The solutions manual for this workbook is available for FREE download from the Catechism for Kids website.

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All Bible verses quoted in this workbook are in the New International (NIV) translation.

THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®

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Let’s review.

Do you remember what the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* teaches about who God is?

God is a Spirit, ____________, ____________, and

and unchangeable in his being, ____________, power,

__________, justice, ____________, and truth.

In the first workbook, we also talked about the creation of the world.

Who created the world? ____________

The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* tells us that God not only created things, but he also preserves and governs everything he has created. God first made everything, and now he rules over the things he made, and he provides for them.

The word *providence* indicates that God provides. When God made Adam and Eve, he did not put them in a dark, empty desert. He placed them in a beautiful garden—the Garden of Eden. They had everything they needed to be comfortable and happy. The sun gave them light during the day. The moon and stars shone over them at night. Water and food were plentiful in the garden. God also gave Adam and Eve each other so that they would not be alone. He also gave them work to do—tending the garden and naming the animals.
Fill in the blanks.

According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism, God’s providence is __________________ , __________________ , and ____________________ .

God created everything, and now he ______________________ and __________________________ all his creatures and all their actions.

The story of Adam and Eve shows that God provides for his creatures. Can you think of another Bible story in which God provided for his creatures? Write it below:

______________________________

______________________________

Answers may vary.
What does purification mean? Purification means washing or making clean (pure).

When we think about God’s providence, we usually think about the food, clothes, family, and friends that God provides for us. However, there is something much more important which God has given us.

What does Hebrews 1:3 tell us that the Son of God (Jesus Christ) provides for us?

Purification for sins

Psalm 23 is the most famous psalm in the Bible. It teaches us that God provides for and rules over his creatures. The psalm is full of symbolism. It paints a picture with words in order to show us the attributes of God. Let’s read the psalm:

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
    he leads me beside quiet waters,
    he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
    for his name’s sake.
    Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
    I will fear no evil,
    for you are with me;
    your rod and your staff,
    they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
    in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.

Psalm 23 pictures God as a ____shepherd_________ and his people  
as _________________.

What does Psalm 23 mean when it talks about God making us to lie  
down in green pastures and leading us beside quiet waters?

God provides for our everyday needs.

The psalm says that God leads his sheep in certain paths. Which  
paths?

the right paths
Sometimes God guides his people through scary places (Psalm 23 describes it as “the darkest valley”). Why should we not be afraid?

**God is with us.**

What does a shepherd carry in his hands to guide the sheep?

**A rod and staff**

According to the psalm, how do God’s rod and staff help us?

**They comfort us.**

Psalm 23 tells us that God prepares a table for us even when our enemies are all around us. Does God promise us that we will have no enemies?

What will God do when enemies surround us?

**He prepares a table before us.**

The psalm tells us that the Lord will anoint our heads with oil. In the days in which the psalms were written, oil was used as a medicine to heal wounds. This symbolism again shows that God provides for us. He gives the Holy Spirit to renew our hearts.

What is the last promise of the psalm?

**I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**
me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, wherefore by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.

The *Heidelberg Catechism* reminds us that we do not belong to ourselves. We belong to Jesus Christ. This is a comfort to us, because it assures us that God cares for us. He has provided salvation for us. He delivers us from evil, and he gives us the Holy Spirit to incline our hearts toward obedience to him.

**Let's Think!**

To whom do you belong? _To God_  

How has Christ provided for you? _He has provided salvation for us._

God has provided you with many things! On the next page, draw a picture of something that God has provided for you.
Providence and Covenant

What does it mean to say that God exercised special providence toward man? When we say that God exercised special providence toward man, we mean that God did something special for man. In this case, God entered into a covenant with man.

What is the estate wherein he was created? God made man holy and happy. This was the estate (condition) in which man was created.

In summary, the catechism question asks, “What special thing did God do when man was first created and while man was still perfect and holy?”

Here is the answer from the Westminster Shorter Catechism:

When God created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.

What is a covenant? A covenant is a solemn vow or promise. There are many kinds of covenants. For example, a marriage is a covenant in which a man and a woman promise to love each other and be faithful to each other for their whole lives.

God makes covenants also. Let’s consider the first covenant that God made. The catechism calls it a covenant of life which was made upon condition of perfect obedience. This means that God promised man life, but only if man would do something.

What must man do to keep the covenant of life?

Man must obey God perfectly.
Let's Think!

Who gave man life?  _________________________

God

If man is separated from God, can he continue to live forever?

No.  His life comes from God.

What does it mean to say that something is on the pain of death?

Death is the punishment if it is not done.
But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

**Answer the questions below.**

How did God provide for Adam and Eve?  He gave them food, water, work, and each other.

How many trees were forbidden for Adam and Eve?  One

Was there enough food for Adam and Eve?  Yes

Did Adam and Eve need to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree? Were they hungry?

No, they had plenty of food.

If Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, the covenant would be broken.
Catechism for Young Children

Question 22: What is a covenant?
Answer: An agreement between two or more persons.

Question 23: What covenant did God make with Adam?
Answer: The covenant of works.

Question 24: What was Adam bound to do by the covenant of works?
Answer: To obey God perfectly.

Question 25: What did God promise in the covenant of works?
Answer: To reward Adam with life if he obeyed him.

Question 26: What did God threaten in the covenant of works?
Answer: To punish Adam with death if he disobeyed.

Question 27: Did Adam keep the covenant of works?
Answer: No, he sinned against God.

Notice that the Westminster Shorter Catechism says that God made a covenant of life with Adam, but the Catechism for Young Children calls the covenant by another name—the covenant of works. These are different terms for the same covenant. God promised Adam life if Adam would always do good works (if Adam obeyed God). Therefore, we sometimes refer to God’s promise to Adam as the covenant of life and sometimes we call it the covenant of works.

Let’s Think!

What two names do we use to describe the covenant which God made with Adam?

covenant of life and covenant of works
Why is the covenant sometimes called the **co vemant of works**?

___ It required good works (obedience to God). ___

Has anyone ever kept the covenant of works? (Think carefully! This question is a little bit tricky!)

___ Yes, Jesus has kept the covenant of works. ___

How did Christ keep the covenant of works? **He perfectly**

___ kept the entire law of God. ___
holy and happy as God had made them. We know that they did not. They sinned against God. We will learn more about their sin, but first, there is a very important phrase in the catechism, and we should learn more about it.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism says:

Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

The phrase freedom of their own will indicates that they could do whatever they wanted to do.

What does the Westminster Shorter Catechism mean when it says that Adam and Eve were left to the freedom of their own will?

Adam and Eve could freely make a choice.

Let’s read a Bible passage which tells us that people sin by the freedom of their own will:

James 1:12-17  Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
When you sin, can you blame God for your sin?  ________________

Whom should you blame for your sin?  _______________________

Think of an occasion when you were tempted to do something wrong. You had a choice to do the right thing or the wrong thing. Which did you choose? Tell the story:

____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________

Answers may vary.
Lesson 2

Question 13: Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

Answer: Our first ________________, being left to the freedom of their own ___________, __________ from the estate wherein they were created by ________________ against God.

A Sinful Heart

The Bible tells us about the effects of sin on all people:

Romans 5:12  Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned

Answer the questions below.

Which man brought sin into the world?  Adam
After Adam sinned, who else sinned?  Everyone

Let’s look at another verse which tells us more about the sinful condition of all humans:

Psalm 51:5  Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

This verse indicates that we are sinners even before we are born. Even when we have not yet done anything, our hearts are inclined to do evil. We have received a sinful nature from Adam.

Answer the questions below.

From whom do we all receive our sinful nature?  Adam

We receive a sinful nature from Adam, but God gives his people a new nature. Who changes our hearts to make them new?

The Holy Spirit changes our hearts.

Can you change your own heart?  No

Can you save yourself from sin?  No

Who is your Savior?  Jesus
of God if we fail to obey God’s law. Sin occurs whenever we fail to obey the law of God. For example, God tells us in the Bible that we should be kind to other people. If we are not kind to other people (even if we are not hurtful to them either), then we lack conformity unto the law of God. We are failing to do what God has instructed us to do.

2. Sin is any transgression of the law of God. Transgression occurs whenever we go beyond proper limits. God gives us limits and boundaries in Scripture, and we should stay within those limits. If we do something which the Bible forbids us to do, then we have committed a sin. For example, God’s Word tells us that we should not steal. If we steal, then we are transgressing the law of God.

How should we categorize these sins?

Consider each of these sins. Which kind of sin has been committed? Write ‘W’ for want of conformity unto the law of God, or write ‘T’ for transgression of the law of God.

Example #1: Mark told a lie about his friend. _____T_____
(Mark did something which God has told us NOT to do.)

Example #2: Chloe did not obey her mother. _____W_____
(Chloe failed to do something which the Bible tells her to do.)

1. Kendra stole a dollar from her sister Sarah. _____T_____

Let’s Think!
2. Sarah did not forgive Kendra when she apologized and gave the money back.  

3. Steve never prays.  

4. Tim spilled the glue and told his teacher that Anna spilled it.  

5. Devon hit his little sister.  

6. Sandra just ignores her little brother.  

**Why is this important?**

Some people believe that they are not sinning if they merely refrain from doing bad things. They say, “Maybe I do not go to church or pray, but I am a good person. I do not steal or kill anyone.”

However, refraining from doing bad things is not enough. We must also obey God in those things which he has told us we should do. We should love God. We should pray. We should love others and be kind to them. We should go to church. We must obey God in ALL things.
Are you a sinner?  Yes

Sometimes people believe that they can go to heaven by being good. They say, “I am a good person. God will see how good I am. I am not a sinner.”

What does the Bible say about people who claim that they are not sinners?

They are deceiving themselves.

Sometimes people believe that they are too bad to go to heaven. They think God cannot forgive them for the bad things they have done.

If you are a sinner, does that mean that you are different from other people?

No, everyone sins.

Who sins?  Everyone

The Bible clearly says that we are all sinners. However, the Bible does not stop there. It also gives us the answer to the sin problem.
We began this lesson by reading two Bible verses which tell us that everyone sins. Let’s read those same verses again. This time, however, we will expand our reading to include the verses following:

**Romans 3:23-24** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

**I John 1:8-9** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

According to I John 1:8-9, what should you do when you realize you have sinned?

I should confess my sin.

What will God do if you confess your sin? God will forgive my sin and purify me from unrighteousness.
the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

This is a very sad story. God had given Adam and Eve so much, and yet they still did not trust God. The serpent (Satan) was able to convince Eve that God was not good or truthful. Satan tempted her to believe that she could become like God if she disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit. Eve was deceived by Satan’s lies. She ate the fruit. Then, she gave some of the fruit to her husband Adam. Adam was not confused by the serpent, but he ate the fruit anyway (I Timothy 2:14).

Adam and Eve had sinned. The covenant was broken.

How did the serpent deceive Eve?

The serpent said, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” Did the serpent really believe that God had said that Adam and Eve must not eat any of the fruit in the garden? What do you think?

No, the serpent wanted to make Eve doubt God.

Why did the serpent asked Eve that question?

The serpent wanted Eve to think that God was not providing for her.
After Eve explained to the serpent that there was only one forbidden fruit, the serpent did not say, “Oh, I’m sorry. I misunderstood.” In fact, the serpent said something even worse than his first question. What did he say?

He said, "You will not certainly die."

The serpent claimed that God was not being truthful with Adam and Eve. What was he trying to get Eve to think about God?

He wanted Eve to think that God was evil.

When we disobey God, we show that we do not trust God. We act against his laws because we think we know something better than God. We sin when we rebel against God’s authority and try to be higher than him.

Can anyone ever know more than God?  No

Can anyone ever be higher in authority than God?  No
God had created Adam and Eve in his own image. He had given them everything they could possibly need to live and to be happy. But they sinned, and they hid from God. In sorrow, God called out, “Where are you?”

Could Adam and Eve really hide from God? \(\text{No}\)

We know that God predestines all things. Good things and bad things both happen according to his plan. However, we should also remember that God loves his people. He mourns their sin when they turn away from him.

God called to Adam and Eve, “Where are you?” Later, God spoke even more sorrowfully about other people who disobeyed him. Let’s look at some examples:

**Jeremiah 31:20**

Is not Ephraim my dear son,  
the child in whom I delight?  
Though I often speak against him,  
I still remember him.  
Therefore my heart yearns for him;  
I have great compassion for him,”  
declares the LORD.

**Hosea 11:7-8**

My people are determined to turn from me.  
Even though they call me God Most High,  
I will by no means exalt them.  
How can I give you up, Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, Israel?  
How can I treat you like Admah?
How can I make you like Zeboyim?

My heart is changed within me;
all my compassion is aroused.

Matthew 23:37  Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets
and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather
your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her
wings, and you were not willing.

We should always be amazed that our holy and powerful
God loves small sinful creatures like us. We need God for
everything. Even life itself is given to us by God alone. However,
God does not need anyone to provide for him. Yet he calls after us,
grieving over our sins.

Let us remember this as we read the next lessons. We will
discuss the punishment and misery of sin, but we should never
imagine that God turns his heart against his children. Do not ever
forget that, when Adam and Eve sinned, God walked in the garden,
calling out, “Where are you?”

Let’s Think!

Does God love you even when you sin?  Yes

Does God abandon his people when they sin?  No
Can you think of another story in the Bible which talks about God grieving over sin? Give an example:

Answers may vary.

Has God ever punished someone for sin even when he loved them? (If you are not sure, consider what happened to Adam and Eve. Did God punish them?)

Yes
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return."

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Fill in the blanks.

Adam blamed __________________________ for his sin.

Eve blamed the __________________________ for her sin.

Adam and Eve should have blamed __________________________ for their sin.

What was the serpent’s punishment? __________________________

his belly and be crushed by the woman's offspring.
What was Eve’s punishment? Pain in childbearing

What was Adam’s punishment? Thorns and thistles would grow in the fields.

Why did God drive Adam and Eve from the garden? He did not want them to live forever.

God does not want sinful mankind to live forever on the earth. God’s mercy limits sin. Sometimes people may be very evil, but then they die, and so there is a limit to the amount of evil they can accomplish. In heaven, there is no sin, and there the redeemed live forever.
The Great Exception

Let’s consider the meaning of this catechism question and answer.

What does mankind mean? Mankind means all humans.

What is a transgression? A transgression is a sin.

Do you remember what a covenant is? (If you do not remember, look back at page 23 of this workbook.)

A covenant is a promise.

What is posterity? Posterity refers to all who are born later—children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on.

What do we mean when we speak of someone descending from Adam by ordinary generation? We are describing people who are born the way children are normally born.

Question 16 asks whether Adam’s sin affected only him or whether it caused everyone to fall into sin. The answer indicates that Adam’s sin did not affect him alone. Adam’s sin affected all of us. We are Adam’s children, and we are included in the broken covenant. Every human born the ordinary way is born a sinner because of Adam’s sin.

However, there is one exception. The broken covenant included all of Adam’s descendants who were born in the ordinary way. There is one man who was NOT born in the ordinary way.

Do you remember the Christmas story? The Bible tells us that an angel visited a woman named Mary to tell her that she would have a son. Mary asked the angel how it was possible. Here is the angel’s answer:
Luke 1:35  The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Let’s Think!

Is it normal for a baby to be born by the power of the Holy Spirit as the Son of God?

No, that is very special.

Who was this baby born in such an extraordinary way?

Jesus Christ

The only exception to the broken covenant is Jesus. He was the only one born without sin.
Consider the story below:

Alicia’s father worked in a factory. He brought home the money he earned from his job to buy food and clothes for his family. One day, Alicia’s father decided that he was tired of spending all his money on his family. He went out and bought an expensive new car, even though he did not really need it. He spent so much money on the car that he did not have any left over to buy food or clothes for his family.

In this story, did Alicia’s father sin? Yes

Did his sin affect only him? No

How did her father’s sin affect Alicia? Her father could not buy food and clothes for her.

In the story, the father was the head of Alicia’s family. He was responsible for his children. When the father sinned, he made everyone in the family miserable.

Sin affects the person who sins, and it affects other people as well. Adam represented all of us in the covenant of works. When he broke the covenant, he broke it for everyone.

Let’s read a Bible verse about this:

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned
Think about Romans 5:12. Who is the man who brought sin into the world?

Adam

Are you affected by Adam’s sin?  __Yes__________

How are you affected by Adam’s sin?  __Adam's sin brought ___

sin into the world, and we all became sinners.

Do you have a sinful nature?  __Yes__________

Where did you get your sinful nature?  __I inherited it ___

from Adam.
Terrible evil has been brought into the world by the Fall! There is discontent and injustice. People work hard, but then they die and everything they earned goes to someone else. Work is difficult and endless. Evil men have power, and bad things happen to righteous people. This is not how God made the world at the beginning. When God created the world, he said that it was good, but now it is corrupt.

Let’s Think!

Can you think of things in the world that are not right? Consider the stories you hear in the news. What are some things which happen in the world that show that something is terribly wrong?

1. Answers may vary.

2. Answers may vary.

3. Answers may vary.
(1) Solomon said, “There is nothing new under the sun.”

What does Isaiah tell us that God will create?

New heavens and new earth

(2) Solomon said, “Everything is meaningless. What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?”

What does Isaiah say about labor in the new earth?

He says, "They will not labor in vain."

(3) Solomon said, “I saw the tears of the oppressed—and they have no comforter.”

What does Isaiah say about weeping and crying in the new creation?

He says, "The sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more."
(4) Solomon said, “God gives a man wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing his heart desires, but God does not enable him to enjoy them, and a stranger enjoys them instead.”

Will God enable people to enjoy their possessions in the new earth? What does Isaiah say about that?

_He says that people will build houses and dwell in them and eat their own fruit._
The Guilt of Sin

What does *wherein* mean? *Wherein* asks *in what way* something happens. The question asks, “In what way is mankind now in a sinful condition?”

What does *guilt* mean? *Guilt* means something is *your fault*. Since the Fall, mankind is guilty before God for breaking his laws. We cannot blame anyone or anything else. It is our own fault that we have sinned.

Fill in the blanks.

How are we guilty? According to the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, we are guilty in four ways:

1. the guilt of ____________________________ ’s first ____________
2. the want of ____________________________ _________________
3. the __________________________ of his whole _________________
4. all actual ______________________________

These sound like serious problems! But what does it all mean? Let’s review these carefully:

1. We are guilty of Adam’s first sin.
What was Adam’s first sin?  ____________________________

He ate the forbidden fruit.

2. **We are in want of original righteousness.** Remember, in old language, *want* means *we do not have it.*

   In this case, we do not have:

   original  ____________  righteousness

3. **We have corruption of the whole nature.** Corruption means *bad* or *rotten.* We are now bad and rotten in our nature (how we are naturally). Only the Holy Spirit can change our hearts so that we want to obey God.

   The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* gives us a name for this corruption of our nature. It is called:

   original  ____________  sin

4. **We are guilty of all actual transgressions.** Mankind is guilty before God for all actual sins. When people lie and steal, these are sins. Each of these sins breaks the law of God.

   In conclusion, mankind is guilty of Adam’s first sin, our lack of righteousness, our corrupt nature, and all actual sins which come from that corrupt nature.
Write whether each sentence is true or false.

false 1. **Total depravity** means no one ever does any good thing because everyone is as evil as possible.

true 2. **Total depravity** means we are totally unable to save ourselves.

false 3. We are saved because we decide to turn to God all on our own.

true 4. We need the Holy Spirit to help us turn to God and repent of our sins.

true 5. It is impossible for people to follow Jesus unless the Father draws them.
The Misery of Sin

Before we define the terms in Question 19, we will illustrate it with a story:

Mary was sitting on the school bus one day with her friend Ashley. A new girl stepped onto the bus. The new girl started to sit down in the seat next to Mary, but Mary was afraid that Ashley would laugh at her for sitting with the new girl. She decided to scare the new girl away.

“No way, stupid!” Mary said. “You can’t sit here! I don’t sit with stupid kids!”

The girl started to cry. Mary felt bad. She wished she had not been so mean. Mary’s friend Ashley looked shocked. Ashley said, “Mary, if that is how mean you are, then I don’t want to sit with you either.”

Mary thought that she would be happier if she was mean to the new girl. She did not want to be unpopular.

Did sinning make Mary happy? ________ No __________

Did Mary’s sin make the new girl happy? ________ No __________

Did Mary’s sin make Mary’s friend Ashley happy? ________ No __________

Let’s consider one more story:

Rob was a man with a lovely wife and two sons. Rob wanted to open a restaurant, but he did not have enough money. Rob was impatient. He did not want to wait to save enough money to open his restaurant.
Rob printed out fake money on his computer. He thought no one would ever know that the money was not real.

Rob bought a building for his restaurant and hired a painter to decorate it so that it would look nice for his new customers. He paid the painter with some of his fake money. When the painter took the money to the bank, he discovered that the money was not real.

Rob was arrested by the police. Now he is in prison, and his wife and children do not have him with them at home anymore.

Let’s Think!

Rob wanted to open a restaurant. He thought that his sin would help him achieve his goal. He thought it would make him happy.

Did Rob’s sin make him happy?  **No**

Did Rob’s sin make his wife and children happy?  **No**

Did Rob’s sin make the painter happy?  **No**

People tend to believe that sin will give them what they want and make them happy, but it does not. This is the lesson of Question 19 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism. When mankind fell, we all became miserable.

**Why are we miserable as sinners?**

1. As sinners, we are miserable because we lost communion with God. Communion means friendship and being
had given David many blessings. He had even made David king over Israel. David had every reason to be content, but instead, he took the wife of Uriah and had Uriah killed to hide his sin.

God punished David for his sin. David was very sorry that he had done such an evil thing. He wrote a psalm asking God to forgive him. This is the beginning of David’s psalm:

Psalm 51:1-3

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

David thought that having Bathsheba as his wife would make him happy. Did it make him happy?

No

Did David feel guilty about his sin? Yes

How do you know David felt guilty about his sin?

He said, "My sin is always before me."
David was king over Israel. Did God allow David to take another man’s wife because he was king?

No

God holds all people (even kings) responsible for sin. To God, Uriah was just as important as King David. When God saw what David had done, he was angry. Even so, God forgave David when David repented. God is very merciful and loving, and he forgives the sins of his children. However, David still suffered many consequences for his sin.
Good News!

God has not abandoned his people to die in their sins. He has done something to help us. What exactly has he done? To understand that, we need to look at our definitions:

What does perish mean? Perish means die. The catechism question is asking, “Did God leave us to die in our sin and misery?” No, he did not!

What do we mean when we say that God acted out of his mere good pleasure? We mean that God acted out of his own desire to do something good. God was not forced to help us. He did it only because he wanted to help us. God is kind to us.

Do you remember what a covenant is?

A covenant is a promise.

What is grace? In this context, grace means kindness which is not earned. God is gracious (full of grace) toward his children—and that includes you! God loves you. When you obey his laws, God loves you. When you sin, God loves you. God just loves you, because he chose you as one of his elect from all eternity. He forgives your sins, and the Holy Spirit changes your heart so that you want to obey God.

The covenant of works was broken because Adam sinned, but now God has made a new covenant—the covenant of grace. Now Jesus Christ is our covenant head, and Jesus does not sin. God made this covenant with Christ for us. Adam broke the law and broke the covenant. However, Jesus perfectly kept the law for us, and so the covenant of grace is not broken. We fell into sin in Adam, and we are saved in Christ. Jesus paid for our sins.
What does deliver mean? Deliver means to bring out of a bad situation. God brings us out of sin and misery.

What does salvation mean? Salvation means rescue or deliverance. God saves (rescues) us.

What is a redeemer? A redeemer is someone who pays to rescue someone else. (We will talk about this more in Workbook Three: Christ our Redeemer.)

Who is the Redeemer who paid for our sins? Jesus

Fill in the blanks.

The covenant with Adam and Eve was a covenant of works.

The head of the covenant of works was Adam.

What happened to the covenant of works? It was broken.

The covenant that God made for us with his Son Jesus Christ is a covenant of grace.

What does grace mean? Kindness which is not earned.
Who is the head of the covenant of grace? Jesus

How can we be sure that the covenant of grace will never be broken?

The covenant is with Jesus, and Jesus never sins.
covenant of works was already broken, but Jesus had not come to save us yet, what happened to those people?

To get you thinking in the right direction, let’s discuss the story of Job. The Bible tells us that Job was a righteous man. We are not sure when he lived, but it is possible that he lived even before Abraham. Even though Job served God faithfully, many bad things happened to him. Job’s children died, and Job became very sick. Job’s friends said he must have done something very wicked to make God angry, but Job knew that he had always loved and obeyed God. Job wondered why God let bad things happen. Still, even when he was very sick and very sad, Job had great faith in God.

Read what Job said to his friends:

### Job 19:25-27

I know that my redeemer lives,  
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.  
And after my skin has been destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I will see God;  
I myself will see him  
with my own eyes—I, and not another.  
How my heart yearns within me!

In spite of all the bad things happening to him, Job was confident that his Redeemer was alive and that the Redeemer would come one day and stand upon the earth. Job knew that he himself would die someday, perhaps even soon (for he was very ill). He said, “After my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh, I will see God.”

**Let’s Think!**

Who was Job’s Redeemer?  

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Jesus
Did Job go to heaven?  **Yes**

How do you know Job went to heaven?  **He said that he**

knew that he would see God.

Was Job’s Redeemer the same Redeemer that we have today?

**Yes**

How can Job’s Redeemer be the same Redeemer that we have today?  When Job spoke about his Redeemer, Jesus had not even been born yet! Does this seem surprising?

God chose Job as one of his elect from all eternity.  Even before Jesus was born, God had planned it all.  Jesus redeemed people even from the very beginning of the world.  His salvation extended forward and backward in time to include all people who put their faith in him—Job, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Samuel, David, Peter, Paul, John, and you!
whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Fill in the blanks.

Name three of the people mentioned in this Bible passage:

1. Answers may vary.

2. Answers may vary.

3. Answers may vary

All of these people lived (circle one):

before Jesus died after Jesus died
Let’s read verse 13 one more time:

**Hebrews 11:13** All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

We read something very similar to this in our last lesson. Job knew that he would die before he saw his Redeemer, but he also knew that the Redeemer would come one day. Job had faith—like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and all the other elect who lived before Jesus was born. These people did not receive their promised Redeemer in their lifetime, but they still believed and were saved through Jesus Christ.

EVERYONE who is elect (chosen by God) is saved through the same Redeemer _______________ _______________.
Christ then to come, and were for that time sufficient to build up the elect in faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they then had full remission of sin, and eternal salvation.

**Question 35: How is the covenant of grace administered under the New Testament?**

Answer: Under the New Testament, when Christ the substance was exhibited, the same covenant of grace was and still is to be administered in the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper; in which grace and salvation are held forth in more fullness, evidence, and efficacy, to all nations.

In this lesson, we will focus particularly on Questions 33-35 of the *Westminster Larger Catechism*.

Question 33 tells us that the same covenant of grace was in effect in the Old Testament and the New Testament, but that it was administered differently.

Question 34 tells us how the covenant of grace was administered in the Old Testament (before Christ): promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, Passover, and similar things. All of these were signs pointing the way toward Christ. Christ had not yet arrived, but through these ordinances, believers expressed faith that someday (perhaps even long after they had died), their Redeemer would come.

**Let’s Think!**

Do we still have prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, and Passover in our churches?

No
Why do we no longer have those things? __We are under____

the New Testament administration of the covenant.

If you said that we do not need those signs to point the way to Christ anymore, then you are right! Christ has already come, and he has already died for us. We do not need the signs foretelling his arrival anymore.

Look at Question 35 in the Westminster Larger Catechism. How is the covenant of grace administered in the New Testament (after Christ)?

____The preaching of the Word and the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s supper.

Do you still see those things in church? __Yes____

The new administration of the covenant of grace reminds us of Jesus, our Redeemer, who has already come. Through the preaching of the Word and the administration of the sacraments, we remember that Christ died for us.

Those believers who lived under the first administration of the covenant of grace looked forward to the cross, and we (under the second administration of the covenant of grace) look back at the cross. We all look to Jesus for our salvation.

Jesus Christ is the only Redeemer of God’s elect.