

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS

WEEK 4

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 4: *What is God?*

ANSWER: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.



MONDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 145A

Scripture: Read Psalm 14; Romans 1:20-25; Hebrews 11:6

Key Thought: *God is.*

Questions:

- ☞ How can we know that God exists?
- ☞ Can we prove that God exists?
- ☞ Why do some people deny that God exists?
- ☞ How did God introduce Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14?
- ☞ What does this name tell us about God?
- ☞ Do you believe in God? How does your belief affect your life?

Prayer

Notes: The fourth question of the *Shorter Catechism* will be our focus for this week. Recite the question and answer with your family at the beginning of each day's family worship time. Review the previous questions as well. This week we will be examining the being of God. Obviously, such an unsearchable subject cannot be adequately dealt with in a week of family worship—in fact, it will take us all of eternity to plumb the depths of question 4 of the *Shorter Catechism*! For now, however, discuss God's existence with your children, drawing out specific points from the suggested Scripture readings. Explain to them that God has provided abundant evidence of His existence through His creation and through His daily acts of providence, but the sinful heart of man chooses to ignore God and shut Him out. Every man is, by nature, a fool who says in his heart, "there is no God." Still, God's existence does not depend upon whether or not any man believes in Him. He simply is. Discuss the implications of the name by which God made Himself known to Moses (literally, "I AM"). Pray together for grace to grow in trust and knowledge of God.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 145A

Scripture: Read John 1:1-18; 4:24; Psalm 139:7-12

Key Thought: *God is a Spirit.*

Questions:

- ☪ Can we see God the Father?
- ☪ Since God is a Spirit, how is He different from angels?
- ☪ Why does the Bible sometimes talk about God as if He has a physical body (eyes, ears, arms, wings, etc.)?
- ☪ Since God is a Spirit, how can we know Him at all?
- ☪ Since God is a Spirit, can you hide from Him?
- ☪ How do we worship God in Spirit?

Prayer

Notes: The focus of today's lesson may be a bit difficult for very young minds to grasp, but you should be able to give them some sense of the fact that God is a Spirit and does not have a body like we do. Explain to your children that God is a pure Spirit—without any physical limitations and not bound by time or space. Even the angels, who are also called “ministering spirits,” have limits that God does not have. They are not omnipresent and are limited in their knowledge. They are also created beings, while God has no beginning and no end. Show your children that while the Bible sometimes ascribes physical characteristics to God, this is only a literary device designed to help us understand God in terms that we are familiar with. Discuss what it means to be spiritual, and to worship God in spirit. Pray together, praising God for who He is and thanking Him for making Himself known through His Son Jesus Christ.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 145A

Scripture: Read Psalm 90:1-4

Key Thought: *God is infinite.*

Questions:

- ☪ What does the word “infinite” mean?
- ☪ How old is God? Can His years be counted?
- ☪ How far in space does God's presence extend?
- ☪ Is there anything that God can't do?
- ☪ How should God's infinite nature affect how we see ourselves?

Prayer

Notes: This lesson also deals with some abstract concepts that may be a bit difficult for very young children to comprehend. In fact, the concept of infinity is difficult for most intelligent adults to grasp. Explain to your children that a simple definition of the word infinite is “without limits.” Explain that God is not subject to the limits of the world that He has made, but that He is above and beyond them. God is not subject to time. He has no beginning or end. His existence cannot be measured in years. God is not subject to the limits of space. We can only be in one place at a time, but God is in every place at every time. There is no corner of the universe where God is not present. God’s power is not limited, except that He cannot act contrary to His perfect and holy nature (for example, God cannot lie). Explain to your children that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God and that He too shares these characteristics with His Father. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13:8). As the second Person of the Trinity, He is also infinite, eternal and unchangeable. Pray for the Lord to humble each heart with the realization of the infinity of God compared with our finite, limited, ever-shifting natures. Praise Him for who He is.



THURSDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 145A

Scripture: Read 1 Corinthians 1:20-31

Key Thought: *God is infinitely wise, powerful, and holy.*

Questions:

- ☞ How does it appear to us that God is infinitely wise?
- ☞ What is the difference between God’s wisdom and man’s?
- ☞ Why should God’s infinite power make His enemies afraid?
- ☞ Why should God’s infinite power comfort His children?
- ☞ What does it mean that God is infinite in holiness?
- ☞ Since we are unholy, how can we stand in the presence of God?

Prayer

Notes: Some specific attributes of God are listed in the answer to Question 4 of the *Shorter Catechism*. Today’s emphasis is on God’s infinite wisdom, power and holiness. The passage from 1 Corinthians helps to show that God’s wisdom and power far exceed all of the wisdom and power of men. In fact, God’s wisdom and power often appear to be the exact opposite of what men would expect. The message of the gospel, that man is helpless to save himself but that God sent His own Son to accomplish man’s salvation, is foolishness to the world, but it is the very heart of God’s wisdom. Sin has distorted man’s idea of wis-

dom and power, shifting his focus onto himself instead of God. Talk about how God's infinite wisdom is seen in the world and in the Scriptures. Discuss the implications of God's unlimited power for both His enemies and His friends. Talk about God's perfect holiness, explaining that our unholiness separates us from God and earns us His righteous anger. Show them how verse 30 of today's Bible lesson answers the problem we have because of our sin. Then lead your family in prayer.



FRIDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 145A

Scripture: Read Exodus 34:1-8

Key Thought: *God is perfectly just, good, and true.*

Questions:

- ☪ What is justice? Is it different from fairness?
- ☪ What does it mean for something to be good?
- ☪ What is truth? How do you know what is true and what is not?

Prayer

Notes: The final three eternal attributes of God listed in the *Catechism* answer deal with qualities that sinful men tend to view as subjective—that is, as things that differ depending on the situation. Many would say that what is just, or good, or true may be different at different times under different circumstances. But God is the standard, as the One who is perfectly just, and good, and true eternally. If we wish to know what justice, goodness and truth are, we must look to God and His revealed Word. Explain the difference between the world's view of subjective standards, and God's absolute standard as found in Himself. Pray for grace to submit to God's perfect standard in all things rather than seeking to force Him into our definitions of what is just, or good, or true.



Note: Only five lessons per week are included. You are encouraged to lead your family in worship seven days a week. On weekends, you may want to review or build upon the lessons from the previous week, discuss the sermon from Sunday morning, or work on questions from the Catechism or memory verses. These lesson suggestions are intended to provide a simple framework for parents to build upon. You are not limited to this content. The habit of morning and evening family worship is the biblical ideal. We hope you can use these lessons as a starting point for the development of a blessed practice of family worship in your home.