



Calvary Baptist Church

For the week of:
09/16/2024

Family Worship Guide

New City
Catechism

Q3: How many persons are there in God?

A: There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

WELCOME

Why should we do a family devotional?

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” - Deuteronomy 6:4-8

As long as there have been a “people of God,” the command given to them has always been that they would be instructing their children in the way of the Lord. It is expected that parents will be teaching their children.

But teaching children is more than simply giving rules. It involves showing them HOW to obey the Lord by doing it yourself! These family devotionals are meant to equip you as an individual to grow in your understanding of the Lord and His Word, as well as providing parents with the resources and opportunities to demonstrate for their children what it looks like to pursue God.

What is a catechism?

Catechisms are teaching tools. Since ancient times these tools have been used to instruct those who are young in the faith and to remind the more mature of the essential truths they believe.

Catechisms work through a series of questions and prewritten answers. Answers that are derived through what Scripture says. Each week we will examine ONE question and its answer from the New City Catechism. You will be encouraged to memorize the question and response as we work through the biblical support for the answer. (If children can memorize it and recite it to Tim in the office on Sunday, they may get a surprise!)

For more resources related to the catechism, follow the QR code.



MONDAY

Read 2 Corinthians 13:14

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week

Discuss

The Trinity. Easy. (Insert sarcasm here).

The doctrine of the Trinity is difficult to hammer out and explain, but I'll certainly try. God is three persons in one being. The three persons are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Father is NOT the Son, the Son is NOT the Spirit, and so forth, but each of them is God and there is only one God.

The Trinity is NOT like water. Because water is only solid, liquid, or gas; never all three at the same time. God is always existing in three persons, never one at a time.

The Trinity is NOT like an egg. Because the shell, white, and yolk of the egg are only part of an egg; none of these parts is an egg by itself. Each person of the Trinity is completely and wholly God, there is no division between them.

If this seems confusing, you aren't alone. The Trinity is a core doctrine of Christianity, but it is partly a mystery for us. This week we will try to examine it in more detail.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think the Trinity is so important?
- Where else do you see multiple "persons" in one unit? (Read Genesis 2:18-25, focusing on verse 24. Also read Ephesians 5:22-32.)

Sing

All Creatures of Our God and King
Francis of Assisi

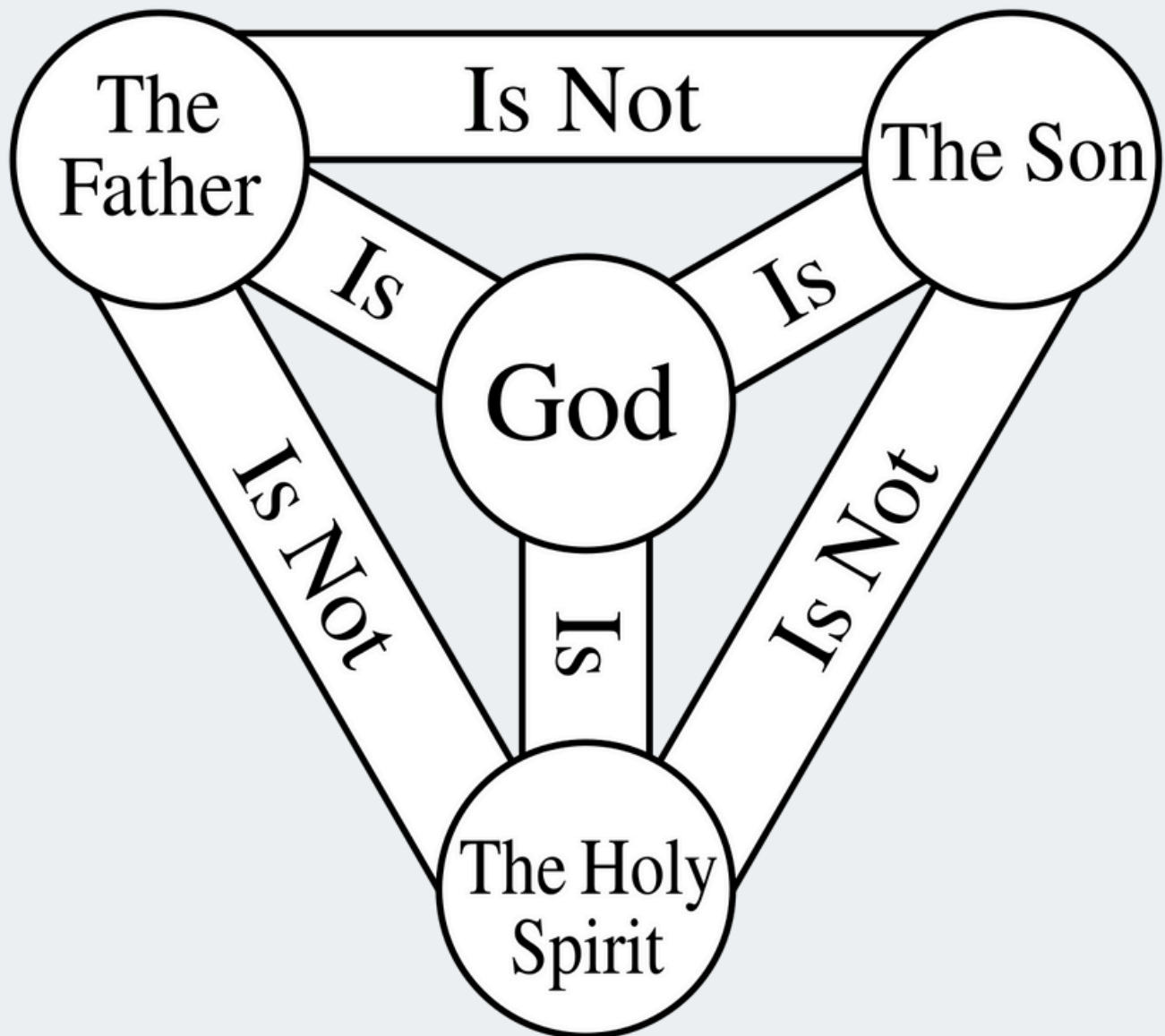
Pray

Praise God for His
unchangeableness and
the comfort that brings.
Pray for the lost.

THE SHIELD OF THE TRINITY

What is this?

This illustration is ancient. Dating to around the 12th century it has been used to depict the Trinity. You see in each corner each member of the Trinity, distinguished from one another with lines saying “is not.” You also see the center where there is one singular “God” and each member is connected with lines saying “is.” Each member of the Trinity is fully God, but there is one God, and each member of the Trinity is distinct from the other members.



ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

Verse 1:

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him, O praise Him!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Verse 2:

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of ev'ning, find a voice,
O praise Him, O praise Him!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Verse 3:

And all ye men of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on Him cast your care;
O praise Him, O praise Him!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Verse 4:

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship Him in humbleness;
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;
O praise Him, O praise Him!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



TUESDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week (try to memorize it)

Discuss

God the Father is the member of the Trinity who initiated creation. All of the Trinity was working at creation, but it was the Father “by whom all things were created.”

God created the world so that it would bring glory to Him. He made the babbling brook so that you would be reminded of His gentleness. He created the thunderstorm so that you would remember His might. He paints the sunset so that you remember how much greater His glory is. “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork” (Psalm 19:1).

As Father, He loves His Son. He created the world to give to His Son (Matthew 28:18). He loves His Son eternally, and just like an earthly father wants to give good gifts to his children, so too the heavenly Father loves His Son and wants to give Him good gifts, “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand” (John 3:35).

Through the sacrifice of His Son, the Father has given Christians the right to be called children of God (John 1:12)! As His children, we can come to the Father knowing He loves us and desires to hold us near to Himself, providing for our need (Matthew 6:6, 8).

Discussion Questions

- In what ways has God demonstrated His love and care for you? Think from the big things to the little things.
- When we see the glory of God in creation, what should it cause us to do? (Read Psalm 33:6-9)
- How often do you think of God as “Father”? I usually think of Him as Judge, but Father brings intimacy and love. Does this change how we pray?

Sing

*How Deep the Father's
Love for Us*
Stuart Townend

Pray

Thank God for His love
to us

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

Verse 1:

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Verse 2:

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

Verse 3:

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.



WEDNESDAY

Read Mark 1:1-14 (focus on verse 11), also read Matthew 16:13-19

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week (try to memorize it)

Discuss

Jesus Christ was the Son of God incarnate (in a human body). The Son is the object of the Father's love since eternity past. For all of history and even before it, the Father has been loving the Son. And the Son loves the Father. Their will (meaning their desires and motivations) are always the exact same, they are always in perfect agreement.

The Son then is working out the will of the Father (John 6:38). This is His primary duty. To work out the will of the Father. He does this in many ways, but the most significant is by coming as the redeemer of all men "to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

Jesus, the Son of God, came from heaven. He didn't come to live as a king in a palace. He came to live a really really hard life. Just like you, He was tempted to sin, but unlike you, He never did sin. And Jesus, the perfect Son of God, doing the will of the Father out of love for you, died in your place. He went to the cross, not because He had to, but because He loved you. He carried your sins and fully paid for them so that you could be saved through Him. He is the only path to salvation, because He is the only God.

Now the Son is in heaven again. Having been raised from the dead He went to heaven and now stands before the Father interceding for us, reminding the Father that because of His death, we are innocent of sin.

Discussion Questions

- What are three main duties of the Son? (Think what He has always been doing for the Father, what He has done for us, and what He is currently doing for us.)
- Why do we need the Son?

Sing

Nothing but the Blood
Robert Lowry

Pray

Thank God for the
sacrifice of the Son

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD

Verse 1:

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:

O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Verse 2:

For my pardon this I see:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea:
nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

Verse 3:

Nothing can for sin atone:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done:
nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

Verse 4:

This is all my hope and peace:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]



THURSDAY

Read John 14:25-26

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week (quiz each other and yourself to see if you have it memorized)

Discuss

“The final member of the Trinity is God the Spirit, or the Holy Spirit. While listed last, He is by no means less than the other two members of the Trinity. The Spirit is equally God, indivisible from the other two members.

The Spirit was present and active in creation (Genesis 1:2). The Holy Spirit is the One who led the writers of the Bible (2 Peter 1:21). Even now, believers are only saved after we have been born of the Spirit, as He works within us giving us new birth and new life to make us new creations; all things that we could not do on our own (John 3:5).

The Spirit is working in the lives and hearts of believers so that we can know God and understand His Word. Without Him opening our eyes, we would still be blind in our sin! He gives us gifts and abilities so that we can serve God (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

Additionally, the Spirit has the love of the Father. This is shown that when we are broken and hurting, when you can't even put your feelings into words to pray. The Spirit intercedes for us bringing our deep groanings to the Father (Romans 8:26).

Discussion Questions

- How is the Spirit working in the world around us?
- Have you felt the Spirit working in your life? When you have groanings too deep for words?
- How often do you consider the Spirit? Should you consider Him more?

Sing

It is Well with My Soul
Thomas Chrisholm

Pray

Pray that God would allow you to trust Him more. Make it specific to the areas where you lack trust.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Verse 1:

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."

Refrain:

(may be sung after final stanza only):
It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Verse 2:

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. Refrain

Verse 3:

My sin oh, 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! Refrain

Verse 4:

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. Refrain



FRIDAY

Read 1 John 4:7-21

Practice the catechism of the week. Try to recite it without looking!

Discuss

“God is love.”

If there is one thing everyone will tell you about the God of the Bible, it is that He is love. But did you know that for God to BE love, He must BE Trinity? Love requires someone to love. Parents love their children. Children love their parents. Dogs love their owners. I love chocolate. In all of these examples, there is always someone doing the loving and someone/thing receiving the love. Love requires more at least two actors.

But God IS love. He loves us, His people, but even before the world was created, even then God was love. He didn't need creation to be loving. If the Father was alone, then He couldn't love. If the Son was alone, He couldn't be loved. But in Trinity, the Father from eternity past has been loving the Son through the Spirit. All three members of the Trinity working together in a perfect and beautiful system so that God can truly BE love.

Why is this important? Because God was loving with or without you. He didn't have to love you. Instead, even when you were in your sin, God chose to love you. He chose to love you so so much, not because He needed to, but because He wanted you. Isn't that beautiful?

Discussion Questions

- Does God NEED creation? Why or why not?
- How does God being Trinity affect how we think of His love and His other attributes?
- Have you ever considered The importance of the Trinity like this?

Sing

Doxology
Thomas Ken

Pray

Thank God for loving
you even though He
didn't have to

DOXOLOGY

Verse 1:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Verse 2:

Praise God the Father who's the source;
Praise God the Son who is the course;
Praise God the Spirit who's the flow;
Praise God, our portion here below!

There are many different versions of this hymn. The first verse is always the same but as you will see in the video, the second often changes.



This link is a fun tutorial to learn the doxology in sign language! A fun family activity!

