sin.”

Because Christ lives in His people, we are able to live like Him. He has given us His strength so that rather than choosing to sin, we can choose to do that which is right.

If we are in Christ, if we have trusted in His sacrifice on the cross to free us from the bondage of sin, then we can live the way that we have been called to.

Rejoice! Know that you do not have to sin. In Christ we are free to honor Him.

Discussion Questions

- How does God provide escape from temptation in your life?
- In what ways are you tempted to sin?
- What are ways that you can act righteously rather than sinning?

Sing

By Faith

Keith and Kristen Getty

Pray

Thank God for freeing you
from the power of sin

BY FAITH

Verse 1:

By faith, we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design;
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

Verse 2:

By faith, our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand –
A place where peace and justice reign.

Verse 3:

We will stand as children of the promise,
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

Verse 4:

By faith, the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death,
And rise triumphant from the grave.

Verse 5:

By faith, the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news,
In every corner of the earth.

Verse 6:

By faith, this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name.

