

March 22-28, 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 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 catechesis, please visit: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-catechesis-now/>

Q97: What is the eighth commandment?

A97: The eighth commandment is, You shall not steal.

Exodus 20:15

Q98: What does the eighth commandment teach us?

A98: To be honest and industrious.

Ephesians 4:25, 28

Q99: What is the ninth commandment?

A99: The ninth commandment is, You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Exodus 20:16

Family Prayer

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!* **Note: Bolded words are to read aloud together.**

Call to Worship

"Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,

yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
He makes my feet like the deer's;
He makes me tread on my high places."

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Prayers of Adoration

Song of Adoration

God's Law

"Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling."

1 John 2:7-10

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 a God Who keeps promises. In our prayers and songs we say that we want to be Christians, but then we forget our promises. Our actions do not match up with our words. We say mean things to other people, we hurt their feelings, we think of ourselves first, and, worst of all, we ignore You. Lord, forgive us and hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Gospel Promise (also this week's Fighter Verse)

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

Song of Rejoicing: "It Is Well With My Soul"

When peace like a river attendeth my way
 When sorrows like sea billows roll
 Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
 "It is well; it is well with my soul"

It is well – with my soul

It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come
 Let this blest assurance control
 That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
 And has shed His own blood for my soul

My sin—O the bliss of this glorious thought—
 My sin, not in part, but the whole
 Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight
 The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
 The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend
 Even so, it is well with my soul

Horatio G. Spafford and Philip P. Bliss
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Bible Reading (up to one chapter/day is a good guide)