

Westminster **Shorter Catechism** *for kids*

Workbook Six:
The Ten Commandments (Part 2)
Questions 63 – 85

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SOLUTIONS MANUAL

Catechism for Kids

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

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They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)—then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

Jesus made it clear that the fifth commandment is for everyone—not just for small children. There are no excuses for breaking the commandment. Throughout our lives, we are required to honor our father and mother.



True or False?

- T 1. The Bible tells children to obey their parents.
- F 2. The Pharisees always cared for their parents.
- T 3. Jesus said that the Pharisees should not avoid obeying the fifth commandment by claiming that they were devoting their money to God.
- T 4. Everyone must obey the fifth commandment—children and adults.



Let's Think!

Leviticus 19:32 Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD.

In the Old Testament era, people would stand up to show respect for someone. How do you show respect for elderly people?

Answers may vary.

Many elderly people cannot walk quickly. Some of them struggle to hear what people are saying. How can you be kind and respectful toward elderly people who have these difficulties?

Answers may vary.

not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.



Answer the questions below.

Did Jesus go to the temple with his parents? Yes

Joseph and Mary realized that they had left Jesus behind in Jerusalem by mistake. When they returned to look for him, what was he doing?

He was sitting among the teachers, listening

and asking questions.

Did Jesus return to Nazareth with his parents? Yes

Fill in the quote about Jesus:

“Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was

obedient to them.”

At that moment, a car pulled up and stopped near her. It was her mother. "Angela!" she said. "There you are! I was so scared when I couldn't find you!"

Angela was very glad to see her mother. She ran to the car and climbed inside. "Mom, I got lost, just like you said!" Angela cried. "I will never disobey you again!"

Angela thought she was being smart by disobeying her mother. Was she really being smart?

No, she was being foolish.

If Angela was truly wise, what would she have done when her mother told her not to walk to Grace's house by herself?

She would have obeyed her mother.

Why did Angela's mother tell her not to walk to Grace's house alone?

Her mother was worried that Angela might

get lost.

If you are wise, what will you do when your parents make a rule for you?

I will obey my parents.

Read Ecclesiastes 7:17 and copy it here:

Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool-

why die before your time?

Their father was Adam, and their mother was Eve. Let's read the story:

Genesis 4:2-12 Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."



Answer the questions below.

Why was God displeased with Cain's offering? Cain brought

an improper offering to God.

Did Cain repent for bringing an improper offering to God? No

Instead of repenting for his sin, what did Cain do? He killed
his brother.

Did God know what had happened to Abel? Yes

How did God punish Cain for killing his brother? _____

The ground would not yield crops for him, and

he would be a restless wanderer on the earth.

Remember that every person is made in the image of God.
God considers each life very precious.

The sixth commandment instructs us not to kill, and the overall principle contained in the commandment is that we should consider life valuable. We are required to **preserve** life. This means that we should protect and maintain life—both our own life and the lives of others.



Let's Think!

God's laws are filled with instructions about how to protect ourselves and other. Consider each of the laws below and explain how each law protects life.

Deuteronomy 22:8 When you build a new house, make a parapet around your roof so that you may not bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if someone falls from the roof.

In the Old Testament era, most homes had flat roofs, and people went up to the roof to relax and often even to sleep. How would building a parapet (a wall) around the roof protect life?

A parapet would keep people from falling off

the roof.

Leviticus 14:33-42 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "When you enter the land of Canaan, which I am giving you as your possession, and I put a spreading mold in a house in that land, the owner of the house must go and tell the priest, 'I have seen

something that looks like a defiling mold in my house.’ The priest is to order the house to be emptied before he goes in to examine the mold, so that nothing in the house will be pronounced unclean. After this the priest is to go in and inspect the house. He is to examine the mold on the walls, and if it has greenish or reddish depressions that appear to be deeper than the surface of the wall, the priest shall go out the doorway of the house and close it up for seven days. On the seventh day the priest shall return to inspect the house. If the mold has spread on the walls, he is to order that the contaminated stones be torn out and thrown into an unclean place outside the town. He must have all the inside walls of the house scraped and the material that is scraped off dumped into an unclean place outside the town. Then they are to take other stones to replace these and take new clay and plaster the house.

Toxic mold growing in a house can cause serious health problems for people living in the home. How would laws about mold protect life?

The laws would prevent people from getting sick

because of toxic mold.

Give an example of a modern law that exists to preserve life.

Answers may vary.

When Mara saw Jonathan riding by the house on his pony, she wished his pony would fall down and throw him off. "That would teach him not to be so selfish," Mara thought.

Mara never did anything to hurt Jonathan. She never hit him or pushed him off his pony. She only wished bad things for him. Was Mara breaking the sixth commandment?

Yes

How was Mara breaking the sixth commandment?

She hated him and wished him harm in her heart.

How should we treat other people? Read I John 4:21 and copy it here:

And he has given us this command:

Anyone who loves God must also love

their brother and sister.



Answer the questions below.

Why do we say that marriage is **holy**? It is set apart
as special and different from other relationships.

What is a covenant? A promise

During a marriage ceremony, what do the bride and groom promise?

To love each other and be faithful to each other
throughout their whole lives.

How long should a marriage last? Until death

in our relationships. We must keep ourselves pure, and we must never tempt other people to break their marriage covenants.

Sometimes people get tired of their husband or wife, and they think it would be more exciting and fun to have a new romantic relationship. But God forbids us from even thinking about breaking marriage vows. Any kind of unfaithfulness in our thoughts, our speech, or our behavior is wrong.

The prophet Malachi saw that many men in Judah were unfaithful to their wives. These men did not think God cared whether they divorced their wives to marry other women. They did not understand why God was not listening to their prayers. God gave Malachi a message for those men:

Malachi 2:13-16 Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth.

"The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the LORD Almighty.

So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.



Answer the questions below.

Why would God not listen to the prayers of the men of Judah?

They were unfaithful to their wives.

pure. Marriage is set apart as holy. A husband and wife have a special promise to love each other and be faithful to each other throughout life.

We read in the last section that the prophet Malachi warned the men of Judah against unfaithfulness. God said that he wanted **godly offspring**. **Offspring** are **children**. When a husband and wife keep their marriage vows and obey God, they build a strong family that honors God. God is concerned about families. He wants husbands and wives to stay together and to teach their children to serve the Lord.



Let's Think!

The Bible tells us many things about how husbands and wives should act toward each other and how to teach children to serve the Lord. Read each Bible passage below and consider what it tells us about family relationships.

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

A Christian husband should _____ love his wife and should _____
 _____ not be harsh with her. _____.

I Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner

and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

A Christian husband should love his wife and treat
her with respect .

Titus 2:4-5 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

A Christian wife should love her husband and children,
be self-controlled and pure, busy at home .

Proverbs 31:10-12 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

A Christian wife should bring her husband good
and not harm .

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Christian children should _____ obey their parents in _____

_____ the Lord _____ .

When someone makes **restitution**, they repay something to its proper owner. God told Moses that anyone who realizes they have sinned by stealing must confess their sin and give back what they have stolen. They must also pay a little extra (a fifth of the value) to make up for the trouble they caused.



Let's Think!

Consider the story below and answer the questions.

Jake was walking home from school one day when he found a wallet by the side of the road. He picked up the wallet and looked around, wondering who had dropped it. He did not see anyone.

Jake opened the wallet. He found forty dollars inside! Jake was excited. Forty dollars was a lot of money! He could buy a lot of fun toys and candy with forty dollars! Jake took the money out of the wallet and put it in his pocket.

When Jake arrived at home, he showed the wallet to his mother. She said, "This wallet belongs to Dr. Henderson. See, his name is here on his driver's license. He works at the clinic down the road. He must have dropped his wallet on his way to work."

Jake's mother called Dr. Henderson, and he stopped by their house on his way home to pick up his wallet. "Thank you for returning my wallet, Jake," he said. "But I see that my money is gone. Did you find the money?"

Jake did not want to give Dr. Henderson the money. He felt angry that Dr. Henderson wanted his forty dollars back. "Dr. Henderson probably has a lot of money," Jake thought. "Why should I give him back his money? I found it. I should be able to keep it."

"No," said Jake. "I did not find any money in your wallet. Someone else must have stolen it. There was no money in the wallet when I found it."

Did Jake steal Dr. Henderson's money? Yes

According to Leviticus 6, what should someone do who finds lost property and lies about it?

He should return the lost property with a little
more.

Suppose Jake thought about his lie and realized he had sinned by stealing Dr. Henderson's money. Write an ending to the story:

Answers may vary.

we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.



Let's Think!

Busybodies are troublemakers. Paul warned the Thessalonians not be busybodies. What should they be doing instead?

Settle down and earn the food they eat.

According to Paul, should the church feed lazy people? No

The Bible commands us to help those who are in need. What sort of people should we help?

We should help people who are weak, elderly,

disabled, and unable to provide for themselves.



Put the events in the correct order by numbering them 1 through 7:

- 3 Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus.
- 4 Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus into his house.
- 5 People complained that Jesus was the guest of a sinner.
- 1 Zacchaeus stole a lot of money.
- 2 Zacchaeus heard about Jesus and wanted to see him.
- 7 Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house."
- 6 Zacchaeus promised to pay back everything he had stolen and more.

How did Zacchaeus demonstrate that he was truly sorry for his sin?

He payed back all the money he had stolen and

gave more.

Did Jesus forgive Zacchaeus for stealing? Yes

God hates false witnesses so much that he commanded that false witnesses should receive the punishment that they were trying to bring on someone else:

Deuteronomy 19:16-20 If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse someone of a crime, the two people involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD before the priests and the judges who are in office at the time. The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against a fellow Israelite, then do to the false witness as that witness intended to do to the other party. You must purge the evil from among you. The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you.



Let's Think!

Consider the ending to the story about Grace and answer the questions.

Tommy started to cry. "I did not make a mess in Grace's room," he said. "Grace is telling a lie!"

Grace felt very bad when she saw Tommy crying. She knew that Tommy had not done anything wrong.

"Grace," said her mother, "are you lying about Tommy?"

Grace knew she must confess. "Yes," she said. Her face flushed red. She was embarrassed for being so cruel to her brother. "I am very sorry, Mom. I did not clean my room yesterday when you told me to."

"Grace!" said her mother. "That was a terrible thing to do to your brother! It is wrong to be a false witness."

"I know, Mom," said Grace. "What should I do?"

What was Grace's sin? _____ She bore false witness

What do you think Grace should do? She should

confess her sin to Tommy and to God, and she

should offer to do extra work.

Will God forgive Grace for lying about her brother? Yes

Why does God forgive our sins? God forgives us because

Jesus paid for our sins.

as the good name of our neighbor. A **good name** means a **good reputation**. A man with a good name is someone about whom others would say, "He is honest, works hard, and cares for his family. He is not a drunkard, and he is faithful to his wife."

What might someone say about a child who has a **good name**?

The child is honest and obedient, listens to his

parents and teachers, and honors God.

The Bible tells us to be mindful of our reputations, so that we may be known as honorable people. Bearing false witness is slander. **Slander** means **telling lies about someone else to hurt them**. Slander gives someone a bad name in the community. If people in the community hear that someone has done a wicked thing, they might believe it. Slander embarrasses and shames others. It can ruin reputations and cause a lot of trouble. We should never tell lies about someone else and destroy their good name.

Furthermore, if Christians do evil things, we are bearing false witness against Christ. Unbelievers will see our wicked deeds and say, "The Bible must be an evil book if Christians behave this way." They will believe lies about Christianity. Remember that we are the representatives of Christ on the earth. People around us are influenced by our behavior. We should always behave honorably so that the name of Christ will be respected by everyone.

We must guard our own good name, and also guard the good name of others. We should never spread slander or gossip about other people. Most of all, we must always behave well so that people will say, "Christians are honest, hard-working, honorable people." We bear the name of Christ, so we should never bear false witness against his name.



Each verse below tells you something about how to have a good name. Read the verse and fill in the blank.

Proverbs 3:3-4 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

To have a good name, never let love and faithfulness leave you.

Philippians 2:14-15 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.

To have a good name, you should do everything without grumbling or arguing.

Philippians 4:5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

To have a good name, you should always be gentle.

Titus 3:1-2 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

To have a good name and to protect the good name of others, you

should obey those in authority, and you should

slander no one.

Exodus 23:1 Do not spread false reports. Do not help a guilty person by being a malicious witness.

To have a good name and to protect the good name of others, you

should not spread false reports.

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 4:

What is God?

Answer:

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

This question and answer tell us that God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his **truth**. God is perfect in truth. We trust God's Word, because we know that God never lies.

Satan is described in Scripture as "the father of lies." (John 8:44) He tries to deceive us.

Do you remember what Satan told Eve in the Garden of Eden? What was his lie? (If you do not remember, read Genesis 3:1-6.)

He told Eve that she would become like God

if she ate the forbidden fruit.

The Bible tells us that we should be like God, not like Satan. We should know the truth and tell the truth. We should live honestly and speak honestly.

Ephesians 4:22-25 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

Question 78 of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* tells us that we are forbidden to do anything that is **prejudicial to the truth**.

This means that we should never do anything that would cause someone to believe a falsehood.



Let's Think!

Consider each story below and answer the questions.

Sarah and Molly were playing on the swings at the playground. Sarah said, "Molly, watch this!" She jumped off her swing to show how she could land right on her feet. But Sarah did not look where she was jumping. She landed on a little dog. The dog yelped. Molly's mother thought that Molly had jumped on the dog. "Molly!" she said. "Get off the swings! You are not being careful."

Sarah did not say anything. "I'm not telling any lies," she thought. "I just won't tell Molly's mother that it was me and not Molly that hurt the dog."

Was Sarah truthful? No

Sarah did not tell a lie, so how was she doing something dishonest?

 She knew that Molly's mother believed something

 false, but she said nothing.

What should Sarah do? She should admit that she

 was careless and jumped on the dog.

Marcus did not want to do his homework. He saw the teacher write the homework assignment on the board, but he did not copy it down. "If I don't know the homework assignment, then my mother can't make me do my homework," he thought.

After dinner, his mother asked him, "Marcus, did your teacher give you any homework?"

"I didn't hear my teacher give me any homework, Mom," said Marcus.

Marcus thought to himself, "That is not a lie. I saw my teacher write an assignment on the board, but I did not hear her say it."

Was Marcus being truthful? No

Marcus did not tell a lie, so how was he doing something dishonest?

 He told his mother something that made her

 believe a lie.

What should Marcus do? He should confess to his

 mother that he did not write down his homework.

Bethany told herself that wishing for Sarah's boots was not a big sin because she was not going to steal the boots. What happened?

She stole the boots.

Was Bethany right to take the boots after Sarah splashed in the puddle?

No, she was stealing.

Bethany stole the boots. However, before she stole them, she committed another sin. What sin did she commit?

She coveted the boots.

What should Bethany do? She should return the

boots and confess her sin.

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 80:

What is required in the tenth commandment?

Answer:

The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his.

A Heart of Contentment

Coveting means **wrongfully wanting something which does not belong to us**. When people covet, they are discontent. They are not generous and helpful toward other people.

God requires us to be content with what we have. We should not be constantly greedy for more. We should recognize that God has blessed us and provided for us.

People who are discontent rarely recognize their problem. They often think that if they had a little more money, or if they had a better job, or if their friends were nicer, then they would be happy. However, this is not true. People who have covetous hearts are never happy. No matter how much they have, they always think of something more they want. They never gain enough to be satisfied.

Covetousness is a sin. We must learn to recognize this sin in our hearts and repent for it. God commands us to be content.



Each verse below tells you something about how covetous people behave. Read the verse and complete the sentence.

James 3:16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Covetousness causes disorder and evil practice.

Numbers 11:4-6 The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, “If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”

When people are covetous, they grumble .

Proverbs 28:25 The greedy stir up conflict, but those who trust in the LORD will prosper.

Greedy, covetous people stir up conflict .

Read I Timothy 6:6-8 and copy it below:

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into the world, and

we can take nothing out of it. But if we

have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city with him. In those letters she wrote: "Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them bring charges that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death."

So the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city did as Jezebel directed in the letters she had written to them. They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth in a prominent place among the people. Then two scoundrels came and sat opposite him and brought charges against Naboth before the people, saying, "Naboth has cursed both God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death. Then they sent word to Jezebel: "Naboth has been stoned to death."

As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, "Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to sell you. He is no longer alive, but dead." When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went down to take possession of Naboth's vineyard.

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: "Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. Say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?' Then say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth's blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!'"



Let's Think!

What did King Ahab want? Naboth's vineyard

Who owned the vineyard? Naboth

Why did the king sulk? Naboth would not sell
the vineyard.

King Ahab was not content with his own possessions. When Naboth refused to sell the vineyard, Ahab was angry. Ahab's wife Jezebel decided to help her husband get the vineyard by having false witnesses accuse Naboth. Naboth was killed for something he had not done, and then King Ahab went to take the vineyard.

What a terrible thing Ahab and Jezebel did because of their covetousness!

The Bible says, "*Thou shalt not kill.*" How did Ahab break that commandment?

Ahab's wife Jezebel arranged Naboth's death.

The Bible says, "*Thou shalt not steal.*" How did Ahab break that commandment?

Ahab took Naboth's vineyard.

The Bible says, "*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.*" How did Ahab break that commandment?

Naboth was falsely accused.

Everyone Sins

Can anyone keep God's commandments perfectly? The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* phrases the answer to this question very carefully:

No mere man, since the fall, is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God.

There have been occasions of sinless perfection. While Adam and Eve were still in the Garden of Eden, before they ate the forbidden fruit, they kept the commandments of God perfectly. Therefore, Adam and Eve were sinless before the Fall. Furthermore, when we (God's people) die and go to heaven, we will be changed and made perfect. So those who have passed on to glory are also sinless.

There is one other sinless Person. The hint in the catechism answer is contained in this phrase: *no mere man*.

Someone was sinless and perfect, but he was no mere man. Who was he?

Jesus

That's right! Jesus, the son of God, was no mere man. Jesus never sinned.

The point of this section of the catechism, however, is that everyone else sins. You sin. Your father sins. Your mother sins. Your brothers and sisters sin. Your teachers and your friends sin. *Everyone sins! No one except Jesus has consistently kept the commandments of God perfectly!*

Not only do we break God's commandments, but we do so often. Every day, in our thoughts, words, and actions, we sin. God sees our hearts. He knows that we often think evil and selfish thoughts. God hears what we say when we are complaining or harsh toward others. God sees what we do when we lie or cheat, even if no one else knows. All sin is grievous to God.

During his ministry on earth, Jesus repeatedly rebuked the Pharisees for thinking themselves righteous. The Pharisees did not believe that they were sinners. They thought God saw them as good people. They felt that they were much better than other people. Let's read what Jesus said to them:

Matthew 23:25-26 Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.



Let's Think!

Jesus compared the Pharisees to cups which were clean on the outside, but dirty on the inside. He meant that the Pharisees seemed to be good people on the outside. What were they filled with inside?

greed and self-indulgence

Jesus called the Pharisees **hypocrites**. What is a **hypocrite**?

Someone who pretends to be righteous but is not

Were the Pharisees sinners? Yes

Are you a sinner? Yes

How often do we sin? Every day

Question 82 of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* mentions three ways that we sin. What are those way?

1. In thought

2. In word

3. In deed

- 1. A sin is more heinous when it is committed by a person who is older and more experienced, especially if that person is a leader who should be setting a good example for others.**

_____ Michael is three years old. He stole his older brother's toy and took it to his own room.

 X Cassandra is 12 years old. She stole a pretty dress from the store while she was shopping with her little sister.

- 2. A sin is more heinous when it is committed directly against God or against someone whom we should be especially careful to respect or help.**

_____ Alison told a lie to her friend at school.

 X Daniel told a lie to his pastor.

- 3. A sin is more heinous when it is particularly scandalous or revolting, and when it is not merely a sinful thought, but also a sinful action.**

_____ Esther was so angry that she thought about hitting her brother.

 X Carl hit his baby sister.

- 4. A sin is more heinous when it is done again and again, especially if someone enjoys sinning.**

 X Rachel kicked her brother every day because she thought it was fun to make him cry.

_____ Bobby kicked his little sister, and then he felt very bad about it. He promised her he would never do it again.

5. A sin is more heinous if it is done on the Sabbath, especially near the time of worship.

_____ Eva stole \$5.00 at school.

 X Sam stole \$5.00 during a church service from the offering plate.

We acknowledge the heinousness of certain sins in order to warn ourselves and others to stay far away from those sins. Every sin is serious, but some sins are terribly wicked.

Consider the story below and answer the question.

Every Sunday at church, Taylor steals money from the purse of the woman sitting next to her in the pew. When she returns home, she brags to her little brother about how much money she stole. She says, "It is no big deal that I am doing this. Everybody sins."

What would you say to Taylor? _____ Every sin is serious,

_____ and some sins (like stealing in church) are

_____ particularly wicked, especially when they are

_____ done repeatedly and with enjoyment.

of God's commandment, we sin. Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse.

God is **holy**. He is pure, and there is nothing sinful in him. God hates sin.

In the Bible, the prophet Isaiah tells us what happened when he saw the Lord:

Isaiah 6:1-7 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."



Let's Think!

Isaiah was a prophet of God. Was he still a sinner? Yes

Was Isaiah happy to see God? No

Why did Isaiah cry out that he was ruined? He knew that
he had sinned and that his sin deserved punishment.

Even though Isaiah was a prophet (and probably committed no heinous sins), he was still a sinner. When he saw the Lord, he realized that he deserved to be punished for his sins.

According to the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, what does every sin deserve?

Every sin deserves the wrath and curse of

God.

God forgave Isaiah for his sin, and God forgives our sin as well. In the next lesson, we will discuss what God requires of us so that our sins will be forgiven.

Faith and Repentance

We all break God's commandments. We all deserve God's wrath and curse. We all need a Savior. God has given us a Savior—Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins. The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* tells us that we may escape God's wrath and curse if we have faith in Jesus Christ and repent of our sins.

What do we mean when we say that we must have faith in Jesus Christ? We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that he is our Redeemer. We must trust him to save us from our sins.

What do we mean when we say that we must repent of our sins? We must be sorry that we have sinned, and we must be determined to turn away from our sins with the help of God.



Let's Think!

Suppose someone says to you, "I am sorry that I have sinned, but I do not need Jesus to save me. I will just try to do better." How would you respond?

In order to escape the punishment for sin,

we are required to have faith in Jesus Christ.

Suppose someone says to you, "I do not want to stop sinning. I believe that Jesus forgives me, so I can sin as much as I want." How would you respond?

In order to escape the punishment for sin,

we are required to repent of our sins.

What two things are required so that we may escape the wrath and curse due to us for sin?

1. faith in Jesus Christ

2. repentance

When we repent and believe in Jesus for salvation, does God forgive our sins?

Yes

The Westminster Shorter Catechism adds that when we repent, we should do it **with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.** God communicates the benefits of redemption to us