



Calvary
Baptist Church

For the week of:
01/13/25

Family Worship Guide

New City Catechism

Question 16: What is sin?

Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law—resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation.

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 Romans 1:18-32

Discuss

We don't like to think about sin. It's uncomfy and makes us feel gross. But sin is very real and if we want to repent of it, we need to know what it is.

Sin isn't only doing wrong things. Sin starts by not recognizing God. "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). Everywhere we look, we see a beautiful world that is overflowing with the glory of God. To look at the world around us and forget about God, to not think of Him, that is sin.

The moment that we forget about God, we aren't only on the fast track to sin but have already sinned. To live the life God wants us to live means to living in a way that is always aware of God, giving Him praise, honor, and glory for who He is and what He has done.

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Prayer is one way we always keep God at the front of our minds. Continuing to give Him thanks at all times. "Thank you God for the sun." "Thank you God for the snow." "Thank you God for the birds." "Thank you God for allowing me to help that person." "God, please bless my friend's day."

Discussion Questions

- Do you find yourself forgetting God in your day?
- How can you remember God more often?
- What are things that you forget to thank God for? Take time to thank Him now.

Sing

10,000 Reasons
Matt Redman

Pray

Praise God for how you see Him in the world around you.

10,000 REASONS

Chorus:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
O my soul, worship His holy Name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy Name.

Verse 1:

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

(Chorus)

Verse 2:

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,
Your Name is great and Your heart is kind;
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

(Chorus)

Verse 3:

And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come;
Still my soul sings Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

(Chorus x2)



TUESDAY

Read Jeremiah 2:1-13

Discuss

Forgetting God in our lives is sin. But that sin is never alone. As soon as we take our eyes away from God and His glory, we will look at all the shiny things around us and run into all kinds of sin.

When we live without reference to God, we take away His glory. Are you responsible for breathing, or is it God who is responsible for giving you breath to breathe? Now that you are thinking about it, you know the answer is that it is God who give you breath. But when we live without reference to God, we are saying God doesn't deserve the glory of giving me breath, instead, if anyone deserves that glory it is me, myself, and I.

That's idolatry, and it is sin. But it gets worse. When we loose reference of God, we begin to taste and flirt with other sin. Without God, right and wrong become subjective. When God is out of my frame of view, what is right is whatever I want to be right. Whatever makes me feel good or I think is good.

Everything that we think, say, and do should be done for God and His glory. To live without reference to Him, is to think, say, and do things for the glory of something or someone other than God. That is sin.

Discussion Questions

- Do you live your life in reference to God?
- Are your thoughts and actions aligned with a focus on God and His ways?
- What would it look like to live a life that has God as the focus?

Sing

He Will Keep You
Sovereign Grace Music

Pray

Confess how you often loose
focus of God.

HE WILL KEEP YOU

Verse 1:

I lift my eyes and see
I need not be afraid
All my help comes from the Lord
Who the earth and sky has made

Chorus:

He will keep you from all evils
Behind you and before
He will sustain you, through this journey
From now and evermore

The Lord will never sleep
My steps He has ordained
For the One who holds the night
Is the Sovereign of my days

Chorus x3



WEDNESDAY

Read 1 John 3:4; James 4:17; and Galatians 5:19-21

Discuss

Sin is more than just thinking wrong. In the previous few days we discussed how sin is forgetting and rejecting God in creation as well as living a life without reference to Him. But the sin that we usually think of is not doing or being what the law requires.

Lying, stealing, coveting, hurting others with our words or actions. These are things that come to mind when we think of sin. Why are these a big deal? Why does it matter if we act in these ways?

In Genesis 1 we read that God made mankind to be in His image. People were made to live in a way that looks like God, reminding one another of the God who made us. Our lives are supposed to point others to God. When we sin, rather than pointing people to God, we point them away from Him.

Not only do we point people away from Him, but we show that we do not love or care for Him. Our actions demonstrate that we do not think God is worthy of our actions or obedience. When we break the law of God, we place ourselves above God.

God deserves everything. When we sin, we rob God of His glory, praise, and honor

Discussion Questions

- In what ways have you broken the law of God?
- What is the consequence of breaking God's law?
- How does it make you feel to know that sin robs God of His glory?

Sing

God Be Merciful to Me
Unknown

Pray

Confess your sins to God.

GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME

Verse 1:

God, be merciful to me;
On thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within;
Cleanse, oh, cleanse me from my sin.

Verse 2:

My transgressions I confess;
Grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against thy grace
And provoked thee to thy face;
I confess thy judgment just;
Speechless, I thy mercy trust.

Verse 3:

I am wretched, born in sin;
Thou desirest truth within;
Thou alone my Savior art;
Teach thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

Verse 4:

Broken, humbled to the dust,
By thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice
And in gladness hear thy voice;
From my sins, O hide thy face;
Blot them out in boundless grace.

Verse 5:

Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my spirit right and true
Cast me not away from thee,
Let thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart;
Steadfast make my willing heart.

Verse 6:

Sinners then shall learn from me
And return, O God, to thee;
Savior, all my guilt remove,
And my tongue shall sing thy love;
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,
And my mouth shall praise accord.

Verse 7:

Not the formal sacrifice
Hath acceptance in thine eyes;
Broken hearts are in thy sight,
More than sacrificial rite;
Contrite spirit, pleading cries,
Thou, O God, will not despise.

Verse 8:

Prosper Zion in thy grace
And her broken walls replace;
Then our righteous sacrifice
Shall delight thy holy eyes;
Free-will offerings, gladly made,
On thy altar shall be made.



THURSDAY

Read Romans 6:15-23

Discuss

The wages of sin is death.

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God had promised that they would die. “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned” (Romans 5:12).

Why does sin deserve death? Isn't that a bit harsh? Think of it this way: if you steal a toy from your sibling, you may get a time out. If you steal your mom's purse, you may get a spanking. If you steal something from a store, you will pay a large fine. If you steal something from the president, you will go to jail. The punishment increases with the authority of the one we have sinned against.

When we sin against God, we are sinning against someone so much more important than the president! God is the highest authority ever. Not only that, but He is perfect and holy. So when we sin against Him, we deserve the highest punishment.

God though, loves us and wants to be in relationship with us. He didn't just leave us in our sin. He sent His Son to bear the penalty of our sins, so that rather than dying, we can live with Him. Isn't that amazing?

Discussion Questions

- Do you agree that sin deserves the punishment of death?
- Take a moment to explain why sin is so bad.
- How did Christ bring us forgiveness (consider reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11)?

Sing

I'd Rather Have Jesus
Rhea F. Miller

Pray

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

I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS

Verse 1:

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands.
I'd rather be led by His nail pierced hand

Chorus:

Than to be the king of a vast domain
Or be held in sin's dread sway.
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.

Verse 2:

I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause;
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame.
I'd rather be true to His holy name

[Chorus]

Verse 3:

He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom;
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;
He's all that my hungering spirit needs.
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead

[Chorus]



FRIDAY

Read Genesis 3 and Romans 8:22

Discuss

As I write this, wildfires have forced over 80,000 people to evacuate from their homes in LA. Efforts are continuing throughout the southeast to rebuild after a series of hurricanes ripped through the region last year. I know several people seeking advanced treatment for various ailments. It seems everyone has some form of the flu.

Creation is groaning. In the fall, man was condemned to die for his sin, but all of creation was cursed too. The world has been broken by the sin of man.

This hurts... and it should. When we see the pain and brokenness of the world, we should realize it wasn't supposed to be this way. God didn't create a broken world. Through Genesis 1, as God creates the world, He says that it is good and very good. It only becomes not good because we broke it.

We are longing, waiting for the day that God restores all things. The hope of the Christian is that there is a coming day when all that is wrong will be made right. Until then, we trust in Christ to hold us fast as we wrestle with the effects of sin.

Discussion Questions

- How have you seen “creation groaning?”
- How does a broken world remind you of your need of Christ?
- Does the hardship of the world make you more dependent on Christ?

Sing

*On Jordan's Stormy
Banks I Stand*
Samuel Stennett

Pray

Thank God for His
promises to restore all
things.

ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS I STAND

Verse 1:

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land,
where my possessions lie.

Refrain:

I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land;
oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.

Verse 2:

O'er all those wide extended plains
shines one eternal day;
there God the Son forever reigns,
and scatters night away.

[Refrain]

Verse 3:

No chilling winds or poisonous breath
can reach that healthful shore;
sickness and sorrow, pain and death,
are felt and feared no more.

[Refrain]

Verse 4:

When I shall reach that happy place,
I'll be forever blest,
for I shall see my Father's face,
and in his bosom rest.

[Refrain]

