

Westminster **Shorter Catechism** **for kids**

Workbook Four: Salvation
Questions 31 – 40

Solutions Manual

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Catechism for Kids

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Effectual Calling

What does “effectual calling” mean? **Effectual** means something produces a desired result; it does not fail. **Calling** refers to the work of the Holy Spirit calling the elect to faith in Christ. **The calling of the Holy Spirit never fails.** It always draws the elect to Christ.

Effectual calling is the work of God’s Spirit .

What does “whereby” mean? **Whereby** is an old word that means that **this is how something happens.**

What does the catechism mean when it says that God’s Spirit “doth persuade and enable us to embrace Christ?” It means that the Holy Spirit changes our hearts so that we want to and are able to love and obey Jesus.



Answer the questions below.

The catechism lists three ways in which the Holy Spirit persuades and enables us to embrace Christ. What are those ways?

1. The Holy Spirit convinces us of our sin and misery.

2. The Holy Spirit enlightens our minds in the knowledge of

Christ.

3. The Holy Spirit renews our wills.

In the next lesson, we will discuss these three ways in which the Holy Spirit changes our hearts.



Let's Think!

Could you ever change your heart to love and obey God without the Holy Spirit?

No

If the Holy Spirit calls you, can you refuse his call? No

What is the term that describes the work of the Holy Spirit in calling the elect to faith in Christ?

effectual calling

We are all here!”

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.



Let's Think!

The jailer realized that he needed to be saved. What question did he ask Paul and Silas?

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Paul and Silas told the jailer what he should do to be saved. How do we know that he understood the gospel?

He was baptized.

The jailer was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God. How does this demonstrate that his will was renewed by the Holy Spirit?

The jailer embraced the gospel and rejoiced in obeying God.

hearing or reading the gospel. God's word is a call that goes out to everyone. Some people hear it and repent, but some refuse to listen.

When God calls people by his Spirit, we refer to it as an **inward call**. It is a call from inside as the Holy Spirit changes our hearts to understand God's Word and to put our faith in Christ for salvation. The inward call goes out only to the elect—the souls chosen by God for salvation. **The inward call is our effectual calling—the call that never fails.**

These two callings work together. The word of God is preached (outward call) and the Holy Spirit helps the elect to understand and believe it (inward call).



Fill in the blank or
circle the correct answer.

When God calls people by his word, this is an outward call.

Will some people refuse to listen to the Bible?

☒ Yes No

When God calls people by his Spirit, this is an inward call.

Will some people refuse to be changed by the Holy Spirit?

Yes ☒ No



Let's Think!

Circle the correct answer.

In the book of Exodus, Moses told Pharaoh that God said, "Let my people go!" Pharaoh did not listen to Moses. He refused to let the Israelites go.

Did Pharaoh receive an outward call? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did Pharaoh receive an inward (effectual) call? ☐ Yes ☒ No

In the book of Acts, Philip explained the Scriptures to the Ethiopian eunuch. The eunuch understood and believed God's word, and he asked to be baptized. He went on his way rejoicing.

Did the eunuch receive an outward call? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did the eunuch receive an inward (effectual) call? ☒ Yes ☐ No

The Benefits of Effectual Calling

What are benefits? Benefits are good and helpful things.

What does “partake” mean? Partake means to receive a portion of something.

Putting this together, we see that the catechism question asks: *What good and helpful things do people who are effectually called receive in this life?*

Who are the effectually called? (If you do not remember, look back at page 9.)

The elect are effectually called.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism lists three benefits that the effectually called receive in this life. Can you list them?

1. Justification

2. Adoption

3. Sanctification

In addition to these, the catechism mentions other benefits that accompany or flow from these. There are some good things that go with justification, adoption, and sanctification.

If you love God and want to obey him, you have been effectually called. God has called you by both his word and his Spirit. The Holy Spirit has worked in your heart so that you listen and respond to the gospel. All of these benefits are yours!



Let's Think!

Think about the last chapter where we talked about an inward and outward call. (If you do not remember, look back at pages 15 and 16 of this workbook.)

Have you been called outwardly? Yes.

How did that happen? Answers will vary.

Do the benefits (good things) spoken of in the Westminster Shorter Catechism come from the outward call or the inward (**effectual**) call?

Inward call.

What good things (benefits) do those who are effectually called receive?

Justification, adoption and sanctification.

We will discuss each of these wonderful benefits carefully later in this workbook. However, first we will talk about why God gives his children these things. God loves us!

Ephesians 2:1-5 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Paul declares to the Ephesian believers that there was nothing special about them before they heard the word of God. They were like everyone else—disobedient to the law of God, thinking only about themselves and what they wanted to do. He tells them that they were dead in their transgressions and sins. This is a way of saying that there was nothing they could do to help themselves. They deserve only God's wrath (anger) and judgment. Only God can save someone who is dead in sin. Only God can make a dead soul alive again so that it remembers that its purpose is to glorify God.

Read Ephesians 2:1-5 again. Paul tells the Ephesians why God helped them and made them alive in Christ. What is the reason?

Because of his great love for us.



Read Psalm 103:1-12 and answer the questions below.

David praises God when he remembers all his benefits

According to the psalm, should we think that God is angry about our sin all the time? Why or why not?

No, because God does not repay us as our sins deserve.

How far does God remove our transgressions (sins) from us?

As far as the east is from the west.

How does David describe God?

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

slow to anger, abounding in love."

their trespasses and sins like everyone else. Just as a dead person cannot get better or help himself, so also a person who is lost in sin cannot get better or help himself. Only God can save someone from sin, and God saves us only because he loves us.

Paul went on to tell the Ephesians more about their justification. Let's read:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Paul reminded them that they were saved only by God's grace (free blessing). They were not saved by anything that they did by their own efforts. Their salvation was completely a gift from God.



Let's Think!

Sometimes people think they can help God save them if they are wise and good. Paul tells us that we are saved only by the grace of God and not because of anything that we have done (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Listed in this section are statements that you might hear from people who believe that they have been saved because they are good. Read each statement carefully and explain why it is wrong. If you are not sure, read the suggested Bible verse next to each statement.

1. "God did not choose me. I chose God."
(Read Ephesians 1:3-4)

This is WRONG because God chose us before the

foundation of the world.

2. “I am not dead in sin. I just made a few mistakes. Generally, I am a good person. That is why God saved me.”
(Read *Ephesians 2:1-5*)

This is WRONG because we were dead in trespasses and sins.

3. “Yes, I have done some bad things, but I have done some good things also. God sees all my good works, and so he forgives me for the bad things I have done.”
(Read *Ephesians 2:8-9*)

This is WRONG because we are saved by grace not by works.

4. “Well, maybe God did all the work to save me, but at least I am smart enough to make good decisions. All by myself, I realized that I needed to be saved, and so I put my faith in Christ.”
(Read *John 6:63-65*)

This is WRONG because no one can come unless it is granted by the Father.

Luke 18:10-14 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

In the days in which Jesus told this story, the Pharisees thought they were the most committed to serving God. They spent much time in prayer and fasting. Tax collectors were despised by the people. They worked for the hated Romans collecting money for Caesar, and they often stole money while they were collecting.

In the story, the Pharisee trusted his own good works. When he prayed, he bragged to God about all the good things he had done. He said that he was better than other people. The tax collector was humble before God. He understood that he was a sinner and that only God’s mercy could save him.



Fill in the blank or circle the correct answer.

In whom did the Pharisee have faith? himself

In whom did the tax collector have faith? God

Which of these went home justified (forgiven and accepted) by God?

the tax collector

The problem with the Pharisee was not that he was worse than the tax collector. Perhaps the Pharisee tried very hard to do good things. However, doing good things does not save someone.

We are justified by grace through faith. God forgives and accepts us because of his own kindness and mercy, not because of our good works. We receive this forgiveness through faith in God. We ask God to save us, and we believe his promise that the blood of Christ pays for our sins. We trust that we are forgiven and accepted by God.



Let's Think!

Think of another Bible story in which someone demonstrated faith in God. Which story did you remember?

Answers will vary.

In the story that you chose, who demonstrated faith in God? How?

Answers will vary.

How do you demonstrate faith in God?

Answers will vary.

is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us as St. Paul says: *For we conclude that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the Law. Likewise: That He might be just, and the Justifier of him which believeth in Christ.*

Of this article nothing can be yielded or surrendered (nor can anything be granted or permitted contrary to the same), even though heaven and earth, and whatever will not abide, should sink to ruin.



Let's Think!

Martin Luther disagreed with the Roman Catholic doctrine on justification. The Catholic church taught that we are justified by

faith and works .

Martin Luther proclaimed that the Bible teaches that we are

justified by faith and not by works.

Did Martin Luther think that this difference between faith and works was important? How do you know?

Yes, he said nothing of that can be yielded.

Why is it important to recognize that we are justified by grace through faith alone?

So that we know that we depend on Jesus to save us.

two abandoned babies. The judge decided to allow it. Finally, the babies were able to go home with their new parents.

Nobody called the babies “Abandoned Girl” and “Abandoned Boy” anymore. They received new birth certificates that said that they were Lisa Ann Wilson and Benjamin Daniel Wilson, the daughter and son of Ted and Margaret Wilson. The birth certificates did not show that the babies had ever been orphans at all.

The Bible tells us that we who have been forgiven of our sins have also been **adopted** by God. We are **received into the number** of God’s family, and we have **all the privileges of the sons of God**. This is amazing!

Let’s read a Bible verse which tells us that we are children of God.

I John 3:1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.



Let's Think!

What does our adoption show about God? It shows that

God loves us.

Think about the beginning of the Lord's Prayer. What are the first two words of the prayer? (If you are not sure, read Matthew 6:9).

Our Father

How does this prayer show that we are children of God?

We call God our Father

you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

As children of God, we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ

_____.

Hebrews 12:7-11 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

As children of God, we have discipline for our good

_____.

Matthew 7:9-11 Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

As children of God, we have **good gifts** _____

_____ .

Sanctification

What does the Westminster Shorter Catechism mean when it says that we are *renewed in the whole man*? It means that we are made new—not just one part of us, but every part.

How are we renewed? We are made new in the image of God through the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Sanctification is a process that goes on for our whole life. Every day, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts, renewing us in God's image. Gradually, we learn to sin less and to obey God more. This is not easy. In fact, no one can do it at all unless the Holy Spirit changes their heart. However, nothing is impossible for God. Every day, he turns our hearts to love him more and to want to obey him.

Justification and **sanctification** are different concepts. **Justification** occurs only once when God forgives our sins because of Christ's atonement. **Sanctification** happens every day as the Holy Spirit renews our hearts. In justification, sin is forgiven. In sanctification, sin is restrained and overcome. However, both of these are works of God. Christ died on the cross for our justification. The Holy Spirit works sanctification in us.



Let's Think!

Read each Bible verse below and indicate whether it is referring to justification (J) or sanctification (S).

- S** 1. "The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day." (Proverbs 4:18)

- S 2. "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:1-2)
- J 3. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
- J 4. "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered." (Psalm 32:1)
- S 5. "I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them." (Jeremiah 31:33)

died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

In this passage in Romans, Paul explains that we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. Jesus was crucified on the cross and paid the price for our sins, and so it is like our sinful selves were crucified and died. After he died, Jesus rose from the dead, and so we also rise again to a new life.

Paul tells us to remember that we are dead to sin and so we should not let sin rule over us. Now we are alive to God in Christ Jesus, and so we should give ourselves to God and obey his word.

Remember: The process of sanctification means that we are

made able more and more to die to sin

and live unto righteousness.



Let's Think!

The gospel of Luke tells a story about a man who was known for being a terrible sinner until the day he met Jesus. Read the story and explain how Zacchaeus demonstrated sanctification.

Luke 19:1-10 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Zacchaeus demonstrated sanctification when he **gave to the poor**

and repaid those he had cheated.

How do you demonstrate sanctification in your life?

I demonstrate sanctification when I answers will vary

one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”



Let's Think!

Jesus said, “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.” What does this mean?

Someone who loves God will show it in the way that he or she behaves.

A person who hears the words of Jesus and obeys is like what?

A man building his house on a rock.

Jesus said that a person who hears his words and does not put them into practice is like a house built on sand. What happened to the house when the storm arrived?

It collapsed and was destroyed.

Many people today say that they believe in Jesus, but they do not obey God’s Word. Suppose someone said to you, “I do not have to stop sinning. Before I die, I will pray and God will forgive all my sins, and I will go to heaven.”

How would you answer this person?

Answers will vary

Peace, Love, and Joy

When people talk about repenting of their sins and obeying God, they often add, “And now I am going to heaven when I die.” This is true, but the Westminster Shorter Catechism tells us that we receive benefits of justification, adoption, and sanctification even in this life!

Do you remember what a benefit is? (If you do not remember, look back at page 21.)

A benefit is something good and helpful .

There are good and helpful things that flow from our justification, adoption, and sanctification.



According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism, what are the benefits that accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

1. assurance of God's love
2. peace of conscience
3. joy in the Holy Spirit
4. increase of grace
5. perseverance

In this lesson, we will look at the first three benefits. In the next lesson, we will examine the last two benefits.

Because of our justification, adoption, and sanctification, we have **assurance of God's love**. This means we know God loves us.

How does our **justification** show God's love for us? Jesus died to

save us from our sins.

How does our **adoption** show God's love for us? God welcomes

us into his family.

How does our **sanctification** show God's love for us? God helps

us to turn from sin.

Because of our justification, adoption, sanctification, we also have peace of conscience. This means that we do not have to feel guilty because we know that God has made things right.

How does our **justification** give us peace of conscience? We are

forgiven of our sins.

How does our **adoption** give us peace of conscience? We are

accepted by God as his children.

How does our **sanctification** give us peace of conscience? We obey

God more day by day.

Because of our justification, adoption, and sanctification, we have joy in the Holy Spirit. This means that we rejoice in God—in knowing him and obeying him.

How does our **justification** give us joy in the Holy Spirit? We are

happy that we are forgiven.

How does our **adoption** give us joy in the Holy Spirit? We know

that God is our loving Father.

How does our **sanctification** give us joy in the Holy Spirit? We

rejoice that we are overcoming sin.

What are the last two benefits?

1. increase of grace

2. perseverance

Because of our justification, adoption, and sanctification, we have **increase of grace and perseverance**. This means that we grow in our love for God and faith and obedience to his word. We are able to be strong and to keep trusting him throughout our whole life.

The last two benefits help us stand even when circumstances are difficult or when we are struggling with sin. Sometimes we may not feel sure that God loves us or we may feel guilty and sad. However, God helps us to grow in grace day by day, and God gives us strength to persevere even through difficulties until we learn to trust him more.

The gospel of Matthew tells a story about a time when Jesus sent his disciples across the lake in a boat. In the middle of the trip, they suddenly saw something terrifying, and they forgot to trust in God. Let's read the story.

Matthew 14:22-33 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."



Let's Think!

How did the disciples react when they saw Jesus walking on the water? Did they feel joy and peace?

No, they were terrified.

Was Peter completely joyful and peaceful when he was walking on the water?

No, he was afraid.

The disciples did not trust God as they should, and so they were afraid, even when Jesus was right there with them. How did Jesus help them?

He caught Peter out of the water and told them to take courage.

By the end of the story, how had the disciples grown in grace?

They knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

Made Perfect

We receive benefits from Christ not only during our lives but also at death.

Which benefit that we receive at death does the Westminster Shorter Catechism list first?

We are made perfect in holiness.

That's right! At death we are made perfect in holiness. This means that we will never sin anymore. This process of being made perfect has already begun in this life. Day by day, our hearts are renewed so that we love and obey God more and more.

What is this process called? **sanctification**

At death, sanctification is complete. We are made perfect.

Which benefit that we receive at death does the Westminster Shorter Catechism list second?

We immediately pass into glory.

At death, each believer passes immediately into glory.

What is glory? **heaven**



Let's Think!

Some people believe that there are three places a person can go when he or she dies—heaven, hell, or purgatory. They think that some people are not bad enough for hell but not good enough for heaven, so these people will go to purgatory to stay until they have paid for their sins and are pure enough for heaven.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism teaches that believers do not go to purgatory, but rather they pass *immediately* to glory.

Let's think about how we know that believers do not go to purgatory, but rather go straight to heaven. Read the Bible verses below and answer the questions.

Isaiah 53:5-6 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Who was punished for our sins? Jesus

Hebrews 7:24-25 But because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Does Jesus save us only partly? Do we have to pay for some of our own sins before we go to heaven?

No, Jesus saves us completely.

The apostle Paul said to the believers at Philippi:

Philippians 1:23-24 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

What did Paul know would happen when he died?

He would be with Christ.

Is Christ in purgatory? No

Paul was confident that he would go to heaven
as soon as he left his body.

the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words."

"When this Bible passage talks about people 'falling asleep,'" Matt's mother said, "it is talking about people who have died. That was a sort of nicer way to say it back then, like people today say that someone 'passed away.' The apostle Paul was comforting the church at Thessalonica. They were sad about people dying, just like we are sad about Grandpa. Paul said that we miss people who die, but we have hope. We know that death is not the end. One day, there will be a resurrection. Those who have died in Christ will rise again and have new bodies."

"Will I rise again after I die, Mom?" asked Matt.

"Of course," said his mother. "Everyone who loves Jesus will be raised from the dead in the resurrection to live forever and ever."

"I am not quite so sad now," Matt said. "I know that Grandpa loved Jesus. I will see both Jesus and Grandpa someday. Then, at the resurrection, we will all get new bodies that will never get sick or old or need arthritis medicine."



Let's Think!

Is it wrong to be sad when someone dies? **No** _____

Why are we sad when someone we love dies? We miss them

How can we still have hope even when we are sad about death?

We know that believers pass into glory.

How did Paul comfort the Christians in Thessalonica when they were sad about death?

He reminded them that death is not the end, and God will raise them from the dead.

The Day of Judgment

Everyone who believes in Christ for salvation will be raised from the dead during the resurrection. However, they are not the only ones who will be raised from the dead. Unbelievers will be raised from the dead as well. There will be a final judgment.

What will happen to the elect at the judgment? They will be **acknowledged** and **acquitted**.

What does *acknowledged* mean? When we say that believers will be **acknowledged**, we mean that they will be **accepted and recognized**.

What does *acquitted* mean? When we say that believers will be **acquitted**, we mean that they will be **declared not guilty**.

On judgment day, the elect will be recognized and accepted by God and declared not guilty of their sins.

Why are the elect **acquitted** (declared not guilty)?

Because Jesus paid for their sins.



Let's Think!

Jesus told a parable about the day of judgment. Read the story and answer the questions.

Matthew 25:31-46 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the

In the parable, who do the sheep represent?

The elect

Who do the goats represent?

Those who are not elect

How did the King acknowledge the sheep? What did he call them?

He called them 'blessed by my Father'.

Both the sheep and the goats believed that they would be blessed by God. How did the sheep show evidence of sanctification?

They helped people who were in need and visited the sick and imprisoned.



Do you remember?

What is your main purpose? (If you do not remember, look back at Question 1 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism.)

To glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

In heaven, we live completely according to our purpose. We live in the full enjoyment of God. How long will we enjoy God?

Forever

The book of Revelation tells us that God will make a new heavens and a new earth. Let's read about it.

Revelation 21:1-5 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

In the new earth, where will God's dwelling place be?

Among the people

How will things be different when the old order has passed away?

No more death or mourning or crying or pain.

Why do we learn our beliefs about God before we learn about our duty to God? We learn about God first because we can only understand our duty to God when we know who he is and that he has saved us from our sins. When we realize these things, we love God, and we are thankful to him. Then we understand that we should obey him. We know that his commands are good and right.

What is our duty toward God? Our duty toward God is obedience to his revealed will.



Do you remember?

In the first workbook of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism for Kids* series, we talked about God's **decretal will** and God's **revealed will**.

God's **decretal will** is God's overall plan. Everything that happens is part of God's decretal will (what God has decreed will happen).

God's **revealed will** includes all things that God requires of us. God tells us his **revealed will** in the Bible when he gives us his commandments. We should obey God's revealed will (what God has revealed that we should and should not do). We should do the things that God tells us to do, and we should not do those things that God tells us we should not do.

What are some things God has told us we **SHOULD** do?

Answers will vary.

What are some things God has told us we SHOULD NOT do?

Answers will vary.



Let's Think!

The Westminster Shorter Catechism explains what we should believe about God so that we may better understand why we should love and obey him. However, our emotions can be fickle. Sometimes you might wake up in a bad mood, and you might not feel thankful to God. Maybe you want to hit your sister or yell at your mother.

Should you obey God even when you do not feel happy or thankful?

Yes

The Westminster Shorter Catechism chooses the word duty very carefully so that we understand that we owe our obedience to God. Obeying God is the right thing to do. Even when we do not feel like obeying God, we should obey him anyway because it is still the right thing to do. We should be thankful to God, but even when we are not, we should still obey him. We must try to remember God's goodness to us and be thankful always, no matter how we feel.

Consider the story below and answer the questions:

Jane was very disappointed. She had been waiting all year to go camping, but then it started raining on the very day she was
--

supposed to go camping with her father. The camping trip would have to wait until next week.

That Sunday, Jane did not want to go to church. "God knew how much I wanted to go camping," she said, "but it rained anyway. I do not feel thankful to God. I do not want to go to church."

What would you say to Jane to help her understand that she should go to church?

Answers will vary.

Lesson 2

Question 39: What is the duty which God requireth of man?

Answer: The _____ which God _____

of man is _____ to his revealed _____ .

God's Revealed Will

We understand that we should obey God, but how do we know what God wants us to do?

We read the Bible _____

Where is God's will revealed for us? **In the Bible** _____

Suppose someone told you that God wants you to steal money from a bank. How do you know that this is not true?

The Bible tells us not to steal. _____

That's right! God's will is revealed in the Bible. We read the Bible to know God's will for us. If people tell you to do something that is disobedient to the Bible, then you know they are asking you to do something that is sinful. If they tell you that God has told you to do it, they are lying. God does not change and he does not lie. When God tells you that something is wrong, you should believe his word.

This seems simple enough: Obey the word of God, and don't believe people if they tell you that God wants you to do anything that is against the word of God. But let's consider a more difficult situation. Suppose someone tells you that God commands you to wear red pants and pink shoes. That is silly! But how do you know that God does not require you to wear red pants and pink shoes?

Does the Bible say that you should wear red pants and pink shoes?

No

Does the Bible tell you NOT to wear red pants and pink shoes?

No

The Bible does not give you instructions one way or the other. It does not tell you what color pants and shoes you should wear. So what should you do?

Let's read what the Westminster Confession of Faith says about God's revealed will.

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter I, Section VI

The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set

preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!



Let's Think!

According to the Bible, should we listen to people who claim to have a new message from God? Should we obey them?

No, we should not listen to or obey anyone claiming a new message from God.

Suppose someone says, "But an angel told me!" or "God spoke this message to me while I was praying!" Should you listen then?

No, not even if an angel from heaven claims it.

Should anyone have believed Joseph Smith when he claimed that an angel showed him gold plates with new commandments from God written on them?

No

promised, but you didn't keep your promise! You took your skateboard with you when you went to see your friend Trevor, and I didn't get to use it at all!"

"I am sorry, Jordan," said his brother Tim. "You are right. I told you that I would let you borrow it. I should have let you use it while I went to Trevor's house."

Why did Jordan believe that his brother should have let him borrow the skateboard?

His brother promised.

Jordan and his brother Tim both agreed that people should keep their promises. They did not say it when they were arguing, but Jordan complained that Tim had not kept his promise, and Tim apologized, because he also believed that he should have kept his promise. This is a **moral law**—a general set of rules about how people should behave. Most people in the world—both Christians and non-Christians—understand at least some of the moral law. Most people agree that stealing and killing are bad things to do. Most people understand that being kind and keeping promises are good things to do.

In our story, Tim knew that he did a bad thing when he broke his promise to his brother. Even if he did not want to let Jordan borrow the skateboard, he should have let him borrow it because of the promise he made. Tim apologized because he understood the moral law about keeping promises.

The Bible tells us that the law is written on the hearts of mankind.

Romans 2:14-15 Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show

that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.

In this Bible passage, Paul explained that some people do not have the law of God written down for them in the Bible, and yet they still act as though they understand some of it. They realize that some things are bad and some things are good. Their consciences make them feel guilty when they do something wrong.

All people are made in the image of God, and so all people have some idea of what they should and should not do.



Let's Think!

Below are some arguments you might hear people use when they are quarreling. Consider each statement. Which rule of the moral law is this person demonstrating that he or she understands? Write it on the line below.

Example: "Why did you take my purse? It is not yours!"

Rule: Do not steal.

1. "You told me that you went to the library, but you went to the movies! That was wrong!"

Rule: Do not tell lies.

2. “You should not talk to your father that way! It isn’t respectful!”

Rule: Honor your father.

3. “If you want money, get a job! Stop being lazy!”

Rule: Work, and do not be lazy.

Can you think of another rule of moral law? What have you heard someone say in an argument that shows an understanding of some of the moral law?

Answers will vary.

keep their promises, and so Tim should have kept his promise to Jordan.

Below is another story about two people discussing the moral law. However, this story has a different ending. Read this story and try to discover the problem with this discussion of the moral law.

Janet and her best friend Heidi were having an argument. Janet was angry that Heidi would not help her.

"I can't get an A on my homework unless you let me copy your answers," said Janet. "If I don't get a good grade, my mother will be angry with me, and she might not let me go to the party this weekend."

"I don't want to cheat," said Heidi. "If I let you copy my answers, we will be cheating."

"You are being selfish!" yelled Janet. "If you don't let me copy your answers, I will get in trouble! Why don't you care about me? You are wrong!"

Was Heidi wrong for refusing to help Janet cheat? **No** _____

Janet pretended that she was right and that Heidi was wrong. What did she say to try to convince Heidi that cheating was the right thing to do?

Janet said that Heidi was selfish for refusing to help her. _____

We all have some understanding of the moral law in our hearts, but not enough. Without the Bible guiding us, we would all



Let's Think!

The psalmist says the decrees of God are more precious than what?

They are more precious than gold.

The psalmist says the decrees of God are sweeter than what?

They are sweeter than honey.

How do the statutes (laws) of God help the simple (foolish)?

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

When you are too foolish to know what is right and wrong, what helps you?

The law of the Lord.

According to the psalm, how is the servant of God helped by the laws of God?

"By them your servant is warned ;

in keeping them there is great reward ."