

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 throughout 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/>

Q79: Is God displeased with those who do not love and obey Him?

A79: Yes; “God is angry with the wicked every day.” Psalm 7:11

Q80: What is the first commandment?

A80: The first commandment is, You shall have no other gods before Me.

Exodus 20:3

Q81: What does the first commandment teach us?

A81: To worship God alone.

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 (also this week’s Fighter Verse)

“Blessed be the Name of God forever and ever,
to Whom belong wisdom and might.
He changes times and seasons;
He removes kings and sets up kings;
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding.”

Daniel 2:20-21

II. Prayers of Adoration

III. Song of Adoration: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun
His reign on earth begun!**

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free
To take away transgression and rule in equity

He comes in comfort speedy to those who suffer wrong
To help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong

To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light
Whose souls, condemned and dying were precious in His sight

The tide of time shall never His covenant remove
His Name shall stand forever, His Name to us is love

Sandra McCracken and James Montgomery
2012, 2015 Drink Your Tea Music, CCLI #2350831

IV. God's Law

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you....

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!"

Psalms 32:8, 11

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:

You have given us such cause to rejoice, O Lord, and filled our souls with the good things of the Gospel! You command us to rejoice, because we often get distracted with trivial things that steal our joy. We confess that we have traded true joy for cheap entertainment, and made idols out of Your gifts. Please forgive us, Father. You love us so much, yet we have loved You so little. Tune our hearts to sing Your grace and delight in You. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

VI. Gospel Promise

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior....

And His mercy is for those who fear Him
from generation to generation."

Luke 1:46b-47, 50

VII. Song of Rejoicing

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