



Calvary Baptist Church

For the week of:
09/09/2024

Family Worship Guide

New City Catechism

Q2: What is God?

A: God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will.

WELCOME

Why should we do a family devotional?

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” - Deuteronomy 6:4-8

As long as there have been a “people of God,” the command given to them has always been that they would be instructing their children in the way of the Lord. It is expected that parents will be teaching their children.

But teaching children is more than simply giving rules. It involves showing them HOW to obey the Lord by doing it yourself! These family devotionals are meant to equip you as an individual to grow in your understanding of the Lord and His Word, as well as providing parents with the resources and opportunities to demonstrate for their children what it looks like to pursue God.

What is a catechism?

Catechisms are teaching tools. Since ancient times these tools have been used to instruct those who are young in the faith and to remind the more mature of the essential truths they believe.

Catechisms work through a series of questions and prewritten answers. Answers that are derived through what Scripture says. Each week we will examine ONE question and its answer from the New City Catechism. You will be encouraged to memorize the question and response as we work through the biblical support for the answer. (If children can memorize it and recite it to Tim in the office on Sunday, they may get a surprise!)

For more resources related to the catechism, follow the QR code.



MONDAY

Read Genesis 1-2

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week

Discuss

“In the beginning God...”

Before anything was. Before there was a world. before there was air, before there was light, before there even was a “here,” before all that, God already existed.

No one created God. There was never a time when God didn’t exist. God always has been, and He always will be.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” Hebrews 13:8

“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?” Numbers 23:19

The God who created the world is the same God who holds it now. The God who fulfilled promises to Israel will keep His promises now. When God says, “I will never leave nor forsake you,” He really means it.

Discussion Questions

- Why is it important that God is eternal? What would happen to our faith if God could change? (Hint: think of what would happen to God’s promises)
- What does God being the Creator mean about His authority over creation?
- Do you find comfort knowing that God is eternal and always the same?

Sing

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Walter C. Smith

Pray

Praise God for His
unchangeableness and
the comfort that brings.
Pray for the lost.

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

Verse 1:

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Verse 2:

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

Verse 3:

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

Verse 4:

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.



TUESDAY

Read Genesis 1-2 (yes, same as yesterday)

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week (try to memorize it)

Discuss

“And God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light.”

You and I can create things, right? If you have a box of Legos, you can create super cool things that didn't exist before. We can take things around us and create other things.

God did something different though. God spoke, and there was light. God whispered and galaxies came to light. God declared and the seas were formed. This type of creating is called creation “Ex Nihilo” or “Out of Nothing.” God didn't need building blocks like we do. God's creation came to be just because He willed it to be.

God is the builder and ruler of creation. He is all powerful over it. He parted the Red Sea, He stopped the sun in the sky, He caused the earth to split open. All of these show His power. But do you know what shows God's power the greatest? God's greatest miracle is saving sinners.

We could never save ourselves. Without Christ, we are dead in our sins. Not mostly dead, ALL dead. God brings us back to life, brings us to Himself, and makes us His children. No one else could do that. Only God.

Discussion Questions

- If God is all powerful, is there anything that should REALLY be scary for us?
- How should Christian react to knowing God holds everything in His hands?
- How do you see God acting and being powerful in your life and the world around you?

Sing

*Behold Our God
Sovereign Grace*

Pray

Ask God to help you
rest in His all powerful
arms.

BEHOLD OUR GOD

Verse 1:

Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice

Refrain:

All creation rises to rejoice
Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

Verse 2:

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach, the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Verse 3:

Who has felt the nails upon his hands?
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign



WEDNESDAY

Read Romans 11:33-36

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week (try to memorize it)

Discuss

Think about the wisest person you know. The person who seems to know everything and have the answers for everything. Maybe it's your parents, maybe your teacher, maybe pastor. Whoever it is, how do you think they got to where they are? How do you think they got to know so much? It didn't happen overnight. Just like you, they went to school for a very long time. They grew up and learned things along the way. They had teachers and parents who taught them and helped them.

God isn't like that. No one ever had to teach Him anything. He is wiser than anybody else. He always knows the best means to the best ends. There is never a risk that He doesn't know best. He knows everything about everything, and He is directing all things to the perfect end He desires. We are able to trust God because we know that His plans are ALWAYS the best plans. He is wiser than we are, and we can trust Him to know better and have better plans than we do.

"Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition". -Jeremiah Burroughs

Discussion Questions

- What do you think about God being wiser than you?
- Do you trust that God's plans are better than yours?
- Where should we look if we need wisdom? (Read Proverbs 1:7, 2:6)
- How should we respond when God's plans and our plans aren't the same?

Sing

Be Thou My Vision
Eleanor H. Hull
and
Mary E. Byrne

Pray

Pray that God would
give you wisdom in the
problems you face and
that you would trust Him

BE THOU MY VISION

Verse 1:

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Verse 2:

Be Thou my Wisdom, be Thou my true Word;
be Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord;
be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son,
be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Verse 3:

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
be Thou my whole Armor, be Thou my true Might;
be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow'r,
O raise Thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.

Verse 4:

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

Verse 5:

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be Thou my Vision, O Ruler of all.



THURSDAY

Read Colossians 1:15-20

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week (quiz each other and yourself to see if you have it memorized)

Discuss

“And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Jesus wasn't just some man. He was God Himself. He wasn't simply good, He was perfect. Christ was there with the Father speaking the world into creation. And even now, He is holding all things together.

God holds the world together and sustains all things. Chicken Little said, “The sky is falling!” And he was terrified that the sky was actually falling! As Christians we know that God is holding the sky up, and He will never let it fall. The whole world spins and is held up by the hand of God. But His sustaining power doesn't stop there. If you are saved, it is God through His Spirit and His Word that sustains your faith. God is the one who holds you close and won't let go. We must turn to Him every single day because He alone is the source of our life.

“It was God's Word that made us; is it any wonder that His Word should sustain us?” -C.H. Spurgeon

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean that God sustains the world?
- Why do you think it is important that God sustains the everything?
- If we can't sustain ourselves, how should that change how we come before God?

Sing

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Thomas Crisholm

Pray

Pray that God would allow you to trust Him more. Make it specific to the areas where you lack trust.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Verse 1:

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on thy side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
in every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; thy best, thy heav'nly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Verse 2:

Be still, my soul; thy God doth undertake
to guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Verse 3:

Be still, my soul; when dearest friends depart,
and all is darkened in the veil of tears,
then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,
who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.
Be still, my soul; thy Jesus can repay
from His own fullness all He takes away.

Verse 4:

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.



FRIDAY

Read Psalm 103

Practice the catechism of the week. Try to recite it without looking!

Discuss

If I say “tall” you probably think of a very tall building, or a tall tree, or a giraffe, or Mt. Everest. If I say “hard”, you might say a test, work, or a diamond. If I say “sweet”, you may think of chocolate, cake, or a baby’s smile. All of these things are defined by their attributes, those characteristics that made us think of them.

God is also known by His attributes. But not in the same way as those other things. God is perfect and greater than anything else. So when we say, “God is _____,” we are saying He is the perfect standard of that thing.

God is love. He is the most loving. He Himself defines and demonstrates what true love is. Nothing else comes close to the love of God. God is righteous. He is the most righteous, the most just. There is no error or deceit in Him and He alone decides and determines what is right and wrong.

Do you want to know what mercy looks like? God shows mercy perfectly. Do you want to know what forgiveness looks like? Look to God. Do you want to know what grace looks like? My friend, look to God.

Discussion Questions

- Re-read Psalm 103, but this time write down every characteristic/attribute of God that you notice. Some examples are: holy, forgiving, healing. How many did you find?
- What does it mean for us that God is the perfect standard of His attributes?

Sing
Doxology
Thomas Ken

Pray
Confess your sins to
God, how you have
fallen short of His
holiness.

DOXOLOGY

Verse 1:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Verse 2:

Praise God the Father who's the source;
Praise God the Son who is the course;
Praise God the Spirit who's the flow;
Praise God, our portion here below!

There are many different versions of this hymn. The first verse is always the same but as you will see in the video, the second often changes.



This link is a fun tutorial to learn the doxology in sign language! A fun family activity!

