

September 6-12, 2020

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/>

Q134: What does the bread represent?

A134: The body of Christ, broken for our sins.

Matthew 26:26

Q135: What does the wine represent?

A135: The blood of Christ, shed for our salvation.

Matthew 26:27-28

Q136: Who should partake of the Lord's Supper?

A136: Only those who repent of their sins, believe in Christ for salvation, and love their fellow men.

1 Corinthians 11:23-34

Family Prayer (here is some room for prayer items)

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!* (**Bold portions are for reading aloud corporately.**)

Call to Worship

"Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds His people,
from this time forth and forevermore.**

For the scepter of wickedness
shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.

**Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts!
But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel!"**

Psalm 125

Prayers of Adoration

Song of Adoration: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

A mighty Fortress is our God, a Bulwark never failing
Our Helper, He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing
Were not the right Man on our side: the Man of God's own choosing
Dost ask Who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He!
Lord Sabaoth His Name, from age to age the same
And He must win the battle

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us
The Prince of Darkness grim; we tremble not for him
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure
One little word shall fell him

That word above all earthly powers no thanks to them abideth
The Spirit and the gifts our ours through Him Who with us sideth
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still
His kingdom is forever
A—men

*Words and Music by Martin Luther and Frederick Henry Hedge
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Call to Confession

"Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have,
for He has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" Hebrews 13:5

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:

Father, You have so richly blessed us with all things to enjoy, and we thank You! You have blessed us above all with our salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone, and we praise You! It is with sadness and sorrow that we confess that we have not been content with Your richness toward us and Your provision, but have been so quick to covet what we do not have. Please forgive us for refusing to be content. Help us, Lord, to see You as our treasure, and to trust in You always. Amen.

Gospel Promise (also this week's Fighter Verse)

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."
John 10:10

Song of Response

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