

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS

WEEK 38

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 38: *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?*

ANSWER: At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.



MONDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 30A

Scripture: Read John 5:21-29; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Acts 24:14-16

Key Thought: *There will be a general resurrection.*

Questions:

- ☞ What is the resurrection?
- ☞ When will the resurrection be?
- ☞ Who will be raised?
- ☞ Will the godly and the wicked be raised on the same day?
- ☞ What does Paul mean by 1 Corinthians 15:19?
- ☞ How do we know that there is a resurrection?

Prayer

Notes: The writers of the *Shorter Catechism* make a distinction between the benefits received by believers (1) in this life, (2) at death, and (3) at the resurrection. These are three distinct states in the life of the Christian, and in each state, particular blessings are received. They may be categorized as (1) the present state, (2) the intermediate state, and (3) the final state (or state of glory). This week we turn to the final state, in which the bodies of believers, which have been resting in the grave, are raised up and reunited with their souls being "made perfectly blessed for the full enjoying of God to all eternity." Today's focus is upon the fact of the resurrection, which the writer of Hebrews puts among the elementary principles of Christ (Heb. 6:2). The resurrection was the heart of the preaching of the apostles and its bold proclamation always resulted in the strongest response from their hearers (Acts 2:37; 4:2; 17:32). Discuss the importance of the resurrection with your children, explaining Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15:19. Show them also, from the passage in John's Gospel, that the Scriptures look forward to one general resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked at the close of history, and that this resurrection is the hope of the people of God.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 30A

Scripture: Read I Corinthians 15:35-58

Key Thought: *At the resurrection, believers will be raised up in glory.*

Questions:

- ☞ When believers are raised up, will their bodies look like they've been in the grave?
- ☞ How does the planting of a seed teach us about the resurrection?
- ☞ According to verses 42-44, how will our resurrection bodies be better than our current bodies?
- ☞ How should this wonderful hope affect you today? (see v. 58)

Prayer

Notes: Thoughts of resurrected bodies may conjure up all sorts of frightening visions in the minds of young children. Far from the spectacle of a horror movie graveyard scene, however, the Scriptures teach that the bodies of believers will be raised up in glory. While we do not know the exact nature of the transformation, we know that our bodies will be changed into something new that is specially suited for the eternal state of glory. Paul uses the analogy of the seed to illustrate this teaching, by showing that even in nature there is a mirror of this mysterious transformation. Just as a seed, when it is buried in the ground, begins to decay, and from the very substance of the decomposing seed springs forth something that is the same, yet better and far more glorious, so it will be with the resurrection of the just. Discuss the superiority of our resurrected bodies, as revealed in verses 42-44. Show your children how this hope should affect those who trust in Christ, giving them great confidence to press on in the work of the Lord, knowing that they do not suffer and labor for nothing.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 30A

Scripture: Read Matthew 10:32-33; 25:31-46; Mark 8:38

Key Thought: *At the resurrection, believers will be openly acknowledged.*

Questions:

- ☞ What does it mean to confess Jesus before men?
- ☞ For what did Jesus commend the sheep in Matthew 25:34-36?
- ☞ How did the sheep respond? What do we learn from this response?
- ☞ What did Jesus say about those who are ashamed of Him before the world?
- ☞ When are you most tempted to be ashamed of Jesus before others?
- ☞ How can you overcome this temptation?

Prayer

Notes: It is amazing to read the parables of Jesus that speak of His approving reception of the saints into glory at the end of the age. How we long to hear His voice call out to us, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into your rest.” What is most amazing is the fact that we know we do not deserve such a warm reception because of the darkness of our wicked hearts. We are reminded that it is only by the power of Jesus working in us that we can hope one day to stand in His presence and receive His approval and blessing. In fact, the sheep in Jesus’ parable don’t even seem to be aware that they’ve done anything worthy of acceptance! We are also told that Jesus will openly acknowledge those who are His and usher them into glory. Yet more than once the Scriptures caution us, knowing the weakness of our flesh, that those who fear to acknowledge Christ before men in this world cannot expect to be acknowledged by Him at the last great day. This is a sober theme, and one that needs to be stressed, since the inclination of our hearts is to seek the approval of men rather than God. Discuss with your children what it means to unashamedly confess Christ before the world and point out some of the common situations in which the temptation to deny Him before men may be strongest. Show them that they can overcome this temptation through prayer and through remembering Christ’s willingness to suffer shame and reproach for their sake.



THURSDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 30A

Scripture: Read 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 8:33-39; 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Key Thought: *At the resurrection, believers will be acquitted.*

Questions:

- ☞ What does the word “acquitted” mean?
- ☞ Who must appear before the judgment seat? Who will be judge?
- ☞ How can a guilty sinner be acquitted in a perfect court?
- ☞ Who will stand up to accuse the believer?
- ☞ What answers will be given?

Prayer

Notes: The resurrection day is also the day of judgment, when all men will appear before Christ to give an account of their lives. This is a day that will be fearful and terrifying to the wicked, but to the saints it will be a day of incomparable joy and thanksgiving. The reason for this joy, besides the fact that we will see our beloved Savior face to face, is that in His presence, and the presence of all our enemies, we will be acquitted. Explain to your children the meaning of the term “acquitted” (declared innocent), and show them that only those who have trusted in Christ’s sacrifice—their faith being evidenced through lives

of increasing godliness through grace—will be acquitted on that great day. Show them that our great accusers: the Law, the devil, and our own consciences, will all be silenced by Christ who Himself fulfilled the Law for us, defeated the devil, and cleansed our consciences from all sin and guilt.



FRIDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 30A

Scripture: Read Revelation 5:1-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Key Thought: *At the resurrection, believers will be made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.*

Questions:

- ☞ What is man's chief end?
- ☞ What stands in the way of our fulfilling this end while we live?
- ☞ Even after conversion, why can't we fully enjoy God in this life?
- ☞ What will be the highest pleasure of the saints in eternity?
- ☞ How should we begin to prepare for that eternal blessing now?

Prayer

Notes: The very first question of the *Shorter Catechism* declares that man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. While the entire life of the believer is taken up with the pursuit of this purpose, it is only in heaven that we will be able to fully realize our goal. There are many barriers that stand in the way of our enjoyment of God in this life (our corrupt nature, the lure of sin, the effects of sin on a fallen world, etc.). Even after our conversion, we are unable to fully enjoy God, since our comprehension of His glory is cloudy and incomplete—there is so much of Him that we have not seen or known. But in the resurrection, we will be made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity. It is noteworthy that the highest pleasure of the saints in heaven will not be found in the service of themselves, but in the enjoyment of the glorious being and character of God. Many entertain self-centered notions of heaven, in which all of their fondest desires are heaped upon them without limit, but these ideas betray a heart that is still fleshly. Believers ought to prepare for the blessing of eternity by learning to love God and His character, through cultivating the joys of study, prayer, and worship.



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.