

Westminster **Shorter Catechism** *for kids*

Workbook Five: The Ten Commandments (Part 1) Questions 41 – 62

Caroline Weerstra
Thomas Trouwborst

Solutions Manual

Catechism for Kids

Visit our website
www.catechismforkids.com

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

www.catechismforkids.com

For more information on this workbook series, email:
info@catechismforkids.com

Published by Common Life Press, Schenectady, New York. 2012.

ISBN-13: 978-0-9837249-3-3

Except where otherwise indicated, all Bible verses quoted in this workbook are in the New International (NIV) translation.

THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission.
All rights reserved worldwide.

Copyright © 2012 by Caroline Weerstra. The owner of this book is authorized to produce paper copies for non-commercial use. Any other use requires written permission from the publisher.

The Moral Law

What is the moral law? The **moral law** is a set of rules which govern our behavior. When we say that stealing is bad and sharing with others is good, we are expressing the moral law. As we mentioned in *Workbook Four: Salvation*, everyone (Christian and non-Christian) has some understanding of the moral law. However, only God's law declares the moral law perfectly.

What does 'summarily comprehended' mean? **Summarily comprehended** means **summarized**. The Ten Commandments contain a summary of the moral law.



Let's Think!

Read the story below and answer the questions.

Jonathan went to his friend Mark's house after school one day. Mark was very excited. He had just received a new bicycle for his birthday. The bicycle was red and shiny, and its gears all shifted perfectly. Jonathan thought about his own bicycle at home. It was old and rusty. The front tire was nearly flat.

Jonathan began to feel angry with Mark. "Your new bike is stupid!" he yelled.

Mark had been looking forward to showing the new bicycle to his best friend. Now he was sad.

When Jonathan saw how sad Mark looked, he felt guilty. He did not know what to do, so he ran home.

What did Jonathan do wrong? Jonathan coveted Mark's

bicycle, and he treated Mark unkindly.

Did Jonathan know that he had done something wrong? Yes

Did Jonathan break the moral law? Yes

What should Jonathan do next? Can you write an ending to the story describing what Jonathan should do? Write it below:

Answers may vary.

The Sum of the Commandments

The sum (summary) of the Ten Commandments comes from a story about Jesus. Let's read the story:

Matthew 22:34-40 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Jesus declared that the most important commandment is the one instructing us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. He added that the second most important commandment is to love our neighbor (people around us) as we love ourselves. He said that everything in the Law and the Prophets hangs on these two commandments.

Jesus showed the Pharisees that obedience to God is a natural outgrowth of our love for God. When we love God, we want to honor him. No one who truly loves God would take the name of the Lord in vain or worship idols.

When we love God, we also love other people, because they are made in the image of God. When we love other people, we do not murder them or steal from them. We show kindness toward them, and we treat them with respect.



True or False?

- ^T 1. The Ten Commandments contain a summary of the moral law.

- ^F 2. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is the one telling us not to steal.
- ^F 3. Jesus said that we should love our neighbor only if our neighbor is nice.
- ^T 4. The greatest commandment is the one telling us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind.
- ^T 5. When we love God, we honor him by obeying his commandments.

Do you love God? Draw something you do to honor God because you love him:

the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."



Answer the questions below.

What strange thing did Moses see while he was tending his father-in-law's sheep?

He saw a burning bush which was not burned up.

Why did Moses hide his face? He was afraid to look

at God.

What did God tell Moses to do? To go to Pharaoh and

bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

God rescued his people from bondage (slavery) in Egypt. He brought them out of Egypt with great miracles, and he led them into the land of Canaan.

Psalm 78:1-7

My people, hear my teaching;
 listen to the words of my mouth.
 I will open my mouth with a parable;
 I will utter hidden things, things from of old —
 things we have heard and known,
 things our ancestors have told us.
 We will not hide them from their descendants;
 we will tell the next generation
 the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
 his power, and the wonders he has done.
 He decreed statutes for Jacob
 and established the law in Israel,
 which he commanded our ancestors
 to teach their children,
 so the next generation would know them,
 even the children yet to be born,
 and they in turn would tell their children.
 Then they would put their trust in God
 and would not forget his deeds
 but would keep his commands.

**Let's Think!**

The psalmist says, “We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.” What does the psalmist say will happen when children hear these things?

They will put their trust in God and would keep

his commands.

What are some things that you have heard at home or Sunday School about the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD?

Answers may vary.

Since you know what God has done for his people (including you!), what should you do?

I should put my trust in God and keep his

commands.



Fill in the blanks.

Polycarp was a leader in the early church. He had once been a student of the apostle John. When the Roman government demanded that he worship the emperor, Polycarp refused. Polycarp had served Jesus for 86 years, and he would not blaspheme Christ. Polycarp worshiped only the true and living God.

the Bible, the book of Job compares these people to papyrus plants trying to grow without water:

Job 8:11-15

Can papyrus grow tall where there is no marsh?
Can reeds thrive without water?
While still growing and uncut,
they wither more quickly than grass.
Such is the destiny of all who forget God;
so perishes the hope of the godless.
What they trust in is fragile;
what they rely on is a spider's web.
They lean on the web, but it gives way;
they cling to it, but it does not hold.

A papyrus plant can only thrive in a swamp. It needs water all the time. Without water, it dries up and dies immediately. The Bible declares that people who forget God deprive themselves of the thing they need most. Without God, their souls wither away. Whatever they trust in will fail them. If they turn to other gods, money, friends, or anything else, those things will disappoint them in the end.



Let's Think!

Sometimes people put their trust in things other than God. They think they will be safe and happy as long as they have a lot of money, popularity, or other such things. Read the passage in Job 8 again. What does it say that holding on to something other than God is like?

Clinging to a spider web

Can a spider web hold you up if you are falling? No

Should we put our trust in money or popularity? No

If someone does not have God, is there anything in life to sustain them?

No

Read Hebrews 11:6 and copy it here:

And without faith it is impossible to please

God, because anyone who comes to him must believe

that he exists and that he rewards those who

earnestly seek him.

Glory to God Alone

The first commandment declares: *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.* Question 47 of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* asks what this commandment forbids us to do. The answer says that we are forbidden to deny the true God (we may not be atheists). We also must not worship or glorify anyone or anything besides the true God in a manner that should be reserved for God alone.

You already learned that people often worshiped false gods in ancient times. But do people still worship false gods today? Unfortunately, yes, they do. There are many false religions. Some people worship Hindu gods or the spirits of animals and trees. Some people treat money or fame like a god—they want it more than anything, and they will do anything to get it.



Let's Think!

Each of the statements below shows that the speaker is glorifying someone or something in a way that should be reserved for God alone. Each of them has a 'god' other than the true God.

Can you identify what each person's 'god' is? Write it on the line next to their statement.

1. Melvin says, "I believe that money will carry me through any difficult time. All I need is a little more money."

Melvin worships money .

2. Shannon says, "As long as I am beautiful, nothing bad will happen to me."

Shannon worships beauty .

3. Steve says, "I believe that nature is the true mother of all life. Nature is like a great spirit joining us all together."

Steve worships nature .

4. Penny says, "I have a lot of good friends. I don't really need God. If I ever have any problems, my friends will help me."

Penny worships friends .

The first commandment forbids us to worship anything or anyone except the true and living God.

Read Psalm 31:14 and copy it here:

But I trust in you, LORD; I say, "You are

my God."



Answer the questions below.

The Israelites were worshiping several false gods inside the Temple of the Lord. What were some of the false gods?

Various idols, the god Tammuz, the sun

Did the Israelites think that God knew what they were doing?

No, they thought God did not see.

Did God see them worshiping the false gods? Yes

What did God say about the worship of false gods inside his Temple?

He said it was a detestable thing.

Finish this sentence:

God was so angry with his people that he said, "Even if they shout in my ears...

I will not listen to them _____."

Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.



Let's Think!

Why did the people of Israel want Aaron to make gods for them?

They did not know what had happened to Moses.

Finish the sentence:

When Aaron presented the golden calf to the Israelites, he said, "These are your gods, Israel, who

brought you up out of Egypt."

The people of Israel became frightened. They were not content to wait for Moses or to worship as God commanded them. They did not trust God as they should. They asked Aaron to make a god which they could all see.

When Aaron presented the golden calf, he told them that it was the same God who had brought them out of Egypt. The Israelites still believed they were worshiping the same God, but they wanted to worship him the wrong way—through a graven image. God was angry with them for their sin.

In his Word, God tells us how we should worship him. We are not permitted to worship him just any way that we please. We

must never bow down to an idol. Even if we say that the idol represents the real God (the God who brought Israel out of Egypt), it is a form of worship which God does not permit.

The first commandment tells us that we must worship only the true and living God. The second commandment tells us that we must worship him in the manner in which he has commanded—not through statues or pictures.

Suppose someone says to you, “I have a picture of Jesus on my wall, and I kneel in front of it while I am praying. It is okay, because I am still worshiping the true God. I am not worshiping a false god. I am bowing to a picture of Jesus.”

How would you answer this person? The second

commandment forbids worshiping graven images,

even if we claim they represent the true God.

I Chronicles 16:34 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Form of worship: giving thanks

Psalms 65:2 You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.

Form of worship: prayer

I Timothy 4:13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

Form of worship: reading Scripture, preaching

I Corinthians 11:26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Form of worship: Lord's supper

“Half of it I used for fuel;
 I even baked bread over its coals,
 I roasted meat and I ate.
 Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left?
 Shall I bow down to a block of wood?”

Such a person feeds on ashes; a deluded heart misleads him;
 he cannot save himself, or say,
 “Is not this thing in my right hand a lie? ”

Remember these things, Jacob,
 for you, Israel, are my servant.
 I have made you, you are my servant;
 Israel, I will not forget you.
 I have swept away your offenses like a cloud,
 your sins like the morning mist.
 Return to me,
 for I have redeemed you.



The sentences below are quotes from the passage in Isaiah. Fill in the missing words.

1. Craftsmen are only human beings .
2. Half of the wood, he burns in the fire .
3. From the rest, he makes a god .
4. Shall I bow down to a block of wood ?

5. No one stops to think .
6. Remember these things, Jacob.

This passage in Isaiah speaks of the silliness of idol-worship. Craftsmen are only humans. They work with tools. They get tired and hungry like everyone else.

A carpenter may go into the woods and cut down an ordinary tree. Half of the wood he just burns in the fire to cook his food and to keep warm. The other half he carves into an idol and bows down to it, saying, "Save me! You are my god!"

How ridiculous! He cut down the tree himself. He burned half the wood as if it was nothing valuable at all, and now he is bowing down to the rest of it! The worship of idols is absurd. God cannot be made by the hands of people. If God were so weak, then He would not be God at all. Our God is far beyond anything that could be represented in wood, metal, paint, or stone.

the money from her purse before Dave found it. Dave wondered what he should do.

If Dave worships only God, what will he do with the money?

He will return the money to its owner.

Suppose money has stolen Dave's love for God. Now money is more important to Dave than anything else. What will Dave do with the money he has found?

He will steal the money

If we worship things other than God, will we obey God's laws?

No, we will want something else more.

God is jealous. This means that he wants to keep us

completely for himself.

The Name of the Lord

What is God's name? God uses several names for himself throughout Scripture. Each name represents something about God's character. The names of God reveal who God is. Through his names, he makes himself known to us.



Read each Bible verses below.

Write the name of God used in each verse.

Example:

Judges 6:24 So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is Peace.

Name: The Lord is Peace

Jeremiah 23:6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

Name: The Lord our Righteous Savior

Isaiah 51:15 For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar — the LORD Almighty is his name.

Name: The Lord Almighty

Revelation 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Name: The Alpha and Omega

Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Name: Jesus

He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.



Let's Think!

The Bible passage above mentions the name of the Lord several times. It tells us to proclaim the name of the Lord among the nations, to glory in his name, and to remember all that the Lord has done.

Today, God's people still sing praises to his name and proclaim his name among the nations.

How do Christians today praise the name of the Lord at church?

Prayer, singing hymns, preaching and teaching,

participation in the sacraments, and so on.

How do Christians today proclaim the name of the Lord among the nations?

Through missionary work in other countries.

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The serpent (Satan) said, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" How was he taking the name of the Lord in vain?

He lied about what God said.

The serpent (Satan) said, "You will not certainly die. For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." How was he taking the name of the Lord in vain?

He claimed that God was doing something sinful.

Can you think of another Bible story in which someone took the name of the Lord in vain? Write it below:

Answers may vary.

men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

God's Righteous Judgment

The third commandment contains a special warning. Can you remember it? Complete the sentence:

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain;

for _____ the Lord will not hold him guiltless that

taketh his name in vain.

This portion of the commandment tells us that God views this sin as a very serious matter. He does not excuse this sin, and he will judge people who break this commandment.

In human society, there is usually no punishment for breaking the third commandment. People use the name of God as a curse word every day, and no one does anything to stop them. People tell lies about God also, and no one puts them in jail for that crime. Because there are rarely any consequences for breaking the third commandment in everyday life, people sometimes imagine that God does not care. However, the Bible tells us that God cares very much. He will judge those who take his name in vain, even if they receive no punishment from people around them.

Why does God take this sin so seriously? Remember that his name reveals who he is. When God's name is profaned or abused, then people become confused about God. They do not respect him as they should. Perhaps they even do evil things, while believing

Does God care when people like Derek cheat people by telling them lies about God?

Yes

Will God punish Derek for taking the name of the Lord in vain?

Yes

How does it hurt people when someone tells lies about God?

They might believe wrong things about God.

How does it hurt people when someone uses the name of God like a curse word?

They might think it is not important to respect

God.

How does it hurt people when someone breaks a vow that they made in the name of the Lord?

People are cheated and defrauded, even though

someone made a solemn promise.

Remember: It is a serious sin to take the name of the Lord in vain. It is disrespectful to God, and it hurts other people. God judges those who take his name in vain.



Let's Think!

Is God strong? Yes

Does God get weak and tired? No

If God did not need to rest after his work of creation, why did he rest on the seventh day?

He did it to show us what we should do. By

his example, he taught us to keep the Sabbath.

According to the passage in Genesis, God blessed the

seventh day and made it holy .

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 58:

What is required in the fourth commandment?

Answer:

The fourth commandment requireth the keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his Word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself.

Keep the Sabbath Holy

How do we keep the Sabbath holy? The Bible tells us that we should set apart the seventh day as a special day.



Let's Think!

What should we do on this special day? Let's look at what God told the Israelites to do on the Sabbath:

Exodus 31:16 The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant.

Leviticus 23:3 There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of Sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD.

What were the Israelites instructed to do on the Sabbath?

To celebrate it as a lasting covenant and a

day of sacred assembly

Do you celebrate the Sabbath? Yes

What is your sacred assembly on the Sabbath? church

Let's look at God's instructions about what the Israelites should NOT do on the Sabbath:

Deuteronomy 5:12-14 Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do.

Jeremiah 17:21 This is what the LORD says: Be careful not to carry a load on the Sabbath day or bring it through the gates of Jerusalem.

What were the Israelites forbidden to do on the Sabbath?

They were forbidden to work or carry any heavy

loads through the gates (for business).

and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”



Answer the questions below.

On which day of the week did Jesus appear among his disciples the first time?

The first day (Sunday)

On which day of the week did Jesus appear to his disciples the second time?

The first day (Sunday)

The apostles continued to celebrate the first day of the week (Sunday) as the Sabbath:

Acts 20:7 On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

We now refer to the first day of the week (Sunday) as the **Christian Sabbath**. It was set apart as the new Sabbath day by the example of Christ. Just like the disciples met with the risen Jesus Christ on the new Christian Sabbath, we still come together every week on the first day to meet with God.

Think about how you meet with God on Sunday. Jesus has ascended into heaven, so you do not see God at church with your eyes. How do you meet with God?

Through prayer, hearing his Word, worship,

participation in the sacraments, and

fellowship with other believers.

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 60:

How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

Answer:

The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Works of Necessity and Mercy

Question 60 of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* explains how the Sabbath is to be sanctified. We discussed this already in Lesson 2 (pages 88-89). How do we keep the Sabbath holy?

1. Sacred assembly
2. Resting

However, Question 60 adds an exception. We may also perform **acts of necessity and mercy**. The gospel of Matthew discusses both of these in stories about Jesus:

Matthew 12:1-13 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."

He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not

lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. Or haven't you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other.



Let's Think!

An **act of necessity** is **something which is necessary**. It cannot be neglected. For example, families still prepare meals on the Sabbath day. Even though the Sabbath is a day of rest, people still must eat, and so food must be prepared.

What did Jesus' disciples do on the Sabbath as an act of necessity?

They picked grain and ate it.

An **act of mercy** is **something which is helpful and kind toward someone else**. For example, if a house catches fire on the Sabbath, the firemen should put out the fire. To allow the house to burn down would be unkind.

What did Jesus do on the Sabbath as an act of mercy?

He healed a man who had a shriveled hand.

Draw a picture of something you do on the Sabbath as an act of necessity or mercy:

to worship God, we should be thinking about God. We must not use the time to plan other things.



Let's Think!

Suppose someone says, "Today is the Sabbath. God tells us to rest on the Sabbath. Going to church is a lot of work. I will just stay home in bed to rest."

How would you respond? We must not be lazy on

the Sabbath. We should go to church.

Suppose someone says, "Today is the Sabbath. God tells us to rest on the Sabbath. I do not have to be nice to my little sister on the Sabbath, because that is difficult."

How would you respond? The Sabbath is not an

excuse for sin.

Suppose someone says, "I will not work on the Sabbath, but I will plan my schedule for next week and make all my appointments. That is not the same as working."

How would you respond? We should think about God

on the Sabbath, and we should not plan our work.

“Well,” said the other girl, “church is not important. Winning softball is important. You don’t have to go to church. You can do whatever you want on Sunday.”

Should Tracy skip church to play softball? No _____

Is softball more important than church? No _____

What does the prophet Isaiah say about doing whatever we want on the Sabbath?

He says we should not do as we please on the Sabbath.

Should we ever say that the Sabbath is boring? No _____

According to Isaiah, what should we call the Sabbath? _____

We should call the Sabbath a delight.

How do you think Tracy should respond to the girl on the softball team?

Answers may vary.

