

A banner with a background of a wooden desk, a green book, a typewriter keyboard, and a yellow notepad. The text "Catechism: Foundations of the Faith" is written in a dark green, serif font on a light yellow rectangular background.

Catechism: Foundations of the Faith

The Gift of God's Word

Key idea:

Question 45: What guide has God given us so that we may grow in our faith and learn how to live in a way that pleases him?

God has given us His Word, the Bible, to feed us, guide us, point us to Christ, and show us how to live in a manner that is pleasing to Him and for our good.

Key text:

Matthew 4:4

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Key points:

1. The Bible is the written Word of God.
2. The Bible is an incredible gift from God to us. God uses the Bible in several key ways to help me grow in my relationship with Him:
 - a. The Bible is food for my soul
 - b. The Bible is guidance for my life showing me truth and error, right and wrong
 - c. The Bible is guidance for my life, showing me God's will
 - d. The Bible points me to Jesus - my greatest need!
 - e. The Bible helps me grow in holiness, becoming like Jesus

Questions for discussion/application:

1. Note: This is BRCC Catechism Question 45. It is the first of twenty-four questions in our catechism dealing with the Bible, its teaching, and its role in our lives.
2. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
3. What is the difference between saying "The Bible is a record of God's work among humans" or "The Bible contains a record of what humans have thought about God" or "The Bible contains the Word of God" and "The Bible is the written Word of God"?
4. How is the incident of God feeding His people manna in the wilderness an example of how the Word of God is food for my soul? Can I name a few things I learn about my need for God's Word from this incident?
5. Why is it important for me to personally read, study, and meditate upon God's Word and also to hear the powerful, public proclamation of God's Word in the worship of a local church? What is the danger if I lose either of these aspects?
6. When I think about discovering God's will for my life, do I tend to focus on the written Scripture or on other ways of discerning God's will? Why must any subjective guidance beyond the Scripture always be built upon, tested by, and submitted to God's revealed will in the Bible?
7. When I think about discovering God's will for my life, do I tend to focus on the written Scripture or on other ways of discerning God's will? Why must any subjective guidance beyond the Scripture always be built upon, tested by, and submitted to God's revealed will in the Bible?
8. In what two ways does the Scripture point to Jesus that are essential for us as we are trying to grow in holiness? Why is it important to see Him as the perfect example of holiness? Why do we need to be reminded of His atoning work on our behalf as we struggle with sin?
9. Why is it both pleasing to God and for our own good when we live in accordance with God's will as revealed in the Scripture?
10. Why is the Word of God the foundational means of grace? In what sense are all of the other means of grace built upon this one?
11. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to pray for and call?