

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

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Workbook Seven: The Sacraments  
Questions 86 – 97

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## **Solutions Manual**

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*Catechism for Kids*  
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## Receive and Rest

In the last workbook, we learned that sin deserves God's wrath and curse. We also learned what is required of us so that we may escape his wrath and curse that we deserve for our sins.



### Let's review.

Do you remember what the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* is required of us to escape God's wrath and curse due to us for sin? (If you do not remember, look at question 85 in the catechism.)

To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin,

God requireth faith of us in Jesus Christ,

repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the

outward means whereby Christ

communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.

Now we know that we are required to have faith in Jesus Christ, but we also must understand what this means. What exactly is faith in Christ?

The catechism begins the explanation by calling faith in Christ a **saving grace**. This means that faith is a gift of God to us for our salvation.

By calling faith a saving grace, the Westminster Shorter Catechism reminds us that God is the one who saves. We cannot save ourselves. Even the faith that we have in Jesus is a gift to us from God.

The definition of faith also says that **we receive and rest upon Christ alone for salvation**. This means that we believe in Jesus and also that we trust him to save us.

Look at the picture below:



A girl is sitting on a stool, just as you are probably sitting on a chair or stool right now.

Does the girl look frightened?   No  

Is the girl trying to hold the stool together with her hands?

  No  

In the picture, the girl trusts the stool to hold her. She is not afraid that the stool will collapse. She is not working to hold the stool together. She has faith in the stool. You also had faith in your chair when you sat down. You did not check it first to see if it

*“I don’t think it is enough for Jesus to pay for my sin,” Alex thought. I must work hard to make up for the bad things I have done if I want to be saved. I will be good, and then God will forgive me.”*

*Alex decided to pray three times a day. He also put ten cents in the offering plate at church every Sunday. He gave his brother a nice toy.*

*“Now God will love me,” Alex said.*

*But the next week, Alex worried more. Was it enough to pray three times a day? Maybe he should pray ten times a day. Maybe twenty, or even thirty. Also, Alex had forgotten his dime for the offering. He had even disobeyed his mother again.*

*“God will never forgive my sins!” Alex thought. “I have not done enough to make up for them! What shall I do to pay for my sins?”*

Did Alex have faith in Jesus?     **No**    

Alex was not trusting God to save him. How was he trying to be saved?

**By doing good things (praying, giving money and sharing his toys).**

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Alex was doing good things (praying, giving money at church, sharing his toys, and so on). But he realized that it was not enough. Can Alex ever be good enough to save himself without Jesus?

**No, he cannot.**

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If you were Alex’s friend, what would you tell him about salvation?

**Answers may vary**

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invent their own idea of Jesus. We must be careful to be faithful to the word of God. Only Scripture can tell us who Jesus is. We cannot make up something in our minds and pretend that we are worshiping Jesus.

There are many false religions in the world, and some of them even claim to believe in Jesus. However, their idea of Jesus is far different from the gospel account of Jesus. When someone makes up a pretend Jesus, they are not really putting their faith in Christ Jesus. They believe false things about Jesus, instead of having true faith in Christ.



## Let's Think!

**Below are some examples of false religions and their teachings about Jesus. Tell how each is incorrect.**

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus did not literally rise from the dead, and that Jesus is not Almighty God. This is wrong because:

**The Bible tells us that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day**

**and that Jesus is one with God.**

Baha'is claim that Jesus was a manifestation of God, like Moses and Buddha. This is wrong because:

**Moses and Buddha were only men. Jesus is God—not merely a**

**manifestation, but the second person of the Trinity.**

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Oneness Pentecostals believe that God created Jesus as a manifestation of himself when Jesus was born in Bethlehem and that Jesus will one day be reabsorbed into God the Father. This is wrong because:

**Jesus is eternal God. He has always existed and he will**

**always exist.**

True faith in Christ requires that we believe what Scripture teaches about him. None of us are perfect in our understanding of God, but we must be reverent toward the word of God, and we must believe the Bible more than we believe our own imaginations. Faith also requires that we seek to obey God as he instructs us in his word.

Jesus warned that not everyone who claimed to believe in him would be saved:

**Matthew 7:21-23** Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"

If someone is an evildoer, does that person have real faith in Jesus?

**No**

Who are those that will enter the kingdom of heaven?

**Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ**

Where can we learn God's will so that we may know how to obey him?

**We can learn God's will by reading the Bible.**

## God Hates Evil

In the last workbook (*Workbook Six: The Ten Commandments, Part 2*), we discussed the holiness of God.

What do we mean when we say that God is **holy**? (If you do not remember, look at page 106 in the last workbook.)

**He is pure, and there is nothing sinful in him.**

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God is pure and sinless. Let's read two Bible passages that tell us how God regards sin.

**Zechariah 8:17** "Do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this," declares the LORD.

### **Proverbs 6:16-19**

There are six things the LORD hates,  
seven that are detestable to him:  
    haughty eyes,  
    a lying tongue,  
    hands that shed innocent blood,  
a heart that devises wicked schemes,  
feet that are quick to rush into evil,  
    a false witness who pours out lies  
and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

According to these verses, how does God regard sin?

**God hates sin.**

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That's right—God hates sin! He hates dishonesty, pride, evil plotting, false promises, murder, and all other forms of sin.

Now let's read three Bible verses that tell us how God wants us to think about sin.

**Romans 12:9** Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

**Psalms 97:10** Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

**Amos 5:15** Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

How should you feel about sin? **I should hate my sin because it is**

**evil.**

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The Westminster Shorter Catechism tells us that repentance requires that we have a true sense of our sin, and that we view our sin with **grief and hatred**. God wants us to understand that evil is terrible. We ought to be truly sorry when we behave wickedly.

People will not turn from their sin until they see that it is wrong and are sorry for it. But the Catechism says we need something else for true repentance: we have to understand that God is merciful. Let's read a verse about this:

**Romans 2:4** Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?



### Fill in the blanks

In order to repent you need to know two things:

That sin is wrong.

That God is merciful.

No one will repent of his sin unless he believes that in Jesus God has mercy on those who repent.



### Let's Think!

Everyone claims to hate evil. Everyone likes to think of themselves as a good person. However, everyone still sins. Many times people are not even sorry for their sin. They make excuses for themselves and pretend that it is not wrong. They blame someone else.

Below are some common excuses for sin. Read the excuses and answer the questions.

1. Sam says, "Yes, I stole Mr. Martin's wallet. But if he wanted to keep his wallet, he should not have left it sitting there where I could steal it."

Who does Sam blame for his sin? Mr. Martin

Is Sam sorry for his sin? No

Who should Sam blame for his sin? Himself

2. Hannah says, "I hit Marcia, but she made me very angry. If she hadn't been so annoying, I wouldn't have hit her."

Who does Hannah blame for her sin? Marcia

Is Hannah sorry for her sin? No

Who should Hannah blame for her sin? Herself

3. Trevor says, "I stole a dollar from Mike, but it doesn't really matter. It was only a dollar. He has more money than I do."

Why does Trevor think his sin is not important? Because it

was only a dollar.

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Is Trevor sorry for his sin? No

Does God hate Trevor's sin? Yes

If Sam, Hannah, and Trevor repent of their sins, how should they feel about the things they have done wrong?

**They should feel grieved over their sins and repent.**

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Will God have mercy on Sam, Hannah, and Trevor if they repent?

Yes

hated their sins. Let's read how the people of Nineveh responded to Jonah's warning.

**Jonah 3:3-10** Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.



**Answer the questions below.**

When the Ninevites heard Jonah's warning, did they make excuses for their sin?

**No, they did not.**

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What did the people of Nineveh do to show their grief and hatred of their sin?

**They turned from their evil ways.**

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How did the decree of the king demonstrate that he understood that God was merciful?

**He believed that if the people turned from their evil ways God would have compassion and be merciful to them.**

Were the people of Nineveh determined to turn from their sin and obey God?

**Yes, they were.**

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How did God respond to the repentance of the city of Nineveh?

**He relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.**

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Does God forgive you when you repent of your sins? **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

reason, God uses **ordinary** means: the word (the Bible), the sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper), and prayer.



**Answer the questions below.**

According to the catechism, what are the three outward and ordinary means by which Christ shares the blessings of redemption with us?

1. **The word (the Bible)** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **The sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper)** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Prayer** \_\_\_\_\_

Are all Christians ordinarily able to hear the word? **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

Are all Christians ordinarily able to be baptized? **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

Are all Christians ordinarily able to participate in the Lord's Supper?

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

Can Christians pray every day? **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

Why do we need outward and ordinary ordinances? We need outward and ordinary ordinances to remind us of Christ every week, and even every day.

## Lesson 2

Question 88: What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?

Answer: The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ means whereby Christ communicateth to us the \_\_\_\_\_ of redemption, are his \_\_\_\_\_, especially the word, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_; all which are made effectual to the \_\_\_\_\_ for salvation.

### The Church

**Who are the *elect*?** The **elect** are all who have been chosen by God for salvation.

**What does the catechism mean when it says that the ordinances are *made effectual to the elect*?** It means that the ordinances are **made effective** for everyone who has been chosen by God.

**For what are the ordinances made effectual?** The ordinances are made effectual (effective) **for salvation**. They succeed in their purpose. Through the ordinances, we are brought to Christ.

**Why does the catechism say that the ordinances are *made effectual*? Why not that they are *effectual*?** It means that the ordinances are not magic. A Bible is not printed on magic paper that causes people to be saved. Baptism is not done with magic water that saves people. Prayer is not magic words. God makes these ordinances effectual by using them to change us—to encourage and strengthen our faith, to remind us that we belong to him, and to challenge us toward better obedience to his commandments.

The ordinances are very important to your Christian life. God has commanded that you participate in them for your salvation. Suppose someone claims to be a Christian, but then says, “I do not read the Bible or listen to the preaching of the word. I never go to church, so I have not been baptized. I am too busy to pray.”

Would you think this person is really saved? **No** \_\_\_\_\_

To hear the preaching of the word, and to participate properly in baptism and the Lord’s Supper, you must be a member of a church.

Throughout the centuries, Christians have recognized how crucial it is for a believer to attend church. Cyprian was a Christian bishop and writer in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Cyprian lived in an era during which Christians were often killed by the Roman Empire. To be part of a church was very dangerous. People who were baptized and attended worship services were marking themselves as targets of Roman persecution.

In spite of the danger, Cyprian urged believers to remain united as part of the church. He noted that God loves his Church, and that anyone who refuses to be part of the Church has turned against God.

*Cyprian of Carthage, On the Unity of the Church*

He can no longer have God for his Father who has not the Church for his mother... The Lord warns, saying, "He who is not with me is against me, and he who gathers not with me scatters" (Matthew 12:30). He who breaks the peace and the concord of Christ does so in opposition to Christ. He who gathers elsewhere than in the Church, scatters the Church of Christ.



## Let's Think!

Sometimes people decide that they do not need to attend church. Below are listed some common things people say when they do not want to join a church. Write below each statement why it is wrong. If you need a hint, read the verse below each statement.

1. "I am busy. I do not need to go to church."  
(*Hebrews 10:24-25*)

This is WRONG because the Bible states that we are to continue meeting together to encourage one another to love and perform good deeds.

2. "The church is a man-made institution. God does not care anything about it."  
(*Ephesians 5:25-27*)

This is WRONG because Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her and wants to present the church as holy and blameless.

3. "I do not need to be baptized."  
(Acts 2:37-38)

This is WRONG because God say's we are to repent and be baptized.

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4. "I want to be a Christian my own way. There is no reason that I should have to listen to a pastor or elders."  
(Hebrews 13:17)

This is WRONG because there is only one way which is through Christ and we are commanded to submit to those in authority over us.

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a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

"'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"



**Answer the questions below.**

The rich man was a descendant of Abraham. He could have listened to Scripture and repented of his sins. Did he?

**No, he did not.**

The rich man thought his brothers would be convinced of the truth of Scripture if they saw proof. What kind of proof did he want them to have?

**He thought that if someone from the dead went to his brothers to warm them they would repent and believe.**

What did Abraham say about giving the brothers proof?

**He said if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.**

Proof cannot convince someone who does not want to believe the Scriptures. According to the catechism, who can make the reading and preaching of Scripture effective in convincing and converting sinners?

**The Spirit of God.**

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questions after the service. Then he repented of his sins, put his faith in Jesus, and was baptized. Why didn't Mrs. Evans do the same? Perhaps Mrs. Evans was not elect.

Cindy decided to ask her father. "Why won't Mrs. Evans listen to God like you did, Dad?" she asked him. "She doesn't listen to the Bible. Is she not elect?"

"I don't know, Cindy," her father replied gently. "I am very sad also when Mrs. Evans says she does not have time to read the Bible. We should pray for her."

"But, Dad," said Cindy, "if Mrs. Evans is not elect, then the Holy Spirit will not work in her heart. Why should we pray for her? Maybe we should not talk to her about God anymore, even if she asks us."

Is Cindy correct? Should we stop praying for people if they do not respond properly to the Bible? Should we stop sharing the gospel with them?

**No**

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Read the rest of the story:

"We should never stop praying for her until she dies, Cindy," her father said. "And we should always share the gospel with her when we can, especially if she asks."

"But why?" asked Cindy.

"We never know whether someone has been chosen by God for salvation," her father said. "Only God knows that. It may be that God will call Mrs. Evans sometime in the future. The word of God is strong, and when the Holy Spirit applies it to our hearts, it is irresistible. If God calls Mrs. Evans, she will come to faith in Jesus. So we should keep praying that God will help her and change her heart. I was thirty-five years old when God called me. For many years, I would not listen to the Bible, but when God opened my heart, then I understood and believed, and the word of God changed my life."

"I will keep praying for Mrs. Evans," Cindy decided. "And if I ever get a chance to read the Bible to her or talk to her about God, then I

*will do it. Perhaps after a while, her heart will be softer, and she will listen to God's word and be saved."*

If someone does not listen to the Bible right away, does this mean that they are not elect?

**No**

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When someone rejects the word of God, what should you do?

**Continue to pray for them.**

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If the Holy Spirit calls someone, will they listen to the word of God?

**Yes, if God calls someone, he will open their heart to the truth and they will come to faith in Jesus.**

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## Diligence, Preparation, and Prayer

Question 90 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism discusses how the word should be read and heard so that it may become an effective means of bringing you to salvation. We learned in the last lesson that the word of God is powerful, but not everyone who hears it is saved. Some people never listen to God's word properly, and so it does not change their heart. How should YOU listen to God's word?



## Let's Think!

Each paragraph below gives an example of a child learning from God's word. Read them and circle the word that says if each child is receiving the word of God properly or not.

Shannon thinks church is boring. "I wish I could play instead," she says. "I'm bored. Most of the time, I don't even listen."

Is Shannon receiving the Word of God as she should? Yes  No

Nicholas does not understand the Bible well, but he does not care. "It's too much work to learn what the Bible is talking about," says Nicholas. "I don't have time to study it."

Is Nicholas receiving the word of God as he should? Yes  No

Kevin does not always understand the sermon, and sometimes it seems very long. But Kevin tries to sit still and listen, because he knows it is important. "If I don't understand," says Kevin, "I can ask the pastor later to explain. I want to learn more about God."

Is Kevin receiving the word of God as he should?  Yes  No

The catechism says that we should **attend** (listen) to the Word of God with **diligence, preparation, and prayer**.

**What is *diligence*?** **Diligence** means **working hard**. Listening to sermons and studying the Bible can be hard work. You must be diligent, not lazy.

**What is *preparation*?** **Preparation** means **getting ready ahead of time**. This can mean many things. People should go to bed at a reasonable hour on Saturday night so that they are not too tired to listen to the sermon on Sunday. They should prepare their minds by putting aside thoughts about their work so that they can think about God. Sometimes people read the sermon text ahead of time so that they understand the sermon better. Preparation is anything that helps you get ready to hear the word of God.

**What is *prayer*?** **Prayer** means **bringing your requests to God, confessing your sins, and thanking God for his blessings**. When you read the Bible or listen to a sermon, you should pray that God will help you to listen and understand. If you are tempted to act like Shannon or Nicholas who thought the word was boring or too much trouble, then you should confess to God and ask for his help to overcome a bad attitude. You should also thank God for giving us his word, and for giving you a new heart so that you can receive it.

What would you tell Shannon and Nicholas about their attitude toward God's word? What should they do differently?

**Shannon and Nicholas need to listen to the word of God, prepare their hearts to receive the word of God, and pray to God.**



Answer the questions below.

The psalmist demonstrates that he attends to God's word with diligence, preparation, and prayer.

Does he receive God's word with faith and love? **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

Copy a line from the psalm that shows that the psalmist loves the word of God.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Answers may vary** \_\_\_\_\_

Does the psalmist lay God's word up in his heart? **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

Copy a line from the psalm that shows that the psalmist lays God's word up in his heart.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Answers may vary** \_\_\_\_\_

Does the psalmist practice God's word in his life? **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

Copy a line from the psalm that shows that the psalmist practices God's word in his life.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Answers may vary** \_\_\_\_\_

## Not Magic

We have discussed the first ordinance—the word of God—and how it is made effectual for salvation. Question 91 begins an analysis of the sacraments—baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Before we enter into a discussion of what these things are, we are given a warning about how to think of them.

The catechism tells us that the sacraments are effectual for salvation, but this is not because there is any **virtue in them or in him that doth administer them**. This means that we must be cautious to avoid superstition. The sacraments do draw us to Christ. But this is not because the bread used in the Lord’s Supper is magic. It is just plain, ordinary bread. The water used in baptism is not enchanted water. The person who gives out the bread and wine is not a wizard; he is just an ordinary man.

The sacraments help us come to Christ because Christ blesses us through them. We put our faith in Christ as we receive the sacraments, and the Holy Spirit works in our hearts.



## Let's Think!

Some people believe that the bread and wine used in the Lord’s Supper really become the body and blood of Christ and that is why it blesses them. This belief is called **transubstantiation**. They treat the bread and wine as if it had special divine powers.

According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism, are these people right or wrong? Why?

**They are wrong because the bread and wine are only the**

**sacraments that represent and draw us to Christ.**

Some people believe that the water of baptism has special powers when it is used with the name of Jesus spoken over it. Sometimes, if they sin, they ask to be baptized again, in case their previous baptism lost its power to save them.

According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism, are these people right or wrong? Why?

**They are wrong because the water used in baptism is only a sacrament to unite us with Christ. It is not enchanted or holy water.**

Read I Timothy 4:7 and copy it below:

**Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.**

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## Let's Think!

According to Isaiah 55, is God grudging and tightfisted with his blessings?

**No he is not.**

Does God demand that we pay him fairly for what he gives us?

**No he does not.**

Who does he call to come and eat?

**He calls all who are thirsty, all who have no money and all who labor.**

God calls us to hear him. According to the passage in Isaiah, what is his purpose for calling us to hear him?

**So that we might live eternally.**

In what ways does God feed your soul? **Through the reading of his word and through the listening of his word preached.**

## A Symbol

God has given us several ordinances for our spiritual well-being. He has given us his word to reveal himself and his commandments to us. He has given us prayer by which we can communicate our desires to him and ask his help, confess our sins, and thank him for his blessing. But he has also given us certain ceremonies as symbols to remind us that we belong to him.

These ceremonies are the sacraments—baptism and the Lord’s Supper. All Christians are called to participate in these sacraments over the course of their life.

The catechism calls the sacraments **sensible signs**. A **sign** is a **symbol**, but what do we mean when we say that it is a **sensible** sign? In this context, **sensible** means it **can be detected with the senses**.



**Answer the questions below.**

Our **senses** help us detect the world around us. Did you study at school what the five human senses are? Fill them in below.

1. With our eyes, we see
2. With our ears, we hear
3. With our noses, we smell
4. With our mouths, we taste
5. With our hands, we touch

Seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching are ways in which we gather information about the world. God uses our ordinary senses to give us information also. With our sight, we read the Bible. With our ears we hear the preaching of his word. With our mouths, we pray and sing to God.

The sacraments are especially **sensible**. Consider the ways in which we detect the bread of the Lord's Supper with our senses.

1. Do we see the bread with our eyes? Yes
2. Do we smell the bread with our noses? Yes
3. Do we taste the bread with our mouths? Yes
4. Do we feel the bread in our hands? Yes
5. While we are taking the Lord's Supper, do we hear the word of God reminding us that the bread symbolizes the body of Christ which was broken for us?

Yes

We use all five of our senses! When we participate in the sacraments, we sense them as something beyond ourselves. We are not merely imagining what bread looks like. We actually see and taste the bread. When we are baptized, we are not merely thinking about how water washes things clean. We actually see water and feel it on our skin.

God knows that we are weak and that we need strength and encouragement. The sacraments remind us to look outside ourselves. The sacraments remind us to turn our hearts away from ourselves and toward Christ.

Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.



## Let's Think!

In the story, there were two groups of people who applied (or tried to apply) Christ to their lives in some way. How did the sons of Sceva try to apply Christ?

**The sons of Sceva tried to cast out evil spirits in demon-  
possessed people using the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to gain  
more power for themselves.**

That's right! The sons of Sceva wanted to use the name of Jesus to gain more power for themselves. What happened to them?

**The evil spirit that they were trying to call out overpowered them and gave them a severe beating.**

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How did those who had practiced sorcery apply Christ to their lives?

**They believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, confessed what they had done and brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly.**

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Instead of using the name of Jesus to try to gain more power for themselves, those who had practiced sorcery repented and brought their sorcery scrolls to burn in order to demonstrate that they would never practice sorcery again.

How does this show evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts?

**They had a change of heart.**

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The Holy Spirit applies Christ and the **benefits of the covenant** to us. What benefits do we receive in this life? (If you do not remember, read Westminster Shorter Catechism Questions 32 & 36.)

**The benefits we receive in this life are: justification, adoption  
and sanctification.**

The name of Jesus is not a magic word. We cannot apply Christ to our lives merely by speaking the name of Christ over various problems. Christ is applied to us by the Holy Spirit, and we receive the benefits of the covenant. When Christ is truly applied to our hearts, we are forgiven of our sins. As the Holy Spirit changes our hearts, we repent and try to live in obedience to God's commandments. We know that we are children of God, and we seek to honor God in everything we do. When Christ is applied to us through the sacraments, we are renewed in our hearts to love and obey God.

Both sacraments are administered in church by someone who has been specially ordained for ministry. The sacraments are part of our **corporate worship**. This means that they are part of the worship of God that we do together at church. You cannot baptize yourself at home at your kitchen sink. You cannot take the Lord's Supper at home by yourself. You must be part of a church to do these things properly.

God tells us how to worship him, and we must worship God only that way. We call this the **regulative principle**. The regulative principle teaches us that we should never add anything to worship unless it is something the Bible instructs us to do. We must also carry out the worship in the manner that the Bible teaches us. We should never change things or invent new methods of worship from our own imaginations.



## Let's Think!

Below are listed some common things you may hear people say about worship. Tell why each statement is wrong. If you need a hint, look up the Bible verse provided.

1. **"I do not want to go to church. I can worship God on my own at home!"**

(Hint: *Hebrews 10:25*)

This is wrong because the Bible tells us we are to meet together so to encourage one another.

2. "I do not need to be baptized!"

(Hint: Acts 2:38)

This is wrong because the Bible says everyone must repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.

3. "Bread is boring. Let's use cake for the Lord's Supper!"

(Hint: I Corinthians 11:23-24)

This is wrong because the Bible tells us to use bread and wine.

4. "Let's have a special candle-lighting ceremony as part of our worship. Everyone should do this!"

(Hint: Mark 7:6-7)

This is wrong because we are not to worship God in vain by following human rules; but by worshipping according to God's word.

5. "I have bread and wine at home. I will just take communion at home by myself."

(Hint: I Corinthians 11:33)

This is wrong because the Bible tells us when we partake of the Lord's Supper we are to eat together.

Does God require us to do big, showy things to get his attention?

**No, he does not.**

The prophet Micah says that God requires three things of us. What are those things?

1. **To act justly**
2. **To love mercy**
3. **To walk humbly with God.**

What big, showy thing was the Roman Catholic Church requiring people to do?

**The Roman Catholic Church commanded that all Christians ought to refrain from eating meat during the Lenten season.**

Does God actually require that people stop eating meat in the weeks before Easter?

**No, he does not.**

Does God require us to be just and merciful toward others in the weeks before Easter (and other times also)?

Yes

that you have been chosen by God and that you should honor God in everything you do.



**Answer the questions below.**

Have you been baptized? Answers may vary

What did your baptism signify? It signifies and seals my joining with Christ, partaking in the benefits of covenant grace and acknowledging that I belong to Christ.

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When you think about your baptism, what should you especially remember?

That I have been chosen by God and should honor him in everything I do.

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Read Galatians 3:27 and copy it below:

**For all of you who were baptized into Christ have**

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**clothed yourselves with Christ.**

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*that you are thankful for God's forgiveness. You try to honor God all your life."*

*"Do you ever sin, Dad?" Natasha asked.*

*"Yes, I do," her father said. "I wish I did not, but I do sin."*

*"Does God forgive you?"*

*"Yes, God has already forgiven all my sins. When I think about God's forgiveness of my sins, I am so happy, Natasha. We should both thank God every day for saving us from our sins, and we can learn together how to honor God. We can both improve our baptisms."*



## Let's Think!

How many times do you need to be baptized? **Once** \_\_\_\_\_

Why only one time? **God saves us completely and forever.** \_\_\_\_\_

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When you sin, what should you do? **Repent of your sins and ask**

**God for forgiveness.** \_\_\_\_\_

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When you repent, can you be sure that God forgives you? **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

Natasha's father told her that they should both improve their baptism. What did he mean?

**Natasha should think about her baptism and remember that she is one of God's and try to honor God all her life.**

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How do you improve your baptism? Draw a picture of something you do to improve your baptism.

Often, children who are ready to make their profession of faith take certain vows promising to love and obey God. It is already the responsibility of every baptized believer to love and obey God, of course. A profession of faith acknowledges this responsibility, and declares to the whole church that it is the intention of this person to live out his or her duty to God.

How does your church help children make their profession of faith?

**Answers may vary**

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## Lesson 2

Question 95: To whom is baptism to be administered?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ is not to be administered to any that are out of the \_\_\_\_\_, till they profess their \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, and \_\_\_\_\_ to him; but the \_\_\_\_\_ of such as are members of the visible church are to be \_\_\_\_\_.

### Baptism and Covenant

The Westminster Shorter Catechism tells us that unbelievers may not be baptized. Only someone has made a profession of faith in Christ ought to be baptized. However, there is one other group of people who also ought to be baptized, even if they have not made a profession of faith. Who are those people?

**Children of people who are members of the church.**

That's right! Children of people who are members of the church should also be baptized.

Children are included in the covenant that God has made with Jesus Christ for our salvation. Scripture tells us that children of the elect (those whom God has chosen) belong to God.



## Let's Think!

On the day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter preached to many people, telling them to repent of their sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus.

**Acts 2:37-39** When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

According to Peter, God promised to give the Holy Spirit to:

“you and your children .”

The Bible also describes how the apostles baptized people. The verses below talk about the baptism of two families.

**Acts 16:14-15** One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

**Acts 16:29-33** 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.

Who opened Lydia's heart to believe Paul's message?

**The Lord opened her heart.**

After Lydia put her faith in Jesus, was she baptized? **Yes**

Who was baptized with Lydia? **The members of her household**

Did the jailer listen to the message of Paul and Silas? **Yes**

After the jailer put his faith in Jesus, was he baptized? **Yes**

Who was baptized with the jailer? All his household.

The apostles baptized entire households of people together. They baptized Lydia with her household, and they baptized the jailer with his household. Households include small children and babies. As the apostle Peter said, God's promise of the Holy Spirit is to all who believe and to their children. We demonstrate our faith in God's promises by baptizing the children of all who are members of the Christian church.

## In Remembrance of Christ

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament that was given to us **according to Christ's appointment**. This means that Jesus instructed us to take the Lord's Supper. The story of the first Lord's Supper is told several places in the Bible. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians about it:

**I Corinthians 11:23-26** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Jesus instructed his disciples about the Lord's Supper on the night he was betrayed by Judas Iscariot. He knew that he was going to die for our sins very soon. He gave us something to help us understand and remember his death.



**Fill in the blanks.**

In the Lord's Supper, what does the bread represent?

**The bread represents the Lord's body.**

In the Lord's Supper, what does the wine represent?

**The wine represents the new covenant in the Lord's blood.**

Jesus gave his disciples a reason for the Lord's Supper. What did he say?

"Do this in remembrance of me."

What should people be thinking about when they participate in the Lord's Supper?

**The Lord's death for our sins.**

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God is our heavenly Father. He feeds our souls. He teaches us, encourages us, and disciplines us. He forgives our sins and accepts us as his children. He sends the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide us. He cares for us every moment of every day of our lives, and when we die, he receives us into his presence.

Every day, we depend on God to provide us with food for our bodies and for our souls. God is always faithful to give us everything we need.



## Let's Think!

According to the passage in Isaiah, does God demand that we pay him for taking care of us?

**No**

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Through the prophet Isaiah, God says that those who come to him will delight in the richest of fare. What does this mean?

**We receive an abundance of good things from**

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**our heavenly Father, who loves us and takes care of us.**

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God warns us to listen to what he tells us so that we may

**Live eternally.**

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The Bible passage speaks of rain and snow that water the earth and make things grow so that people can eat. What is this like?

**It is like the word of God that goes forth to achieve**

**his purpose.**

Think about the Lord's Supper. We eat bread and drink wine during the Supper. How does the Supper demonstrate that God feeds our souls?

**We eat bread and drink wine to remember the death of**

**Christ for our sins. God has provided forgiveness for us in Christ,**

**and he continues to feed us through his word and Spirit.**

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So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.



**Answer the questions below.**

Did Paul approve of what the Corinthian church was doing during the Lord's Supper?

**No** \_\_\_\_\_

Why did Paul tell the story about Jesus and his disciples?

**To encourage them and remind them how and why they ought to**

**partake of the Lord's Supper.** \_\_\_\_\_

Some people at Corinth were acting as though the Lord's Supper was a regular meal. They were hungry and eating and drinking as much as they wanted. What did Paul say people should do if they were hungry?

**Go home and eat.**

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Some people at Corinth were taking the Lord's Supper without waiting for everyone else. What did Paul say they should do instead?

**They should eat together.**

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What should everyone do before taking the Lord's Supper?

**Examine themselves.**

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Paul warned the Corinthians:

“Those who eat and drink without discerning the body of

Christ eat and drink **judgment** on themselves.”

God nourishes our souls through the Lord's Supper, but we must also be respectful and remember Christ as we take the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is not a silly party. It is a special time to remember Jesus.



## Let's Think!

Below are some things you might hear people say when they are preparing to participate in the Lord's Supper. However, these people are not ready. What should they do before taking the Lord's Supper?

1. "I do not know anything about God, but everyone is taking the bread and wine, so I will do it also."

Before participating in the Lord's Supper, this person needs to

**Learn more about God.**

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2. "I am hungry. I can't think much about Jesus right now. I just want to eat a lot of the bread."

Before participating in the Lord's Supper, this person needs to

**Go home and eat.**

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3. "I have heard a lot about Jesus, but I do not believe that he is the Son of God. But I do not want to disappoint my friends, so I will take the Supper anyway."

Before participating in the Lord's Supper, this person needs to

**Repent of unbelief and put his faith in Jesus**

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4. "My friend said something rude to me, and when he apologized, I refused to forgive him. I still do not want to forgive him, but I will take the Lord's Supper anyway. I do not want people at church to know that I hate someone."

Before participating in the Lord's Supper, this person needs to

**Seek forgiveness from God and his friend.**

If someone does not know God or does not believe in God, that person should not participate in the Lord's Supper. Also, if someone has not repented of serious sin, he should not participate in the Lord's Supper.

However, we should also remember that God does not require us to be perfect in order to take the Lord's Supper. The Supper is meant to feed our souls and make us stronger. If we believe in Christ and want to obey him, then we should take the Lord's Supper.

Sometimes people love God very much, but they feel discouraged and doubtful. They are not sure whether their faith is strong enough. They may wonder whether God wants them to take the Lord's Supper. The Westminster Larger Catechism tells us what those people should do.

*Westminster Larger Catechism*

**Q. 172. May one who doubteth of his being in Christ, or of his due preparation, come to the Lord's supper?**

A. One who doubteth of his being in Christ, or of his due preparation to the sacrament of the Lord's supper, may have true interest in Christ, though he be not yet assured thereof; and in God's account hath it, if he be duly affected with the apprehension of the want of it, and unfeignedly desires to be found in Christ, and

to depart from iniquity: in which case (because promises are made, and this sacrament is appointed, for the relief even of weak and doubting Christians) he is to bewail his unbelief, and labor to have his doubts resolved; and, so doing, he may and ought to come to the Lord's Supper, that he may be further strengthened.

The Westminster Larger Catechism reminds us that the Lord's Supper is meant for all believers who truly want to belong to Christ and to turn away from their sins.

**According to the Westminster Larger Catechism, what should a weak and doubting Christian do before participating in the Lord's Supper?**

“He is to **bewail** his unbelief and labor to have

his **doubts** resolved.”

**After he bewails his unbelief and labors to have his doubts resolved, what should a weak and doubting Christian do?**

“He may and ought to **come** to the Lord's Supper

that he may be further **strengthened** .”