



Calvary
Baptist Church

For the week of:
01/06/25

Family Worship Guide

New City Catechism

Question 15: Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

That we may know the holy nature and will of God, and the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior. The law also teaches and exhorts us to live a life worthy of our Savior.

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 Leviticus 19:1-8

Discuss

“You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.”

The most important purpose of the law is to show us who God is. God is holy. Holiness means two things. First, that God is the best of the best. That there is no one and nothing that is like God. God Himself is the standard by which everything is measured. God is not as beautiful as anything else, He has far more beautiful than anything. Second, holiness means that God is morally perfect. He cannot do anything wrong. He alone determines right and wrong.

In the law, God reveals what that standard of holiness looks like. Man was made to bear the image of God to all of creation. That image was broken. Through the law, God man sees the standard of holiness that is required to be an image bearer.

In Matthew 5:17, Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” The law showed us what a perfect life looks like. A life that could only be lived by God Himself in the person of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

- How would you explain the law as showing us who God is?
- How does this help us to think about God?
- How do we live differently knowing that God is holy?

Sing

Holy God, We Praise Thee
Ignace Franz

Pray

Thank God for showing us who He is so that we can worship Him.

HOLY GOD WE PRAISE THEE

Verse 1:

Holy God, we praise thy name!
Lord of all, we bow before thee!
All on Earth thy sceptre claim,
All in Heav'n above adore thee;
Infinite thy vast domain,
Everlasting is thy reign.

Verse 2:

Hark! the loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising!
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord;
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!

Verse 3:

Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name thee,
Though in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim thee;
And adoring bend the knee,
While we sing our praise to thee.



TUESDAY

Read 1 John 2:3-6

Discuss

You can't break a law that isn't there. When there is no law, there is nothing to break. If there is no speed limit, then you can go however fast you want (although for safety you probably shouldn't).

But in our lives, there is always the law. The law of God. His law has told us right and wrong. As we learn and understand His law and standards more, we also see how often we break them.

Scripture gives two main ideas for sin. The first is "chataah" meaning to slip or miss the mark. This type of sin is when we unknowingly sin. When we are not meaning or trying to sin, but still fail to act righteously. The other type of sin is "avon." This is a turning aside.

Imagine tryin to walk across a balancing beam. You can either slip off of it, or jump off. In both cases you fail to reach the end, but in one case you tried to reach the end and in the other you purposely turned away from it.

Sin is like that. When we see the law, sin builds up in our hearts so that we all at times choose to sin. Often we know what is the right thing to do, and simply choose not to do it, or worse, choose to sin instead. We see the speed limit and hit the gas.

The law, just by being there, shows us how disobedient we are. Just as Eve reached out and ate the fruit, we too reach out and eat of sin simply because God told us not to.

Discussion Questions

- How does knowledge of the law show disobedience in your life?
- In what ways have you "slipped" in keeping God's commands? What about "turning aside"?
- What should we do when we sin?

Sing

Free From Guilt And Free From Sin
Don and Jaree Hall

Pray

Confess your sins to God and
thank Him for His Son.

O SACRED HEAD NOW WOUNDED

Verse 1:

O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
what bliss till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

Verse 2:

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
was all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
look on me with Thy favor,
vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

Verse 3:

What language shall I borrow
to thank Thee, dearest Friend,
for this, Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love for Thee.

Verse 4

Be near when I am dying,
O show Thy cross to me!
And, for my succor flying,
come, Lord, to set me free:
these eyes, new faith receiving,
from Thee shall never move;
for he who dies believing
dies safely in Thy love.



WEDNESDAY

Read Romans 7

Discuss

Man is not only disobedient to God. Yes, we choose to sin every single day and willfully disobey the law. But the problem is deeper than our actions. Each person is sinful to our very core. Theologians call this our sin nature.

The law shows us that we desire to sin more than we desire God. The law doesn't make us sin. And we don't sin because of the law. We sin because, well, because we are sinful. Without God, no one can choose to live a truly righteous life. Each person will choose to sin because each person is pervasively sinful.

Psalm 14:3, "They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one."

What the law reveals is that we are sinners by choice and sinners by nature. We are guilty because we choose to sin, and at the same time we know that unless God frees us from the power of sin, we will always choose to sin.

The law shows us that on our own, we are stuck. We need help.

Discussion Questions

- Have you thought of yourself as a sinner by nature before?
- If we are so sinful, could we ever choose to become not sinful?
- How can a sinful nature be made not sinful?

Sing

See the Destined Day Arise
Fortunatus

Pray

Thank God for having mercy
on sinners.

SEE THE DESTINED DAY ARISE

VERSE 1:

See the destined day arise!
See a willing sacrifice!
Jesus, to redeem our loss,
Hangs upon the shameful cross;
Jesus, who but You could bear
Wrath so great and justice fair?
Every pang and bitter throe,
Finishing Your life of woe?

REFRAIN:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Lamb of God for sinners slain!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Jesus Christ, we praise Your name!

VERSE 2:

Who but Christ had dared to drain,
Steeped in gall, the cup of pain
And with tender body bear
Thorns and nails and piercing spear?
Slain for us, the water flowed,
Mingled from Your side with blood;
Sign to all attesting eyes
Of the finished sacrifice.

(REFRAIN)

VERSE 3:

Holy Jesus, grant us grace
In that sacrifice to place
All our trust for life renewed,
Pardoned sin, and promised good.
Grant us grace to sing Your praise
'Round Your throne through endless days,
Ever with the sons of light:
"Blessing, honor, glory, might!"

(REFRAIN)



THURSDAY

Read Romans 5

Discuss

An object in motion will stay in motion unless acted upon by another force.

Man in sin will stay in sin and continue to sin unless that pattern of sin is broken by a Savior.

When we look at the law of God, we see clearly how much we need someone to save us. Each of us chooses to break the law every day, and even if we weren't deliberately choosing to break the law, we would keep breaking it over and over and over.

We need someone who can not only forgive our sins, but who can give us a new heart. We need someone who can make us be born again, from a sinful nature to a righteous one.

That person is Jesus Christ. Without the law, we would never understand our need for a Savior. But through the law we see that we need Jesus. Jesus who is God and man. Who lived a fully human life. Who died in our place. And who fully paid the penalty of sin by rising again.

Without the law we wouldn't even look at Christ. With the law Christ is more beautiful than anyone or anything.

Discussion Questions

- How does the law show our need for a Savior?
- In what way does Christ give us a new heart?
- How does Christ save us?

Sing

*Christ is Risen, He is Risen
Indeed*
Keith and Kristyn Getty

Pray

Praise God for His mercy and grace shown on the cross.

CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED

Verse 1:

How can it be, the One who died
Has borne our sin through sacrifice
To conquer every sting of death
Sing, sing hallelujah

Verse 2:

For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes
Alive He stands, their friend and king
Christ, Christ, He is risen

Refrain:

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!
Oh, sing hallelujah
Join the chorist' and all the redeemed
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed

Verse 3:

Where doubt and darkness once had been
They saw Him and their hearts believed
But blessed are those who have not seen
Yet, sing hallelujah

Verse 4:

Once bound by fear now bold in faith
They preached the truth and power of grace
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life, life everlasting

(Refrain)

Verse 5:

The power that raised Him from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save
He frees our hearts to live His grace
Go tell of His goodness

(Refrain x2)



FRIDAY

Read Titus 2:11-14

Discuss

“Through the law, we become aware of our sin and our choices to disobey it. But through the law we also become aware of how we are supposed to live.

Jesus lived a perfect holy life. He kept the whole law. He showed us what a pure life looks like. And we are called to live like He did.

We all want to look more like Christ. We all want to be more holy and pure. We all want the world to look at us and think, “Wow! That person must be a Christian!”

The way to live a life that looks like that is to keep the law. Not just the letter of the law, but the spirit of the law. To love the Lord with all of who we are and to love our neighbors as ourselves. To have everything we do be motivated by a love for God and that others would love Him too.

A life that is so fueled by a love for God and others will look like Christ. That life will be a life that is aligned with the law of God and helps others live like that.

We imitate those we love. If we love Christ, then we will begin to live like Him in accordance with the law.

Discussion Questions

- How did Jesus fulfill the law?
- How can we look more like Christ?
- In what ways can you better keep God’s commands?

Sing

*More Love to Thee, O
Christ*
Elizabeth Prentiss

Pray

Ask God to help you love
other better to point them
to Him.

MORE LOVE TO THEE, O CHRIST

Verse 1:

More love to Thee, O Christ,
More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
On bended knee;
This is my earnest plea:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

Verse 2:

Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek,
Give what is best;
This all my prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

Verse 3:

Then shall my latest breath
Whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry
My heart shall raise;
This still its prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

