EXPLORING LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM

A workbook for
Luther’s Small Catechism
with Explanation

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Preface

The purpose of this workbook is to acquaint catechumens with
* questions and answers in Luther’s Small Catechism;
* Bible verses that support scriptural doctrines;
* Bible narratives that undergird these teachings; and
* questions and answers in the 1991 Explanation of the Small Catechism.

It is necessary for each catechumen to have his or her own Bible, as a considerable
number of questions are answered using the Bible narratives. By searching out
these accounts, the catechumen becomes familiar with the location and contents
of the narratives.

For use with all material except the final tests, both the catechism with
explanation and the Bible may be kept open for ready reference by the catechumen.
This lesson touches on certain main teachings of the Bible and introduces you to the Six Chief Parts of Luther’s Small Catechism.

1. Question 1 in the catechism explanation presents a brief definition of Christianity. Check the correct statement or statements.

   Christianity is
   ______ rules I must keep if I expect to be called a Christian.
   ______ one religion of many, which God reveals to us.
   ______ stories about Jesus that may or may not be true.
   ✔   the life and salvation God has given in and through Jesus Christ.
   ______ the best way to be rich and successful in our lives.

2. If men wrote the Bible, how can it be God’s Word?  **The Bible is God’s Word**

   **because He gave His chosen writers the thoughts they expressed and the words they wrote.**

3. Remembering that Holy Scripture is God’s Word written in human language, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

   ■  We need to use grammar and logic to find out what the Bible is saying.
   ■  If we don’t understand a Bible verse, it’s all right to change it to fit our understanding.

4. Mark with an L (Law) or a G (Gospel) the following statements and Bible passages.

   G   God gives forgiveness and faith.
   L   God commands good works.
   L   God condemns and punishes sin.
   G   It is the Good News of our salvation in Christ.

   G   John 3:16: God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son.
   L   Mark 12:30–31: Love the Lord your God with all your heart. . . .
   G   Romans 1:16: It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

5. The following are the Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism.

   the Ten Commandments
   the Creed
   the Lord’s Prayer
   the Sacrament of Holy Baptism
   Confession
   the Sacrament of the Altar

6. Using two paragraphs in the section “Creeds and Confessions” (in the Appendix), complete the following sentences.

   Born Nov. 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany, Luther attended the University of Erfurt, regarded as the best of schools particularly in law and liberal arts. Soon after, however, he requested to be admitted to the Augustinian order. In 1507 he was consecrated a priest and later obtained a doctorate in theology. His break with the Catholic Church in 1521 occurred after he was told to recant what he believed to be scriptural teachings contrary to those of the
Question 12 makes the important point that “All the chief parts of the Small Catechism are taken from the Bible, because as God’s written Word the Bible is the only final authority for Christian faith and life.”

All Christians want to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). Therefore, all able Christians are eager to become familiar with the Bible. Learning many Bible verses is very helpful. So is getting acquainted with the names and even the contents of the books of the Bible. A good way to begin is to memorize these names. Break the books down into smaller groups. On a day-to-day basis, memorize one group at a time. As you do this, write out the names (they are found in the catechism’s Appendix). Practice writing the names often, using separate sheets of paper.
### New Testament: 27 Books

<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>Historical Books</strong></th>
<th><strong>Epistles</strong></th>
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<td>1 and 2 Peter</td>
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<td>1, 2, and 3 John</td>
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<td>Jude</td>
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### Lesson 2 Questions 13–23

#### The Ten Commandments

**The First Commandment**

**A**

Match the first part of each sentence with its ending. Write the letter of the correct ending on the line.

1. The only true God is
   - d. the summary of commandments 4–10.
   - a. was written in the human heart.
   - c. state law of the Israelites.
   - e. the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
   - f. on the hearts of people.
   - g. had to do with the ceremonial law.
   - h. love.

2. God first wrote the Law
3. The summary of the Ten Commandments is
4. Sacrifices of animals in the Old Testament
5. Political law was the
6. The Ten Commandments
7. Only the moral law
8. “Love your neighbor as yourself” is
Circle T or F after each sentence (true/false).

1. David trusted in the Lord when he fought Goliath.  T  F
2. Joseph sinned when he was tempted by Potiphar’s wife.  T  F
3. If we try hard enough, we can keep the Commandments perfectly.  T  F
4. God has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  T  F
5. Baal and Dagon are other names of God.  T  F
6. At the Baptism of Jesus, the Father appeared in the form of a dove.  T  F
7. The three men in the fiery furnace feared God, not the king.  T  F
8. Idolatry is fearing, loving, or trusting in someone other than God.  T  F

Check the correct statements.

1. God is one being who first created the world, then died on the cross to redeem the world. Today, He is the Holy Spirit who rules the world.  T  F
2. God is one, the Father. Jesus was His Son, a perfect human being. The Spirit is the energy of God.  T  F
3. The Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God—three distinct persons in one divine being.  V  F
4. We fear God by being afraid of Him because He punishes us when we say and do wrong things.  V  F
5. We fear God if we respect Him and avoid doing what does not please Him.  V  F
6. We fear God by personally punishing anyone who breaks His laws.  V  F

Complete the following Bible verses.

1. Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O ____Israel____: The LORD our God, the LORD is ____one____.
2. 1 John 5:21 Little ____children____, keep yourselves from ____idols____.
3. John 5:23 Whoever does not honor the ____Son____ does not honor the ____Father____ who sent Him.
4. Proverbs 11:28 Whoever trusts in his ____riches____ will ____fall____.
5. 1 John 1:8 If we say we have no ____sin____, we deceive ____ourselves____, and the ____truth____ is not in us.
6. Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your ____heart____, and do not lean on your own ____understanding____.
7. Matthew 10:28 Do not fear those who kill the ____body____ but cannot kill the ____soul____.
8. Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make ____disciples____ of all ____nations____, baptizing them in the name of the ____Father____ and of the ____Son____ and of the ____Holy____ ____Spirit____.
A

Several names by which God is called and known are given in the Bible verses under question 25. List ten of the names.

1. Wonderful Counselor
2. Mighty God
3. Everlasting Father
4. Prince of Peace
5. The Lord is our righteousness
6. Jesus
7. Father
8. Son
9. Holy Spirit
10. Word

B

There is a difference between cursing by God’s name and swearing by God’s name. Define the two and answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. Cursing by God’s name is
   blaspheming God by speaking evil of Him or mocking Him or calling down the anger and punishment of God upon oneself or any other person or thing.

2. Swearing by God’s name is
   taking an oath in which we call on God to witness the truth of what we say or promise and to punish us if we lie or break our promise.

3. When are we permitted, and even required, to take an oath by God’s name?
   when an oath is necessary for the glory of God or the welfare of our neighbor

4. Give some examples of proper swearing:
   testimony in court; oath of office; wedding vows

5. What kind of swearing is forbidden?
   swearing that is done falsely, thoughtlessly, or in sinful, uncertain, or unimportant matters
Circle T or F after each sentence (true/false).

1. Lying and deceiving by God’s name is
   a. speaking untruths about our neighbor.  T  F
   b. using God’s name carelessly or uselessly.  T  F
   c. teaching false doctrine and calling it God’s Word.  T  F
   d. pretending to be a Christian.  T  F
   e. shouting “Jesus Christ!” at sports events.  T  F

2. We should call upon God’s name when we
   a. are in trouble.  T  F
   b. are trying to win against someone.  T  F
   c. pray, praise, and give thanks.  T  F
   d. want someone who hurt us to be punished.  T  F
   e. wish to know what the future holds for us.  T  F

3. Using satanic arts is
   a. joining people as they consult the dead.  T  F
   b. reading horoscopes but not depending on them.  T  F
   c. attending services at which the devil is worshiped.  T  F
   d. urging others to go to fortune-tellers.  T  F
   e. making plans for a career.  T  F

From the Bible narratives, write the very words that were used when

1. some Jews accused Jesus of being possessed by a demon:
   “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

2. the people at Jesus’ trial cursed themselves and their children:
   “His blood be on us and on our children!”
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

3. Jesus permitted Himself to be put under oath:
   “Jesus said to him, ‘You have said so.’ ”
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

4. Peter swore falsely:
   “I do not know the man.”
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

5. the sons of Sceva used Jesus’ name to cast out spirits:
   “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.”
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

6. King Saul sought the help of the witch of Endor:
   “Divine for me by a spirit and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you.”
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

7. the ten lepers called upon Jesus in their trouble:
   “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________