

*"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*

*November 2013*

*Family DNA – Understanding God's  
Blueprint for the Family*

*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.*

## **Catechism Lesson 9: Family DNA: Understanding God's Blueprint for the family**

### **1. What is the divine structure of the family as set forth by God?**

*Answer: God > Christ > Husband/Father > Wife/Mother > Children*

**Scriptural Reference:** 1 Cor.11:3; Exodus 2:21-24

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) What have you observed from society that confirms why God's family structure is so important?
- 2) How is God the head of Christ? Give biblical examples.

### **2. What should the family structure reveal about God?**

*Answer: The family structure should reveal God's character.*

**Scriptural Reference:** 1 John 4:7; Psalms 103:8

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) How can parents display Godly character toward their children?
- 2) Why is love so powerful in the context of the family?

### **3. What two major facets of the family structure reveal God's character?**

*Answer: Marriage and Parenthood reveal the character of God.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Mark 10:8; Luke 15 (Prodigal son)

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Why is unity in the marriage so important?
- 2) Give examples of how God cares for His children- how is He the ultimate "parent?"

### **4. What spiritual relationship was marriage created to mirror?**

*Answer: Marriage was designed to mirror the covenant relationship between Christ and His Church.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Ephesians 5:25; Matthew 19:5-6

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Does marriage still work today?
- 2) Is the Christian marriage between just two people? Or, is there a third "presence?"

### **5. Describe the role of the husband and father in biblical terms**

*Answer: The role of the father is to be priest, prophet, and king. In more practical terms, he is the spiritual and natural covering and provider for the home and family.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Proverbs 22:6; 1 Peter 3:7

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Is the role of the father/husband to "lord over" his family?
- 2) How has the media impacted the description of the fatherly role?

### **6. How does Proverbs 31 depict the role of the wife and mother?**

*Answer: Proverbs 31 depicts the wife and mother as one who is an active participant in the wellbeing of her children, the edification of her husband, and the beautification of her home and her spirit.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Ephesians 5:22; Deut. 6:6-9

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Review Proverbs 31. Give examples of the industrious nature of the mother/wife.
- 2) How has the media changed God's original intent for the role of the mother?

### **7. Why does God place children in families?**

*Answer: God places children in families so they can experience His love, learn to love and honor God and others, and be groomed into disciplined adults.*

**Scriptural Reference:** *Hebrews 12:5-7; Psalms 34:11*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Give examples of times children need the shelter and guidance that the family structure brings.
- 2) What does “spare the rod, spoil the child” mean to you?

### **8. How should children be viewed in the family?**

*Answer: Children should be valued as precious blessings that have been entrusted to their parents/guardians by God.*

**Scriptural Reference:** *Psalms 127:3-5; Ephesians 6:4*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) What is the difference between spoiling a child and valuing a child?
- 2) How can parents balance their perspective on the responsibilities and joys of raising children?

### **9. What should be the expectation of children in the family?**

*Answer: Children are to honor their parents and daily put into action the Godly teaching they receive.*

**Scriptural Reference:** *Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:1-2*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Can children be expected to put biblical teaching into action if they aren't taught? Explain.
- 2) Should honor between parents and children be reciprocal?

### **10. Read Proverbs 3:1-2. What do these scriptures reveal to us about the purpose of the family?**

*Answer: Proverbs 3:1-2 shows us that the family should be the primary learning center of life.*

**Scriptural Reference:** *Proverbs 3:1-4; Deut. 11:18-21*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) What role has society taken in teaching children values, morals and beliefs?
- 2) How can parents combat societal “teachings” that don't mirror the biblical teaching given in the home?