

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS

WEEK 6

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 6: *How many persons are in the Godhead?*

ANSWER: There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.



MONDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 143B

Scripture: Read 1 John 5:1-13

Key Thought: *There are three Persons in the Godhead.*

Questions:

- ☞ Is it possible for one God to exist in three Persons?
- ☞ Why do some people say it is impossible?
- ☞ If something is hard for us to understand, does that mean it cannot be true?
- ☞ What does 1 John 5:7 say about God?
- ☞ Why are three witnesses better than one?

Prayer

Notes: Having established the truth that there is only one true and living God, the *Shorter Catechism* goes on to the doctrine of the Trinity. The details of the Trinity will be addressed throughout the week. Today's focus is on the truth of the doctrine itself. The doctrine of the Trinity is often attacked on the grounds that it is impossible for One God to exist in three Persons. It is presumed to be impossible because our minds cannot comprehend how this could be true. Explain to your children that the basis for our belief is not what we are able to understand, but what the Bible clearly declares to be true. Nothing is impossible with God, but many things are incomprehensible to the limited understanding of men. Point out the clear statement of the Trinity in 1 John 5:7. (You will need to read it in the King James or New King James translation. Many modern translations have deleted this clear statement based on textual criticism, but there is no compelling reason for this omission.) Point out God's wisdom in providing not one, but three witnesses to testify to the truth of the gospel. Ask God for wisdom and faith to understand and believe His witness concerning Himself.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 143B

Scripture: Read Psalm 89:19-29

Key Thought: *The Father is the first Person of the Trinity.*

Questions:

- ☞ When most people think of God, which Person do they think of first?
- ☞ Why do you think God reveals Himself to us as a Father?
- ☞ How is the Father unique compared with the Son and Holy Spirit?
- ☞ Does the Bible clearly teach that the Father is God?
- ☞ How should you respond to God the Father?

Prayer

Notes: Most people have little trouble acknowledging that the Bible teaches the Father is God. Still, it is important to understand the unique role of the Father within the Godhead and how God the Father relates to the Son and the Spirit. Point out that God's revelation of Himself as Father is to be understood primarily as He is the Father of Jesus Christ. It is true that the Scriptures properly refer to Him as "the Father of all" (Eph. 4:6) and so He is as our Creator and Sustainer. But His fatherly relationship to the Son is pre-eminent. In the process of salvation, our adoption as His sons is only through Christ, His only begotten Son. Discuss the properties of fatherhood which belong to the first Person of the Trinity, noting in what ways the role of the Father is unique from that of the Son or the Holy Spirit. Show your children that the Bible clearly teaches that the Father is God. Talk together, then pray about how we ought to respond to God as our heavenly Father.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 143B

Scripture: Read Isaiah 9:1-7; John 20:24-29

Key Thought: *The Son is the second Person of the Trinity.*

Questions:

- ☞ Do some people deny that Jesus Christ is God?
- ☞ What event is the passage from Isaiah 9 predicting?
- ☞ What name is given to the Son in verse 6?
- ☞ Why would the Son be called "Mighty God" and "Everlasting Father" if He is not equal with God the Father?
- ☞ In the passage from John's gospel, what did Thomas call Jesus?
- ☞ Did Jesus accept worship from Thomas as God?
- ☞ Does the Bible clearly teach that the Son is God?

- ☞ What is unique about the Son compared with the Father and the Holy Spirit?
 - ☞ How should you respond to God the Son?
- Prayer**

Notes: Although there are many who deny the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible makes it abundantly clear in affirming that He is God. There are countless passages to support this truth, but the passages you will read are among the most striking for their clarity. Point out to your children that Isaiah 9:1-7 is plainly a prediction of the incarnation of the Jesus, the Son of God. Show them that among the names by which He is identified are “Mighty God,” and “Everlasting Father.” Also notable is the confession of Thomas, who bowed before Jesus after His resurrection, calling Him “my Lord and my God.” Jesus accepted this worship from Thomas, owning the title of God for Himself. Talk about the unique role of God the Son in fulfilling the will of the Father and accomplishing salvation for His elect. Help your children to see that the Bible clearly teaches that the Son is God. Discuss and then pray about how you should respond to God the Son.



THURSDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 143B

Scripture: Read John 16:7-14; Acts 5:1-10

Key Thought: *The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity.*

Questions:

- ☞ Does Jesus identify the Holy Spirit as a “force” or as a Person?
- ☞ Why did Peter tell Ananias that lying to the Holy Spirit was the same as lying to God?
- ☞ How is the Spirit unique compared with the Son and the Father?
- ☞ Does the Bible clearly teach that the Spirit is God?
- ☞ How should you respond to God the Holy Spirit?

Prayer

Notes: Those who deny the doctrine of the Trinity usually insist that the Holy Spirit is not a Person, but an invisible force. They contend that the Spirit is merely the power of God the Father, but not a distinct Person in and of Himself. Throughout the Scriptures, however, the Holy Spirit is described in terms that can only properly apply to a unique Person. He is not an “it.” In the passage from John’s gospel, Jesus clearly speaks of the Holy Spirit as a true Person, distinct from Himself, whom He will send after He has ascended to the Father. In the account of Ananias and Sapphira, Peter equates lying to the Holy Spirit with lying to God, thus affirming the deity of the Spirit. Talk about the unique

role of the Holy Spirit in the inspiration and application of the Bible, in applying the work of the Son to the hearts of His elect through faith, and in working assurance and sanctification in the lives of God's people. Discuss and then pray about how you should respond to God the Holy Spirit.



FRIDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 143B

Scripture: Read Ephesians 4:1-6; Matthew 28:18-20

Key Thought: *All three are one God, equal in power and glory.*

Questions:

- ☪ How many Gods are there?
- ☪ Does the one true God exist in three unique Persons?
- ☪ Are any of these Persons more important than the others?
- ☪ Did any of the Persons of the Trinity create the others?
- ☪ Are any more powerful than the others?
- ☪ How should you respond to the Holy Trinity?

Prayer

Notes: Having considered the unique properties of each Person of the Trinity throughout the week, we will focus today on the unity of the Godhead. Discuss the fact that while there are distinctions in function between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, all three are eternal and all are equal in power and glory. Exhort your children to believe the clear teaching of Scripture concerning the Trinity, and to respond with praise, worship, and obedience to the Triune God.



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.