

November 3-9, 2019

IX. Catechism for Young Children

In 2019-20, we are working through the Catechism for Young Children, a Reformed question-and-answer aid that was written as an introduction to the Westminster Shorter Catechism. (At a few points in the catechism the wording is amended to reflect Sun Valley Church's theological commitments.) The practice of catechesis is a rich blessing that spans centuries of Church History, and we hope that as you spend some time with your children covering just three questions every two weeks, God will deepen your family's love for Who He is and what He's done in Christ! For a helpful article by Tim Keller on the importance of catechism, please visit: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-catechesis-now/>

Q67: How is Christ a priest?

A67: Because He died for our sins and pleads with God for us.

Hebrews 9:14, 28; 7:25

Q68: How is Christ a king?

A68: Because He rules over us and defends us. *Isaiah 33:22; 32:1-2*

Q69: Why do you need Christ as a prophet?

A69: Because I am ignorant. *Ephesians 4:17-18, 20-24*

X. Family Prayer (here is some room for prayer items)

XI. Singing the Doxology

Each week in Sunday Seminars, your children are sent home with a parent handout that walks through the main ideas from the Bible lesson. At some point in family worship, or perhaps around the dinner table, it would be a good idea to spend a few minutes talking with your kids about the truths they have learned, in the spirit of Deuteronomy 6:4-9.



Throughout Scripture, we see God's chosen people leading their families in worship. Abraham led his children in the LORD (*Gen 18:17-19*), Joshua vowed to lead his family in worship (*Josh 24:15*), and we see Job do the same (*Job 1:5*). Family worship is also a command of God given in Deuteronomy 6:4-7 and Ephesians 6:4. Family worship is simple, with three elements: (1) read the Bible, (2) pray, and (3) sing to God. Our family worship liturgies are intended more as a toolbox than a tightrope – as a help rather than a hindrance. Select elements that will be helpful as you lead your family in simple Bible reading, prayer, and singing to God for 10 minutes or so each day. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

I. Call to Worship

"Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
His praise in the assembly of the godly!

**Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!
Let them praise His Name with dancing,
making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!**

For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;
He adorns the humble with salvation.

**Let the godly exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their beds.
Let the high praises of God be in their throats...!**

Psalm 149:1-6a

II. Prayers of Adoration

III. Song of Adoration: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy Health and Salvation
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near
Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him
Let the, "Amen," sound from His people again
Gladly for, yea, we adore Him

*Words and Music by Joachim Neander and Catherine Winkworth
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IV. God's Law

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.... Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." Colossians 3:12, 4:6

V. Confession of Sin

When you confess sin together as individuals and as a family, here are some different ways you could come before God:

- Someone can lead in a prayer of confession while others reflect that prayer in their hearts.
- With a few moments of silence, each person can pray in his or her heart secretly to God.
- Everyone can take turns, as they feel comfortable, confessing sin out loud. This helps us come before God in common as sinners in need of His mercy.

Or here is a corporate confession of prayer that those who are willing could pray out loud together:

Lord, You are the Meek One Who entrusted Yourself to the Father and went to the Cross for our redemption. Jesus, thank You! We are ashamed to say that we have not been concerned with meekness and gentleness and patience, but with pride, and getting what we want when we want it. Please forgive our self-centered vision. Cleanse us, and please, be our vision, O God. Amen.

VI. Gospel Promise

"He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him Who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds You have been healed." 1 Peter 2:22-24

VII. Song of Rejoicing

VIII. Bible Reading (up to one chapter/day is a good guide)

FIGHTER VERSE – PSALM 127:1

Unless the LORD builds the house,
Those who built it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.