

"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

June 2014

Repentance & Faith

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New Life Christian Center | 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, 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.

June 2014 – Repentance and Faith

1. What does it mean to repent of sin?

Answer: Repenting of sin means that one changes his thoughts and feelings about sin, resolving to turn from and forsake sin and live for God.

Scriptural Reference: Acts 3:19, 2 Chronicles 7:14

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Is forgiveness synonymous to repentance? Do they have the same meaning?
- 2) Why does man find it difficult to turn from sin? Explain as a group.

2. What is the greatest reason for repenting of sin?

Answer: The greatest reason for repenting of sin is because sin is wrong, and offensive towards God.

Scriptural Reference: Psalms 51:4

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Can the gospel of Christ truly be presented without the mention of repentance of sin?
- 2) How would you convey the importance of repentance to an unbeliever? Share your ways among the group.

3. Is repentance necessary to a sinner's salvation?

Answer: Yes. Those who do not turn from sin must perish.

Scriptural Reference: Luke 13:3; Ezekiel 33:11

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Is it possible for a person to live a Christian life without truly repenting of sin? Explain as a group.
- 2) Read Luke 13:1-5. What message is Jesus trying to convey in this conversation?

4. What do the scriptures mean by faith in Christ?

Answer: By 'faith in Christ' the scriptures mean believing Christ to be the divine Savior, and personally trusting in Him for our salvation.

Scriptural Reference: John 3:5-6

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Can you be a Christian and not have faith in Christ?
- 2) Explain the importance of having faith in Christ as a believer.

5. Is faith in Christ necessary to salvation?

Answer: Yes. No person capable of faith in Christ can be saved without it.

Scriptural Reference: 1 John 3:6, Hebrews 11:6

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How do we possess this faith? Is it given? Earned? Worked for? Discuss and explain.
- 2) Read Romans 12:3. Is it possible for someone else to have more faith than someone else?

6. Is refusing to believe in Christ a sin?

Answer: It is fearfully wicked to reject the Savior and insult God who gave His son in love.

Scriptural Reference: John 3:18, 1 John 5:10

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Explain why so many fail to believe in Christ? Discuss among group. Also discuss ways in which you can share the gospel effectively to others; helping them to turn from sin and turn to faith in Christ.

7. Does faith in Christ and true repentance ever exist separately?

Answer: No, either faith or repentance will always carry the other with it.

Scriptural Reference: Acts 20:21

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *If repentance is turning from sin, what place does faith have in that process?*
- 2) *Is there ever the need to repent more than once? If so, are we ever really truly repentant?*

8. How is it that some people say they believe the bible to be true, and yet are not Christians?

Answer: Many people who say they believe in the Bible are not willing to forsake and turn from sin, and often they do not really believe what the bible says about Christ and the cost of holiness.

Scriptural Reference: John 5:46

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *How can you tell if someone really isn't truly a Christian? What are the characteristics of someone who is not truly repentant or doesn't really believe the scriptures?*
- 2) *How does one explain this to an unbeliever?*

9. Are we responsible for our own belief in the Bible?

Answer: Yes. A man is responsible for his belief in the Word of God. It depends partly on whether that person is willing to know the truth, willing to forsake sin and serve God.

Scriptural Reference: John 7:17

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Discuss what happens to a person who dies and yet has never heard the gospel. Explain the thoughts around the group.*
- 2) *Does God judge you based on how much scripture you know?*

Advanced Questions

These questions are used for further discussion of the topic. Use biblical tools to find answers and further discuss issues as a group/family.

DISCUSSION TIP - BEFORE YOU READ THE ANSWER ALOUD, ALLOW YOUR GROUP/FAMILY TO ANSWER THE QUESTION AND EXPLAIN, BEFORE YOU GIVE THE PROVIDED ANSWER BELOW.

1. What about people in the Old Testament. Were they not saved without faith in Christ?

Answer: The truly pious in the Old Testament believed in God's promise of a future provision for salvation, and some of them looked clearly to Christ Himself.

Scriptural Reference: Genesis 3:15, John 8:56, Psalms 110:1, Psalms 53:6)

2. How can we explain the statement that Judas repented and killed himself?

Answer: When it is said Judas repented, that is another Greek word, which means simply sorrowful, and not at all the repentance that leads to salvation.

Scriptural Reference: 2 Corinthians 7:10

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *So, can sorrow lead to repentance? Explain.*
- 2) *Are those who repent before suicide accepted into Heaven before the Father? Explain your reasoning.*