



Calvary Baptist Church

For the week of:
11/25/2024

Family Worship Guide

New City
Catechism

Q13: Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

A: Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.

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 Romans 3:10–12

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week

Discuss

All are sinful. Have you ever met someone who you thought was perfect in every way? If you have, give it time because they will prove you wrong. Our God is righteous and just, and His law is a good thing, but for sinners, it does not feel like it. The law shows us that we cannot live up to the expectation of perfection. Without the intervention of the Lord, mankind would have remained in sin. We chose to rebel against Him at the Garden of Eden and continue to choose to reject God. There is a sin problem in all of us, but God does have a hope for us.

There is an elephant in the room when hearing in Romans that none are righteous, and none understand. This includes you and me. It is tempting to imagine that we are somehow better off compared to others because we are good people, but Scripture makes it clear that you are in desperate need of this hope too. We must find the root of the problem then the solution.

Discussion Questions

- What is sin? Why does it matter that we obey God?
- What does it mean to repent? What might tempt us to avoid repenting?
- Are you tempted to think that you are generally a better person than most? Why do we need to have humility and know this is not true?

Sing

Cleanse Me
J. Edwin Orr

Pray

Reflect on your sin and
pray to God in
repentance.

CLEANSE ME

Verse 1:

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from ev'ry sin and set me free.

Verse 2:

I praise thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
Fulfill thy Word, and make me pure within.
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;
Grant my desire to magnify thy name.

Verse 3:

Lord, take my life and make it wholly thine;
Fill my poor heart with thy great love divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;
I now surrender; Lord, in me abide.



TUESDAY

Read Jeremiah 17:9-10

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

Discuss

“ Our sin goes to the heart. We know that everyone has the problem of sin. It is like a diseased tree. Imagine that you go to an apple tree, and the fruit is rotten. The problem likely did not start with the fruit itself but the source. As you look to the tree, you can see the problem is deep in the tree, and it affects everything that flows from it. In the same way, our sins do not just happen out of nowhere. Our sins flow out from the desires of our hearts. We do not just need our behaviors to change; we need the heart to change.

Jeremiah shows that the heart is deceitful above all things. Not even you can fully understand your own heart because it is self-destructive; it wants things it should not have and confuses you. However, God does know your heart well, and in His plans, He has made a way for us to have a new heart. We cannot try to “trim off the sick portion of us.” We are totally in need of change, and this can only come through God.

Discussion Questions

- Have you recognized areas in your life that are sinful and need changed?
- Do you find success trying to force yourself to change, or does it seem that on your own, nothing will work?
- Why should the fact that God gives us new hearts bring hope to us?

Sing

How Deep The Father's Love
Stuart Townend

Pray

Pray that God would
uproot sin from your
heart.

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE

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 2 Corinthians 5:21

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

Discuss

Christ alone is without sin. If God is the only one who will never fail to follow His law, who can live it out for our sake? It has to be God Himself. This is why God the Son came to the earth; He fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law so that we could have life when it promised we would have death instead due to our sin. We look to a holy God as our example of true life. Christ lived on this earth sinlessly and showed that there is another way than to just fall into temptation. We can instead live for God through Christ.

Can you imagine a day where you truly did nothing that was selfish, hateful, greedy, etc. and with pure joy and satisfaction in the Lord? That would exhaust us, but Christ lives this way every day. Sin has no power against Christ which is why He had to be the one to take the curse of it. 2 Corinthians shows us that He did this for our sake with the intention of us becoming righteous like He is righteous. Anything else would not be strong enough, but Christ took on our sins on the cross to cleanse and remove them. This should bring us great relief and a desire to know Him much more closely!

Discussion Questions

- When you are tempted, what could you think of to fight it? Does Christ's example help you?
- Does it seem fair that Christ died for the sins we committed against Him? What does this tell you about who God is?
- Why do you think it would fail if another sinful person tried to die for other people's sins?

Sing

Holy, Holy, Holy
Reginald Herber

Pray

Thank God that He is a good God who is holy and just.

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Verse 1:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Verse 2:

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee,
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Verse 3:

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Verse 4:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!



THURSDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 1:30

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

Discuss

Christ makes us holy. We know from 2 Corinthians that Christ intends for us to become righteous. 1 Corinthians shows that this happens by being united with Him. Christ becomes our wisdom (how we should think), our righteousness (our ability to live obediently), our sanctification (our way of being holy like God), and our redemption (our escape from sin and death). All of this comes from Christ Himself. He does not leave us to learn to be obedient on our own.

Imagine you were trying to learn a job, and the boss told you to figure it all out on your own. This would frustrate anyone because how can a person learn without a teacher? Christ not only teaches us holiness but is the way of receiving it and is the holiness itself. Before, we were hopelessly failing at the law because we did it on our own. Now, we have the one who lived it perfectly not only pay the price for our failures but teach us how to live for God. We could not work our way to God, but Christ made it so that we are with God and can enjoy Him because He gave us His holiness.

Discussion Questions

- If Christ did not teach us and shape us into holy people, what would we continue to do?
- Why could we never figure out holiness on our own?

Sing

What Wondrous Love is This
Anonymous

Pray

Thank God for the holiness He has worked in you and ask to desire holiness more.

WHAT WONDEROUS LOVE IS THIS

Verse 1:

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

Verse 2:

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, O my soul!
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

Verse 3:

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM,"
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.



FRIDAY

Read 1 John 5:3

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

Discuss

We have a new hope and a new law. We no longer are bound by the law of the Old Testament, but we live by a new law. We have the law of Christ. What does this mean? Our law is to now live totally for God, and we love others in the process. These are not totally new ideas, but there is a new way to do follow the commandments. 1 John 5 shows that we keep the commandments by the love of God to love God. The last line should strike us. Before, the law was too heavy for us, but now the same idea of serving God is “not burdensome.” Why?

We were dead in sin with the old law. However, this is a law for the living because we now have the Spirit to help us obey. There are times where we still sin, but there is hope for us still because the Spirit teaches us how to conquer sins now, and the Son will return to give us bodies that have no flaw including that sin problem. To answer the question: Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly? Christ did so that one day we can live perfectly too!

Discussion Questions

- Can it still feel like a burden to do what you know would please God? Why does it feel this way?
- Why does it matter that we have God Himself dwelling in us to help us obey Christ’s law?
- Why should we have hope that we will have new resurrected bodies that will no longer have any flaw?

Sing

Doxology
Thomas Ken

Pray

Pray that God will reveal the hope of His coming to more non-Christians.

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!

