

*"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*

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

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## 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.*

## Family Catechism Lesson 5: The Savior

### 1. Who is the Savior of men?

*Answer: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Savior of men.*

*Scriptural Reference: 1 John 4:14*

#### Discussion Questions:

1) Can anyone be excluded from being saved?

### 2. Was Jesus Himself really a man?

*Answer: Yes, Jesus Christ was really a man; He was the Son of Mary.*

*Scriptural Reference: 1 Timothy 2:5*

#### Discussion Questions:

1) Did God possess any special powers, or was He given an advantage while He was here on earth?

2) How did God do all that He did, as a man?

### 3. Was Jesus The Son of Joseph?

*Answer: No, people called Jesus the Son of Joseph, but He was really the Son of God.*

*Scriptural Reference: Luke 1:35*

#### Discussion Questions:

1) Why was Jesus Christ considered the son of Mary, but not the son of Joseph?

### 4. Was Jesus a man, or was Jesus, God?

*Answer: Jesus Christ was both God and man.*

*Scriptural Reference: 1 Timothy 2:5, 1 John 5:11*

#### Discussion Questions:

1) Explain and discuss three examples of Jesus Christ's humanity.

2) Explain and discuss three examples of Jesus Christ's God nature.

### 5. What role did Christ play here on earth?

*Answer: Christ taught the highest truths, He lived as a perfect example of one who led a Spirit led life.*

*Scriptural Reference: John 13:15*

#### Discussion Questions:

1) It is said that Jesus was the example of the "perfect Christian." Explain how this could be so.

2) Pull three characteristics from Jesus' life here on earth and explain how you can apply them to your life.

### 6. What role did Christ play for us on the cross?

*Answer: Christ died on the cross to redeem us from the law and act as the propitiation for our sin.*

*Scriptural Reference: Galatians 3:13-14, 1 John 2:2*

#### Discussion Questions:

1) Propitiation is defined as the act of substituting or an atoning sacrifice. Discuss the sacrifice that God made for us as He gave His son as a sacrifice for us.

### 7. Was Christ's work on the cross necessary?

*Answer: Yes. Without the shedding of Jesus' blood, there would be no forgiveness of sin. Therefore those who sinned would be dead in sin, without forgiveness.*

*Scriptural Reference: Hebrews 9:22*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Take turns to express what this sacrifice of love means to you.
- 2) What did the blood of Jesus being shed actually do for us?

### 8. What is Christ doing for us right now?

*Answer: Christ dwells in His people, intercedes for them, and controls all things for their good.*

*Scriptural Reference: Ephesians 3:17, Romans 8:28, 34*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) If God controls all things for our good, does God cause us to sin, or to fall into temptation? Explain.
- 2) What is the proof that God lives inside of His people?

### 9. What must one do be saved through Jesus Christ?

*Answer: We must believe in Christ, must turn from our sins to love and obey Him, and try to be like him.*

*Scriptural Reference: Romans 10:9-10*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Can we earn salvation? Explain your answer.

### 10. Can someone get to heaven without believing in Jesus Christ?

*Answer: No. The only way to get to the father in Heaven is through Jesus Christ.*

*Scriptural Reference: John 14:6*

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) What happens to 'good people' who don't believe in Jesus Christ?

## *Children Catechism Lesson 5: The Savior*

### **1. Who is the Savior of men?**

Answer: Jesus Christ

### **2. Was Jesus a real man?**

Answer: Yes. His mother was the virgin Mary.

### **3. Was Jesus the Son of Joseph?**

Answer: No. Jesus was the son of God.

### **4. Was Jesus a man or was He God?**

Answer: Jesus Christ was both God and man.

### **5. What role did Christ play on earth?**

Answer: Jesus was our perfect example.

### **6. What did Jesus do on the cross for us?**

Answer: Christ died on the cross to redeem us from the law and be the sacrifice for our sin.

### **7. Did Christ have to die on the cross?**

Answer: Yes. Without Jesus' blood we wouldn't be forgiven from sin.

### **8. What is Christ doing now?**

Answer: He dwells in us and prays for us.

### **9. How do we get saved through Jesus Christ?**

Answer: Believe in Christ, turn from our sin and obey Him.

### **10. Can someone get to heaven without believing in Jesus Christ?**

Answer: No. There is only one way to the Father, and that is through Jesus Christ.