

*"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 2014*

*Imitation  
of Christ*

*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.*

## November 2014 – Imitation of Christ

### 1. Did Jesus Christ live a real human life?

*Yes, Jesus Christ lived a real human life, but without sin of any kind.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Hebrews 4:15; Isaiah 6:3

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) What was Christ's secular occupation?
- 2) How can Christ relate to everything in the human experience?

### 2. Was Jesus tempted to sin?

*Yes, Jesus Christ was tempted in all points just as we are, but He always overcame the temptation.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:1-11

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) How can we overcome temptation as Christ did?
- 2) Could Christ have sinned while on earth? Why or why not?

### 3. Is it the duty of Christians to imitate Christ?

*Yes, Christ has left an example, which we ought to imitate, through the ability of the Holy Spirit.*

**Scriptural Reference:** 1 Peter 2:21; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Luke 4:1

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) How does one's personality affect one's ability/ to imitate Christ? Can/Should personality traits be tweaked?
- 2) What are the character traits of the Holy Spirit? What is one trait you desire to mature in your Christian walk?

### 4. What example did Jesus Christ set in obeying parents?

*Jesus Christ did as His parents directed, and "was subject to them."*

**Scriptural Reference:** Luke 2:51

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why did Christ have to obey his parents even though he was God?
- 2) As adults, how do we transition from obeying parents as children to honoring their wisdom and guidance?
- 3) How can you imitate Christ in relating to your in-laws who are parents as well?

### 5. What example did Jesus Christ set in obeying scripture?

*Jesus Christ attended bible classes, studied, and had great knowledge of scriptures; even as a child.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Luke 2:46,47

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read Psalm 119:105. Can you fully obey scripture if it is not hidden in your heart?
- 2) In what ways do you desire to strengthen your knowledge of scripture and ability to study?

### 6. What example did Jesus set when being tempted or during suffering?

*Jesus quoted scripture against the tempter and while on the cross.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 22:1

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why was Jesus able to quote scripture during difficult times?
- 2) How can we be a witness for Christ during difficult times? (ie. actions, reactions, words spoken, etc.)

### 7. What example did Jesus set when it comes to public/corporate worship?

*Our Lord's custom was to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath day and worship.*

**Scriptural Reference:** Luke 4:16

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) *What other ways did Jesus worship on the Sabbath? (Hint: Think of the Pharisees)*
- 2) *How could you be serving in the local church if you are not? If you are serving, how do you desire to offer a more excellent sacrifice?*
- 3) *Is serving worship?*

### 8. What example did Jesus set in treating enemies?

*Jesus prayed for his enemies and showed love to all men.*

**Scriptural Reference: Luke 23:34**

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Why is it difficult at times to allow God to be your defender against your enemies?*
- 2) *Should we ever “show the love Christ” to get back at someone?*

### 9. What example did Jesus show with loving Christians?

*Jesus Christ laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay our lives down for other people.*

**Scriptural Reference: 1 John 3:16; John 13:34**

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) *How do Christians handle conflict with their brothers and sisters in Christ?*
- 2) *How do Christians tell the truth with love?*

### 10. What is the highest hope for the future life?

*Our highest hope is that we should one day be like Him.*

**Scriptural Reference: 1 John 3:2**

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Are we like Christ now? Or, are we being made perfect in His image? Explain.*
- 2) *How can we become more like Christ while on the earth?*

## Advanced Discussion Questions

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

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

### Which books of the Old Testament did Jesus Christ quote when tempted and going through suffering?

*In the great temptation Jesus Christ quoted **Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:13,16**; and on the cross He quoted the **Psalms 22:1; 31:5***

**Scriptural Reference: Deut. 8:3; 6:13,16; Psalms 22:1; 31:5**

### Can you mention other occasions in which Jesus prayed?

*Jesus prayed on numerous occasions.*

**Scriptural Reference: Luke 3:21; 6:12; 9:29; 11:1; John 17:1; Matthew 26:39, 42,44**

### What is Jesus Christ's example for private prayer and intercession?

*Christ prayed fervently, and often; sometimes through the entire night.*

**Scriptural Reference: James 5:16; Luke 22:44**

