

*"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 Catechisms*

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



## Catechism Introduction

### **A Catechism?** (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 NLCC 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 support. Each question will also have discussion questions, given to help your family have enriching dialogue about the biblical truths you will be learning. We hope that you all will take the time to write down responses and questions for further study.*

*The children's catechisms are very similar to the family lesson, in that they are 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 during family/group discussion. You may be surprised what revelation God may reveal to your child!*

*Try to commit each answer 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 experiencing difficult seasons of life. Recalling scriptural truths from the word of God will help you gain victory over every storm in 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 in John 10:10 "The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy." The enemy will seek to destroy the seed of the word that will be planted during your time of devotion. Take a moment to read Mark 4:1-20 to see the desire of the enemy. 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. 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 to remember the answers to the questions. Develop games and family rhymes 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 build yourself and your family up. 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 a member of the leadership team. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand something we are studying. Also, be open with your family. If you are unsure of an answer to a question that has been asked, let them know you will take time to study the topic in order to give a biblical answer. We believe God will give us insight and revelation when we ask Him!*

*So, are you ready?!?! Let's begin our journey in the word of God.*

## Family Catechisms Lesson 1: God

### 1. Who is God?

*Answer: God is the only Being that has always existed, and He is the Creator and Preserver of all things.*

*Scriptural Reference: (Gen.1:1; John 1:1)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Who existed before God?
- 2) What does the scripture mean when it says, "and the word was God?"

### 2. How do we know that God exists?

*Answer: We know that God exists from the worlds He has made, and from our own sense of right and wrong; and the Bible above all tell us of God.*

*Scriptural Reference: (Rom. 1:20; Ps. 19:1)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Can our conscience alone convince us that God is real?
- 2) What would your argument be about the existence of God, to an atheist?

### 3. Do we have any reason to deny the existence of God?

*Answer: It is foolish and wicked to say there is no God.*

*Scriptural Reference: (Ps. 14:1; Rom. 1:20)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why would anyone deny God's existence?
- 2) Name some ways that God's power and nature are seen in everyday life?

### 4. How may we learn the character of God?

*Answer: Mainly from His Word.*

*Scriptural Reference: (Ps.119:10; Deut.30:14)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) How does the word show us who God is?
- 2) Name 10 characteristics of God and give scriptural support.

### 5. What does God know?

*Answer: God knows all things, even the secrets of our hearts; God is omniscient.*

*Scriptural Reference: (Heb. 4:13; Eccles. 12:14)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why do people believe they can hide from God?
- 2) Name the adjective that describes God as all-knowing.

### 6. What power does God have?

*Answer: God has all power; God is omnipotent.*

*Scriptural Reference: (Jer.10:12; Matt.19:26)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) How does God display His power today?
- 2) How can we receive this power?

### 7. Where is God?

*Answer: God is everywhere, and all things are present to Him; God is omni-present.*

*Scriptural Reference: (Josh.1:9; Matt.28:20)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) How do we know that God is near?
- 2) Will God still be present when the world ends? How do we know this?

### 8. What do we know about the holiness of God?

*Answer: God is perfectly holy; the angels praise Him as holy.*

*Scriptural Reference: (Is. 6:3; Rev. 4:8)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does it mean to be holy?
- 2) Why does God want us to be holy?

### 9. Is God just?

*Answer: God is always perfectly righteous and just.*

*Scriptural Reference: (Ps. 145:17)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are ways to show justice in today's society?
- 2) Is "only God can judge me" a true statement? Would we want God to judge us now?

### 10. Is God loving and good?

*Answer: God is love, and He is good to all.*

*Scriptural Reference: (1 John 4:8; Ps. 145:9)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why don't our sins cause God to stop loving us?
- 2) How is God considered good in the midst of tragedy?

### 11. How ought we to feel and act toward God?

*Answer: We ought to love God with all our heart and serve Him with all our strength.*

*Scriptural Reference: (Matt.22:34-40; Micah 6:8)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why is it important for us to express our love towards God?
- 2) How should God be perceived in our hearts?

### 12. Should we fear God?

*Answer: It is our duty to fear God and keep His commandments.*

*Scriptural Reference: (Eccl. 12:13; Heb. 10:31)*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does it mean to fear God?
- 2) Read Psalms 111:10. Explain how wisdom is gained through the fear of the Lord.

## *Children's Catechism Lesson 1: God*

### **1. Who is God?**

Answer: God is the creator of all things.

### **2. How do we know that God exists?**

Answer: We can see all that God has made.

### **3. Does anybody have a reason to deny God?**

Answer: It is foolish to say there is no God.

### **4. How can we learn about God?**

Answer: From the Word of God.

### **5. What does God know?**

Answer: God knows everything.

### **6. Does God have power?**

Answer: Yes, God has all power.

### **7. Where is God?**

Answer: God is everywhere.

### **8. How holy is God?**

Answer: He is perfectly holy.

### **9. Is God just?**

Answer: God is perfectly just.

### **10. Does God love us?**

Answer: God is love and He is good to everyone.

### **11. How should we act towards God?**

Answer: We should love the Lord with all of our heart, mind and strength.

### **12. Should we fear God?**

Answer: Yes, we should fear God and keep his commandments.