

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS WEEK 5

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 5: *Are there more gods than one?*

ANSWER: There is but one only, the living and true God.



MONDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 86A

Scripture: Read Deuteronomy 4:32-40

Key Thought: *The living and true God alone must be obeyed.*

Questions:

- ☪ What great things did God do for the people of Israel?
- ☪ Why did He do these things for them? (v. 35)
- ☪ What else did God do for Israel?
- ☪ How were the people supposed to respond? (vv. 39-40)
- ☪ As our Creator, does God have the right to rule us?
- ☪ What does He promise if we obey? What if we disobey?

Prayer

Notes: Question 5 of the *Shorter Catechism* asserts that there is only one God, and that He is the living and true God. This week we will focus on some passages of Scripture that show us our duties toward Him in light of this fact. Today's emphasis is on the fact that God alone is to be obeyed. Discuss the passage from Deuteronomy with your family using the questions above as a guide. Help them to understand that God has graciously revealed Himself to His people as their Creator and their Deliverer. No false god can make the claims that the true God can make. God's mighty works and His revealed Word show us clearly that He alone is God. As our Creator, He has every right to command our obedience to His statutes. Yet although He could command us to obey regardless of our good, He is gracious and compassionate, and promises to bless us as we submit to His laws. Exhort your children that obedience to God is not an option. He is our Maker and we are under obligation to Him. When we disobey, we are in rebellion against the only true God. Not only that, but we disregard the many mighty and gracious works He has done to make Himself known to us. Discuss the seriousness of disobedience as well as the blessedness of obedience. Pray together for obedient hearts.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 86A

Scripture: Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9; John 14:15

Key Thought: *The living and true God alone must be loved.*

Questions:

- ☞ What does it mean to love the Lord with all of your heart?
- ☞ What does it mean to love the Lord with all of your soul?
- ☞ What does it mean to love the Lord with all of your strength?
- ☞ What kinds of things do we tend to love more than God?
- ☞ How do we show our love toward God?
- ☞ How should the love of God be seen in our families?

Prayer

Notes: When Jesus was asked which was the greatest commandment, He quoted from Deuteronomy 6:5 which says, "You shall love the LORD your God with all of your heart, and with all of your soul, and with all of your strength." Because our hearts are sinful and self-centered, we tend to love other things more than we love God. Talk about some of the things in this world that can take the place of God in our hearts. Explain to your children that loving God is always connected in the Bible with keeping His commandments. Love is not an emotional feeling about God, but a commitment to Him based upon who He is. Talk about some of the characteristics of God that make Him worthy of the love of His creatures. Discuss what it means to love the Lord with all of the heart, soul, and strength. Using the passage from Deuteronomy, discuss how love for God should work itself out in your family. Talk about some specific ways to implement the principles in this passage. Praise God together for His goodness and pray that He will enable each family member to love Him more fully.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 86A

Scripture: Read Jeremiah 10:1-16; Matthew 10:28

Key Thought: *The living and true God alone must be feared.*

Questions:

- ☞ Why did some of the nations worship the sun, moon and stars?
- ☞ What did the Lord say about these false gods in verse 5?
- ☞ What kinds of things are you afraid of?
- ☞ According to verse 7, what is God's rightful due from all men?
- ☞ What does it mean to "fear the LORD"?

- ☪ What will happen to all false gods in the end?
- ☪ How should our fear of the Lord affect our daily lives?

Prayer

Notes: The passage from Jeremiah 10 deals with the subject of fear. It begins with an exhortation for God's people not to "be dismayed at the signs of heaven" like the Gentiles. Explain to your children that the nations that did not know God were afraid of the powers they observed in the elements of nature. Since they rejected the True God, they believed that the power of nature was controlled by other gods, and they made images to represent these imaginary deities. God speaks of how foolish this was, since the images were lifeless and had no power at all. Instead of fearing these idols, or the power of nature, all men ought to fear the True and Living God who made the heavens and the earth and who controls them according to His power and wisdom. Discuss what it means to fear the Lord, standing in awe of His might and His holiness. Show your children that fearing the wrath of God should lead us to godly sorrow and repentance for our offenses against Him, and cause us to seek His mercy, which He has provided through Jesus. Pray together, asking the Lord to help you to fear Him alone.



THURSDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 86A

Scripture: Read Exodus 20:1-6

Key Thought: *The living and true God alone must be worshiped.*

Questions:

- ☪ What duties are required in the first two commandments?
- ☪ What sins are forbidden in the first two commandments?
- ☪ Since there is only one true God, whom do idolaters really worship?
- ☪ Do you have to bow down to an image to commit idolatry?
- ☪ What are some of the most popular idols today?
- ☪ What idols are you tempted to worship instead of God?

Prayer

Notes: Today's lesson focuses on the first two commandments. If you have a copy of the *Larger Catechism* handy, you may wish to refer to questions 104-110 as they expand upon the duties required and the sins forbidden by these commandments. Discuss the implications of these laws with your family. Explain what idolatry means, and show them that it is ultimately the worship of self instead of God. Make a list of some of the more popular idols served by people today, and ask each family member to identify which idols they are most tempted to serve. Spend time in prayer, confessing and repenting of any sins of idol

worship that the Lord may convict you of, and pray for grace to worship the Lord alone as He has commanded in His Word.



FRIDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 86A

Scripture: Read John 17:1-3; Psalm 100:1-5

Key Thought: *The living and true God alone must be known.*

Questions:

- ☪ How does Jesus define “eternal life”?
- ☪ Is it possible to know God without knowing Jesus?
- ☪ Do men naturally know God?
- ☪ How do we come to know the only true God?
- ☪ What does “knowing God” mean?
- ☪ How do we grow in the knowledge of God?

Prayer

Notes: In His high priestly prayer, Jesus defines eternal life as “knowing the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.” Discuss this statement with your family today, explaining what it means to know God. Knowing Him involves more than just knowing about God. It means having an intimate personal interest in Him. Show your children the connection between knowing God and knowing Jesus, explaining to them that apart from Christ it is impossible to truly know God. Explain also that knowing God does not come naturally to us as sinful creatures. Instead, we naturally suppress the knowledge of God, seeking to block Him out of our minds because our hearts are set against Him. It is only through His grace and by His Spirit that the knowledge of God is revealed to our hearts. Pray together, thanking God for making Himself known, and asking for an increasing desire to know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.



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.