

"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

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.

Family Catechism Lesson 7: Think on These Things (Philippians 4:8)

This month we will focus on the peace of God and what Paul tells us we should think or meditate on when living our everyday lives. We will discuss and breakdown each element to meditate on according to Philippians 4:8. Read Philippians 4:4-8 and let's begin our study.

1. Whatsoever things are true.

How does the believer know what is true?

Answer: The believer will know what is true through the word of God.

Scriptural Reference: John 17:17; 2 Timothy 2:15; Isaiah 55:11

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Is there any other foundation that the believer should depend on besides the word of God?*
- 2) *Discuss the difference between opinion and truth? Are opinions allowed when it comes to truth?*

2. Whatsoever things are noble.

What are some synonyms for noble?

Answer: Righteous, honorable, moral, virtuous, upright, decent, good, ethical, reputable...

Scriptural Reference: Colossians 3:2; Romans 13:14

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Discuss ways in which the believer can practice living noble?*
- 2) *Discuss different things that we can think of that are considered noble.*

3. Whatsoever things are just.

Read Matthew 22:39. How do we show justice to those who are around us?

Answer: By loving others like we love ourselves—by finding ways to show love to others.

Scriptural Reference: Matthew 7:12; Matthew 22:36-40

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Is justice strictly for the believer or unbeliever? Find scripture to back up your answer.*
- 2) *Discuss ways in which the believer can demonstrate the attribute of justice.*

4. Whatsoever things are pure.

Why is it important for the believer to live a pure life?

Answer: Living purely is a commandment given from God. This sort of living also gives credibility to our testimony.

Scriptural Reference: 1 Peter 1:16; Daniel 1:5-8

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *How does one keep their thoughts pure? What does the bible say about mental purity? Find scripture to support your answers.*
- 2) *Do the unrighteous ever have truly pure thoughts?*

5. Whatsoever things are lovely.

To what can we compare the Garden of Eden to today as believers?

Answer: The beauty of the presence of God can be likened to the Garden of Eden—Adam and Eve's place of fellowship with God.

Scriptural Reference: Psalm 27:4; Psalm 65:4

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Read Luke 12:34. Think among yourselves, what things in life have your affection and attention? Can we consider these things as lovely?*

6. Whatsoever things are of good report.

What things in our society and in our lives can distract us, making us lose sight of “good reports?”

Answer: Tragedy in the news, social media, and personal hardship are examples of things that can make us lose sight of the good things God is doing.

Scriptural Reference: Psalm 27:13-14; Mark 9:23

Discussion Questions:

1) Knowing the issues of the day, and how they are not always ‘good news’, discuss how you can balance gaining information from the news while yet focusing your attention on Christ.

2) Read Revelation 12:11. Discuss the importance of someone’s testimony and how they can help others overcome in their lives.

7. If there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy.

What impact does praise and worship have on our external and internal situations?

Answer: Praise and worship takes the focus off of us and places it on God. It also strengthens us in our faith.

Scriptural Reference: Psalm 67:19; Ephesians 5:19-20

Discussion Questions:

1) When the time of corporate worship comes to an end, how can one continue to think on the goodness of God?

2) Discuss amongst yourselves how corporate worship experiences have shaped your thinking and your understanding of the presence of God.