



EXPLORING LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

A workbook for
Luther's Small Catechism
with Explanation

Prepared by
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PREFACE

The purpose of this workbook is to acquaint catechumens with

- * questions and answers in Luther's Small Catechism;
- * Bible verses that support scriptural doctrines;
- * Bible narratives that undergird these teachings; and
- * questions and answers in the 1991 Explanation of the Small Catechism.

It is necessary for each catechumen to have his or her own Bible, as a considerable number of questions are answered using the Bible narratives. By searching out these accounts, the catechumen becomes familiar with the location and contents of the narratives.

For use with all material except the final tests, both the catechism with explanation and the Bible may be kept open for ready reference by the catechumen.

INTRODUCTION

This lesson touches on certain main teachings of the Bible and introduces you to the Six Chief Parts of Luther’s Small Catechism.

- Question 1 in the catechism explanation presents a brief definition of Christianity. Check the correct statement or statements.

Christianity is

- _____ rules I must keep if I expect to be called a Christian.
- _____ one religion of many, which God reveals to us.
- _____ stories about Jesus that may or may not be true.
- _____ the life and salvation God has given in and through Jesus Christ.
- _____ the best way to be rich and successful in our lives.

- If men wrote the Bible, how can it be God’s Word? _____

- Remembering that Holy Scripture is God’s Word written in human language, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- _____ We need to use grammar and logic to find out what the Bible is saying.
- _____ If we don’t understand a Bible verse, it’s all right to change it to fit our understanding.

- Mark with an L (Law) or a G (Gospel) the following statements and Bible passages.

- _____ God gives forgiveness and faith.
- _____ God commands good works.
- _____ God condemns and punishes sin.
- _____ It is the Good News of our salvation in Christ.

_____ John 3:16: God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son.

_____ Mark 12:30–31: Love the Lord your God with all your heart. . . .

_____ Romans 1:16: It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

- The following are the Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism.

- Using two paragraphs in the section “Creeds and Confessions” (in the Appendix), complete the following sentences.

Born Nov. 10, _____, in Eisleben, _____, Luther attended the University of _____, regarded as the best of schools particularly in _____ and _____.
 _____ . Soon after, however, he requested to be admitted to the _____ order. In _____ he was consecrated a _____ and later obtained a _____ in _____.
 His break with the _____ Church in _____ occurred after he was told to _____ what he believed to be _____ teachings contrary to those of the

_____ Church. Luther's Small Catechism and his _____ Catechism, completed in _____, were originally intended to be helpful _____ for _____ and _____ in teaching God's Word to _____ and _____. The _____ Catechism is not made up of _____ and _____ but presents basic _____ teachings in a form often used in _____.

7. Question 12 makes the important point that "All the chief parts of the Small Catechism are taken from the Bible, because as God's written Word the Bible is the only final authority for Christian faith and life."

All Christians want to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Therefore, all able Christians are eager to become familiar with the Bible. Learning many Bible verses is very helpful. So is getting acquainted with the names and even the contents of the books of the Bible. A good way to begin is to memorize these names. Break the books down into smaller groups. On a day-to-day basis, memorize one group at a time. As you do this, write out the names (they are found in the catechism's Appendix). Practice writing the names often, using separate sheets of paper.

OLD TESTAMENT: 39 BOOKS

HISTORICAL BOOKS

G _____
 E _____
 L _____
 N _____
 D _____
 J _____
 J _____
 R _____
 1 and 2 S _____
 1 and 2 K _____
 1 and 2 C _____
 E _____
 N _____
 E _____

POETIC BOOKS

J _____
 P _____
 P _____
 E _____
 S _____

PROPHETIC BOOKS
MAJOR PROPHETS

I _____
 J _____
 L _____
 E _____
 D _____

MINOR PROPHETS

H _____
 J _____
 A _____
 O _____
 J _____
 M _____
 N _____
 H _____
 Z _____
 H _____
 Z _____
 M _____

NEW TESTAMENT: 27 BOOKS

HISTORICAL BOOKS

M _____
M _____
L _____
J _____
A _____

EPISTLES

R _____
1 and 2 C _____
G _____
E _____
P _____
C _____
1 and 2 T _____
1 and 2 T _____
T _____
P _____
H _____
J _____
1 and 2 P _____
1, 2, and 3 J _____
J _____

PROPHETIC BOOK

R _____

LESSON **2** QUESTIONS 13–23

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

A

Match the first part of each sentence with its ending. Write the letter of the correct ending on the line.

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ 1. The only true God is | a. the summary of commandments 4–10. |
| _____ 2. God first wrote the Law | b. was written in the human heart. |
| _____ 3. The summary of the Ten Commandments is | c. state law of the Israelites. |
| _____ 4. Sacrifices of animals in the Old Testament | d. are written in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. |
| _____ 5. Political law was the | e. the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. |
| _____ 6. The Ten Commandments | f. on the hearts of people. |
| _____ 7. Only the moral law | g. had to do with the ceremonial law. |
| _____ 8. "Love your neighbor as yourself" is | h. love. |

B

Circle T or F after each sentence (true/false).

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 1. David trusted in the Lord when he fought Goliath. | T | F | 5. Baal and Dagon are other names of God. | T | F |
| 2. Joseph sinned when he was tempted by Potiphar's wife. | T | F | 6. At the Baptism of Jesus, the Father appeared in the form of a dove. | T | F |
| 3. If we try hard enough, we can keep the Commandments perfectly. | T | F | 7. The three men in the fiery furnace feared God, not the king. | T | F |
| 4. God has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. | T | F | 8. Idolatry is fearing, loving, or trusting in someone other than God. | T | F |

C

Check the correct statements.

- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ 1. God is one being who first created the world, then died on the cross to redeem the world. Today, He is the Holy Spirit who rules the world. | _____ 7. We love God when we honor Him as much as we honor our parents and others in authority. |
| _____ 2. God is one, the Father. Jesus was His Son, a perfect human being. The Spirit is the energy of God. | _____ 8. To love God above all things means we must not love anyone or anything else. |
| _____ 3. The Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God—three distinct persons in one divine being. | _____ 9. Loving God above all things means to put Him first in our lives. |
| _____ 4. We fear God by being afraid of Him, because He punishes us when we say and do wrong things. | _____ 10. If we truly trust God, we may take risks when we drive a car or swim in deep water. |
| _____ 5. We fear God if we respect Him and avoid doing what does not please Him. | _____ 11. We trust God above all things by depending on Him for help in every need. |
| _____ 6. We fear God by personally punishing anyone who breaks His laws. | _____ 12. When we talk about trusting God, we are speaking only of religious matters, not of our daily problems. |

D

Complete the following Bible verses.

- Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O _____: The LORD our God, the LORD is _____.
- 1 John 5:21 Little _____, keep yourselves from _____.
- John 5:23 Whoever does not honor the _____ does not honor the _____ who sent Him.
- Proverbs 11:28 Whoever trusts in his _____ will _____.
- 1 John 1:8 If we say we have no _____, we deceive _____, and the _____ is not in us.
- Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your _____, and do not lean on your own _____.
- Matthew 10:28 Do not fear those who kill the _____ but cannot kill the _____.
- Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make _____ of all _____, baptizing them in the name of the _____ and of the _____ and of the _____.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

A

Several names by which God is called and known are given in the Bible verses under question 25. List ten of the names.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

3. When are we permitted, and even required, to take an oath by God's name? _____

4. Give some examples of proper swearing: _____

B

There is a difference between cursing by God's name and swearing by God's name. Define the two and answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. Cursing by God's name is _____

2. Swearing by God's name is _____

5. What kind of swearing is forbidden? _____

C

Circle T or F after each sentence (true/false).

1. Lying and deceiving by God's name is
 - a. speaking untruths about our neighbor. T F
 - b. using God's name carelessly or uselessly. T F
 - c. teaching false doctrine and calling it God's Word. T F
 - d. pretending to be a Christian. T F
 - e. shouting "Jesus Christ!" at sports events. T F
2. We should call upon God's name when we
 - a. are in trouble. T F
 - b. are trying to win against someone. T F
 - c. pray, praise, and give thanks. T F
 - d. want someone who hurt us to be punished. T F
 - e. wish to know what the future holds for us. T F
3. Using satanic arts is
 - a. joining people as they consult the dead. T F
 - b. reading horoscopes but not depending on them. T F
 - c. attending services at which the devil is worshiped. T F
 - d. urging others to go to fortune-tellers. T F
 - e. making plans for a career. T F

D

From the Bible narratives, write the very words that were used when

1. some Jews accused Jesus of being possessed by a demon:

2. the people at Jesus' trial cursed themselves and their children:

3. Jesus permitted Himself to be put under oath: "Jesus said to him,

4. Peter swore falsely:

5. the sons of Sceva used Jesus' name to cast out spirits:

6. King Saul sought the help of the witch of Endor:

7. the ten lepers called upon Jesus in their trouble:
