

Home Discipleship

Family Activities

Q: Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished?

A: No, God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them both in this life and in the life to come.

Key Verse: Ephesians 5:5-6

Key Passage: Ephesians 5:5-14

Music: For each question there is a song that can be found on the New City Catechism App. Listen to the song for this question and sing it as a family. Songs have a unique way of helping ingrain truths into our hearts.

Coloring Activity: Coloring is a fun activity for all ages. And a great way to spend time thinking deeply about the spiritual truths that we have talked about today. On pages three and four of this document are coloring pages of courtrooms to help your kids better imagine what environment looks like where American's determine justice. Page four's coloring page has a fun twist with the trumpet coming from the sky to symbolize the return of Christ

Memory Activity: Another great way to ingrain this truth into your family is to practice memorizing it with different activities.

Write out the memory verse or catechism answer on a large piece of paper without any spaces between the words. Read the memory verse or catechism answer out to the children, and then invite them to take turns drawing one line at a time between the letters where they think there should be spaces. Have the children read the verse or answer together a few times. Then hide the words. Ask the children if anyone would like to say it individually.

Discussion Questions: Discuss a few of these questions as a family to help everyone think deeper about their own lives with this doctrinal truth.

1. Have you ever disobeyed or done something really bad that you were never punished for?
2. Have you ever done something bad that you felt the punishment was too harsh?
3. How do we base our punishments?
4. How does God base his punishment?

Teaching Activities: Teaching activities are meant to help reinforce the idea in the catechism question. Be sure to be asking kids questions as you do these activities to be sure that they see the connection.

Activity #1: Find a news story online that describes someone committing a crime. Read the news story to the children, and ask them to decide if the criminal should be punished. Ask the children why they think that the criminal should be punished. Ask the children if they've ever been punished for anything. Ask them if they think the punishment was justified. Explain to the children that in both cases, punishment was imposed because a law was broken.

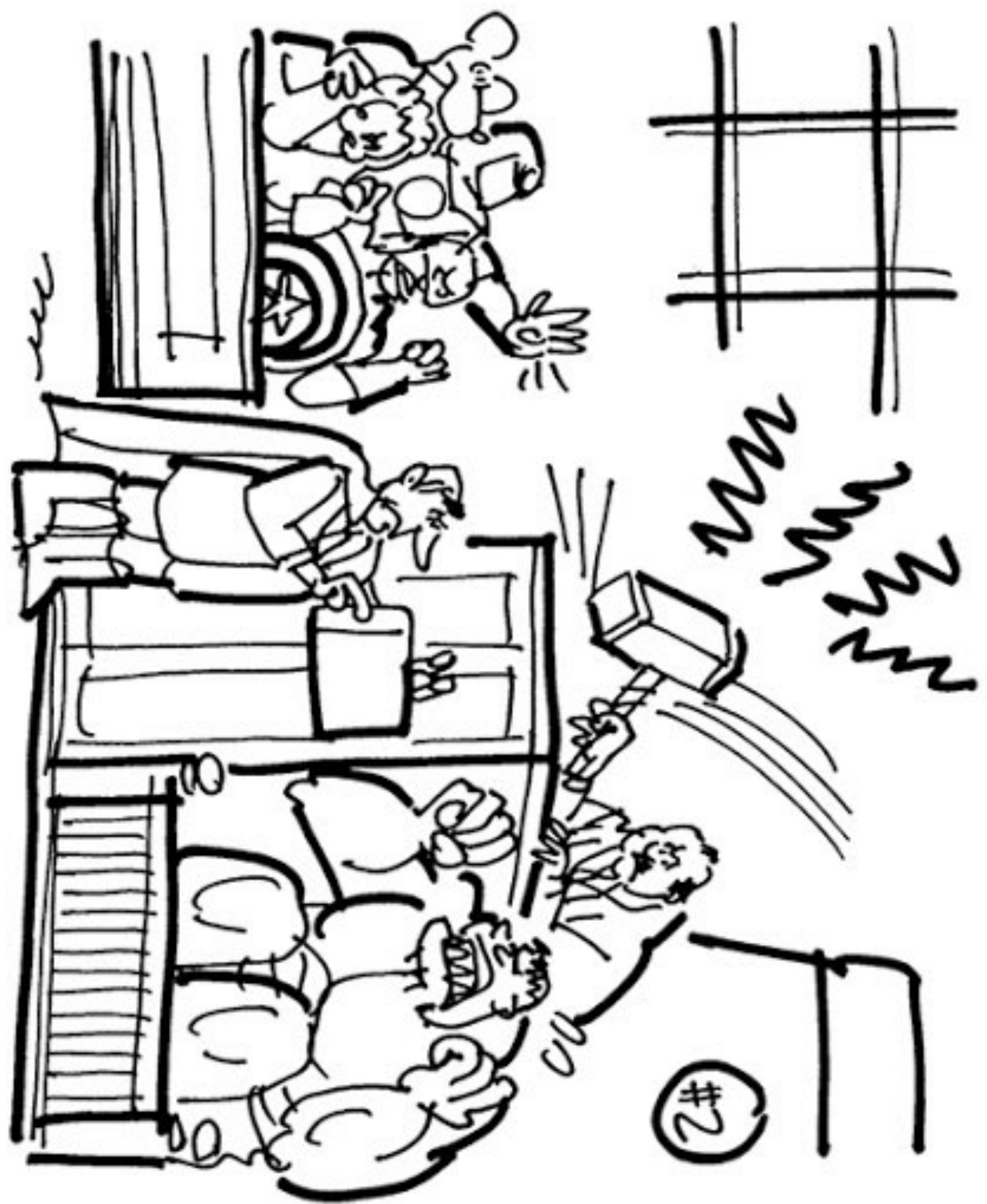
Introduce question 18: "Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished?" Remind the children that God hates sin and idolatry, and explain that this question will help them to understand what God is going to do about all the sin and idolatry in his world. Acknowledge to the children that sometimes it seems as if God is not doing anything, and that he's letting people get away with disobedience and idolatry, but reassure them that God will do something about it.

Activity #2: Give each child a piece of paper and a marker. Have the children write down three or four crimes that would get someone arrested and taken to court. Then have them write down what they believe would be a suitable punishment if the accused were found guilty. Next, have them write down three or four things that they or their peers might get into trouble for. Ask them to write down an appropriate punishment for each. Ask them if there's a connection between the sort of punishments they might receive for disobeying their parents and those that people receive for major crimes? Help them see that it is only when we understand the certainty and necessity of punishment for sin that we can understand how wonderful it is to escape the punishment we were owed.

Activity #3: Give the each family member a piece of paper and a marker. Encourage the children to reflect on the character of God as revealed in the Catechism question and answer. Ask them to think about the enormity of the punishment that is owed for even one sin against a perfectly holy God. Ask the children if they were taken before a judge as a guilty party, what sort of emotion would they feel? What sort of emotion do they feel when they picture themselves before God himself? Ask them to write a brief letter to God explaining what they've learned about today. Help them to focus on God's power and justice. Remind them that the more we learn about God's character, the more we will be filled with awe of him. Encourage the children to find a special place for this letter in their room or elsewhere in the house.

Pray: Take some time as a family to pray. Family prayer time is an incredible way to grow with one another and enjoy our God together! When you pray, thank God for being the perfect judge who punishes sin. Imagine how the world would be if we were faced with the punishment of what imperfect people believed we deserved. To have a perfect God who is righteous and just allows us to trust that he will never change his mind. The work of Christ on the cross will be eternally perfect for saving the souls of those who believe. Praise God for this incredible Gospel truth and for choosing to love and forgive you.







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