

*"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

# *Family Catechism*

*December 2014*

*The After Life*

*New Life Christian Center | [www.nlccministry.org](http://www.nlccministry.org)*

## Catechism Introduction

### **A Catechism?** (Adopted from a teaching by Pastor John Piper)

#### **I. What is a catechism?**

*In 1 Corinthians 14:19 Paul says, "In the church I would rather speak five words with my mind, in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue." In Galatians 6:6 he says, "Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches." Acts 18:25 says that Apollos "has been instructed in the way of the Lord."*

*In each of these verses the Greek word for "instruct" or "teach" is katecheo. From this word we get our English word "catechize". It simply means to teach Biblical truth in an orderly way. Generally this is done with questions and answers accompanied by Biblical support and explanation.*

#### **II. The history of these catechisms**

*These catechisms come from the Baptist tradition. Although CRCC is non-denominational, these catechisms can serve as a solid foundation for our families. We may add a few elements to it as catechism becomes more ingrained in the culture of our church.*

#### **III. Is there a Biblical pattern of doctrine?**

*Several texts teach that there is. For example, in Romans 6:17 Paul gives thanks that "you have become obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were committed." 2 Timothy 1:13 says, "Follow the pattern of sound words which you heard from me." Acts 2:42 says, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching." 2 Thessalonians 2:15 says, "Stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us." And Acts 20:27 says, "I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."*

*So it appears that there was a body of authoritative instruction and even a way of teaching it in the early church.*

#### **IV. Why is it important?**

- 1) *We are required to "continue in the faith, stable and steadfast" (Col. 1:23).*
- 2) *We are urged to "attain to the unity of the... knowledge of the of the Son of God...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4:13-14).*
- 3) *There are many deceivers (1 John 2:26).*
- 4) *There are difficult doctrines "which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:16).*
- 5) *Leaders must be raised up who can "give instruction in sound doctrine and also confute those who contradict it" (Titus 1:9).*
- 6) *We are commanded to teach and disciple our children (Deuteronomy 6, Ephesians 6).*

#### **V. How shall we begin?**

*We are asking every family or small group within NLCC (especially fathers) to hold weekly worship and family/group bible study using catechism lessons provided by the church.*

*We are also asking that Wednesday be your designated worship and family or group bible study day. If Wednesday doesn't work for your family or group, feel free to choose another day. Our goal is to learn and grow as a family through biblical teaching.*

*Let's get excited about building a "stable and firm" generation who knows and serves Christ!*

## Other Information

*Sometimes there are other ways to express a true answer to these questions. Feel free to use scripture to formulate other true answers where possible and helpful. The aim of a catechism is not to be exhaustive but to give a solid foundation from which to "keep growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:17). The biblical basis for family and group bible study is Deuteronomy 6:1-8.*

## How To Study

*Each catechism lesson will be studied for the entire month. The lesson will include a number of questions with biblical answers. Each question will have corresponding scriptures for biblical reference. Each question will also have discussion questions, geared to help your family have great discussions about the truth that was learned. We hope that you all will take the time to write down responses and questions for further study.*

*The Children Catechism is very similar to the family lesson, in that it is based off of the same questions. However, the questions and the answers are written in such a way that children can understand and memorize. Remember to allow your children to ask questions and give input in discussion. You may be surprised what revelation God may reveal to your child.*

*With every answer, try to commit them to memory. The scripture says Psalms 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." Scripture memory is important, because it helps the believer gain knowledge and revelation of the scripture. Also, memorizing the scripture proves to be beneficial when in hard times in life. Bringing back to mind a scripture and a truth from the word of God will help you gain victory from every storm of your life.*

*Make sure that you start and end each lesson that you have with a word of prayer. Pray to the Father that He would bless you and your family to understand the word of God, and that revelation would flow from heaven. At the end of the lesson, make sure to pray that the seed of the Word of God is not stolen or destroyed from the enemy. The scripture says John 10:10 "The thief (satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy." The enemy seeks to destroy the seed of the word that was planted during your time of devotions. Lastly, in your closing prayer, pray that the seed of the word will fall on good ground. Remember, the enemy comes to destroy and steal the word. Read for yourself Mark 4:1-20 to see the desire of the enemy. Pray that this does not happen to your family.*

*Lastly, challenge yourself! Everyone likes a good challenge every now and again. Challenge yourself and your family to memorize the scriptures. Create ways in which to remember the answers to the questions. Develop games and family challenges to bring the word of God to life. Having this foundation of the Word of God in our life is essential to the disciple of Jesus Christ (John 8:31-32).*

*Our prayer is that you will have the tools you need to succeed. If you ever need assistance at any time, check out the resource page on our church website at [www.nlccministry.org](http://www.nlccministry.org), or write down questions and ask questions to your caretaker leader or church leader. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't know. Furthermore, if you don't know do not give answers you don't know. Let your family know 'I don't know, but I will study and find out.' As the lessons go along, you will begin to develop more understanding and revelation from the Word. Further enabling you to better teach and disciple your family.*

*You Ready?!?! Let's Begin our journey in the word of God.*

## December 2014 – The After Life

### 1. What happens to the soul after death?

*The soul is undying, and passes at once into blessedness or suffering.*

**Scriptural Reference:** 2 Corinthians 5:8; Luke 16:23, 28

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) What determines where the soul goes after death?

### 2. What happens to the body after death?

*The body returns to the dust, but it will rise again.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Acts 24:15

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Will the body rise immediately after death or at a time preordained by God?

### 3. Will the same body live again?

*Yes, the very same body will live again, but greatly changed as to its condition and mode of life.*

**Scriptural Reference:** 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Since the body will live again but be changed into a spiritual form, can we presume there will be no disability in heaven?
- 2) Could disability of any sort exist in heaven? Why or why not?

### 4. What is the Day of Judgment?

*The Day of Judgment means a great and awful day, on which the living and the dead will stand before Christ to be judged.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Acts 17:32; Matthew 25:31; 32; 2 Corinthians 5:10

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Based on 2 Corinthians 5:10 what is going to happen at the Judgment?
- 2) Are our earthly works important even though they don't save us? Why?

### 5. During the judgment, what will Christ do with the wicked?

*Christ will send the wicked away to everlasting punishment in hell.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Matthew 25:41, 46

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Does the fact that the wicked go to hell make God a wicked God?
- 2) What are your thoughts about hell? How has the Bible helped you put hell in proper perspective?

### 6. During the judgment, what will Christ do with the righteous?

*Christ will welcome the righteous into everlasting blessedness with Him in heaven.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Matthew 25:34, 46

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Does the fact that only the righteous will live in heaven with God make him an unjust God?
- 2) What is righteousness in God's sight and/or according to His word?

### 7. Will there be different degrees of punishment?

*The future punishment will be greater according to the degrees of sin, and the knowledge men had of God's will and the way of salvation through Christ.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Luke 12:47, 48; Mark 12:40

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Based on Mark 12:40, how do you think God feels about deliberate and willful hypocrisy?
- 2) Once we come into the knowledge of Christ, are we responsible to Him to live righteously?

### 8. How is hell described in the scriptures?

*Hell is a place of darkness and torment, of endless sin and endless suffering.*

**Scriptural Reference: Revelation 20:13-14; Matthew 13:42**

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why was hell created initially?
- 2) What keeps us from telling others about hell? Is hell more offensive than the cross in reality?

### 9. How is heaven described in the scriptures?

*Heaven is a place of light and holiness, of freedom from all sorrow and temptation, or blessed society and thankful praise to God.*

**Scriptural Reference: Revelation 7:9**

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Is heaven an allegorical place or does God literally intend for all believers to dwell with Him there after physical death?

## Advanced Discussion Questions

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Moderator: As these are advanced discussion questions they require more thought and discussion time. To get optimal results from your group's time together, ask these questions first and obtain answers. After all answers are in, read the answer below and then discuss the findings as a group.

We encourage you to write the answers down and identify similarities and differences in the answers as well as specific facts from scripture that support your answers.

### What do we know as to the period between death and resurrection?

*We know that between death and the resurrection there will be conscious existence of the soul, either in torment or in blessedness with Christ.*

**Scriptural Reference: Luke 16:24; 23:43; Phil. 1:23**

### Are we authorized to believe in heavenly recognition? What proof do we have of knowing/recognizing each other in heaven?

*The Bible warrants the hope that we shall know each other in heaven.*

**Scriptural Reference: 1 Thess. 2:19; Matthew 17:3,4**