

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS WEEK 20

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 20: *Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?*

ANSWER: God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

MONDAY

Praise: Sing Psalm 25C

Scripture: Read Genesis 3:14-15; Ephesians 1:1-23

Key Thought: *God has provided salvation out of His mere good pleasure.*

Questions:

- ☞ How is the promise of salvation seen in the curse upon the serpent?
- ☞ After Adam sinned, was God obligated to save him?
- ☞ After the Fall, did mankind deserve to be saved?
- ☞ Why did God determine to save some of His creatures?
- ☞ What characteristics of God are seen in this?

Prayer

Notes: Having dwelt for several weeks upon the dreadful consequences of sin in and upon mankind, the *Catechism* turns now to the matter of salvation. God did not leave all mankind in the estate of sin and misery, but purposed to save His elect through a Redeemer. Today's focus is upon the fact that salvation originates in the mere good pleasure of God, and not in any worthiness on the part of men to be saved. Show your children the promise of the gospel in God's curse upon the serpent, explaining that the "Seed of the woman" speaks of Christ. Point out that God was not under any obligation to save any of us, nor is there anything in sinful men that makes them worthy of redemption. God would have been perfectly just to consign the whole human race to destruction. The reason that salvation is promised to some of God's creatures is found in the fact that He was pleased to show mercy and grace to His elect. Pray together, thanking God for His kindness and mercy in determining to provide redemption for those who deserve only punishment and praising Him for His wonderful grace.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 25C

Scripture: Read Ephesians 1:1-23

Key Thought: *God has provided salvation from all eternity.*

Questions:

- ☞ Did God determine to save Adam only after he sinned?
- ☞ According to Ephesians 1:4, when did God choose us in Christ?
- ☞ Does this mean that God knew that Adam would fall, along with his descendants?
- ☞ What does this teach us about the wisdom of God's purpose?
- ☞ What does this teach us about the security of our salvation?

Prayer

Notes: Alluding to the wording of Ephesians 1:4, the writers of the *Shorter Catechism* point out that God determined to save the elect from all eternity. Salvation was not God's reaction to man's sin, but was His purpose from before creation. In His sovereignty, God knew that Adam would fall along with his descendants. The purpose of God from eternity was to demonstrate His justice and His merciful grace among His creatures. This is a mystery that our minds cannot fully comprehend, but it moves us to stand in awe of the wisdom of God's purpose. Furthermore, the fact that God chose us in Christ before the world began teaches us that the salvation of God's elect is certain and unchangeable. The security of those who are in Christ is assured. It is not possible for those to fall who have been chosen in Christ in the eternal counsel of the immutable God. Praise God together for His wisdom and power, and ask Him to build into your lives the fruit of righteousness, which is the outworking of His eternal purpose toward His elect in Christ.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 25C

Scripture: Read Romans 9:1-24

Key Thought: *God has elected some to everlasting life.*

Questions:

- ☞ What is election?
- ☞ How do Jacob and Esau illustrate election?
- ☞ Which is more amazing: that God loved Jacob or that God hated Esau? Why?
- ☞ Does the fact that God elects some to eternal life make Him unfair?
- ☞ Which characteristics of God are seen in the doctrine of election?

Prayer

Notes: The focus of today's lesson is on the doctrine of election. The *Catechism* affirms the biblical teaching that God, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life. The example of Jacob and Esau in Romans 9 clearly shows that the salvation of Jacob and the rejection of Esau did not depend upon anything they did, but upon the good pleasure of God, whose purpose for them was settled even before they were born. Paul further explains that God's sovereign choice of the elect does not make Him unjust, since His justice would require the rejection of all men. Instead, God's mercy is magnified in election, while His justice is manifested to those who are prepared in advance for destruction. Explain to your children that the eternal destiny of every man is determined by God, and that it is not appropriate for us to question His wisdom and purpose. Explain also that God's sovereignty in election does not exclude man's responsibility, since God has ordained the means of salvation as well as the end. Pray together, exalting God for His perfect wisdom and thanking Him for the mercy that He has shown to His elect for the sake of Christ. Pray for friends and family members who are yet unconverted, that they might be among God's elect and be drawn to faith in Christ.



THURSDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 25C

Scripture: Read Psalm 2:1-12

Key Thought: *God entered into a covenant of grace.*

Questions:

- ☞ What was the covenant that God made with Adam and his descendants? What happened?
- ☞ What is the covenant of grace?
- ☞ With whom did God enter into the covenant of grace?
- ☞ How was the covenant of grace fulfilled?
- ☞ How is the covenant of grace applied to God's elect?

Prayer

Notes: Since Adam failed to keep the terms of the covenant of life, thus bringing death and eternal punishment upon himself and his descendants, God was pleased in His mercy to enter into a second covenant, called the covenant of grace, because it was not the will of God that the world should perish. The covenant of grace was made between God and Christ, by which God undertook to deliver those who should believe in His Son, and give them everlasting life. This is the gospel, or "good news" of God to men; and it is called the covenant of grace, because it proceeded from God's free mercy, and not from our deservings. The covenant of grace was fulfilled through the perfect obedience of Christ to the law of God, and His offering of Himself in the place of His

elect, to bear their punishment for the breach of the covenant of works. It is applied to God's elect by grace through faith, as they are drawn by the Spirit to confess their guilt and helplessness and take hold of the salvation offered by the blood of the Redeemer. Praise God together for the wondrous grace shown forth in Christ, and for not leaving us to perish forever in our sins.

 FRIDAY

Praise: Sing Psalm 25C

Scripture: Read Titus 2:1-15

Key Thought: *God has brought His elect into an estate of salvation.*

Questions:

- ☞ What is salvation? From what are God's people saved?
- ☞ How is the transition from the estate of sin and misery to the estate of salvation seen in the lives of God's elect?
- ☞ Is holiness and righteousness in daily living evidence of God's salvation in the heart?
- ☞ How is the grace of salvation seen in your life?

Prayer

Notes: We will focus today upon the transition from the estate of sin and misery to the estate of salvation as it is seen in the lives of God's elect. Titus 2 speaks in practical terms of the transformation of the heart and life that result from God's gift of salvation. Explain to your children that a life of godliness and holiness is the mark of God's saving work in the heart. Challenge them to examine their own lives for the evidence of Christ in them, and point out the specific manifestations of grace that are mentioned in the passage from Titus. Pray together, confessing sin and asking God to increase daily the consistency of godly living that testifies to His grace and assures the hearts of His elect that they have been given new life through the Redeemer.



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.