



Preface to the Catechism

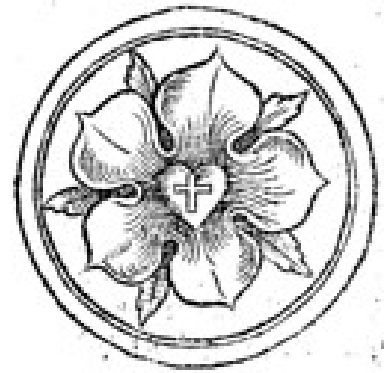
Lesson 1



MEMORY

Here you will find your memory work assignment for the coming week.

All students will be responsible for the primary texts and the explanations for each part of the Small Catechism for the upcoming week.



RESPOND

Psalm	119:105-112
Reading	Deut. 6:1-9
Catechism Hymn	288

All catechism students

- Catechism Family Devotions
- Attend Divine Service and Sunday School
- Read memory work aloud 3 times in the morning and in the evening every day this week
- Review Worship Report
- Complete Law & Gospel Quiz in the Online Classroom

QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK...

Respond

Catechism family devotions are where your entire family will engage the catechism topic for the week.



When these parts have been well learned, you may supplement and strengthen them by also setting before them some psalms or hymns, which have been composed on these parts of the catechism.

Catechism Family Devotions will consist of a Psalm, a reading, and a hymn that relate to the theme for the week. Discuss how these texts relate the part of the catechism you're working on.

Catechism instruction also involves attending Church and Sunday School.



The young people should also be made to attend the preaching, especially during the time that is devoted to the catechism.

A Worship Report will be expected each time you attend church. Rewards will be given at the end of the year for when the class reaches certain milestones.

Even if you attend another church you may complete a Worship Report. Bring a copy of the church bulletin for pastor.

Memory Work will be assigned each week. Every class level will read the memory work assignment aloud 3 times each morning and evening at minimum. The goal is to imprint these words on your mind.

Pastor may quiz you at any time on any Memory Work previously assigned.

In addition, *Second Year* and *Third Year* students will have additional readings assigned from *An Explanation to Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism* or the Large Catechism. There are weekly response quizzes in the online classroom

Review



Therefore, in ancient times it was called in Greek *catechism* (i.e., instruction for children). It teaches what every Christian must know. So a person who does not know this catechism could not be counted as a Christian or be admitted to any Sacrament.

But for myself I say this: I am also a doctor and preacher; yes, as learned and experienced as all the people who have such assumptions and contentment. Yet I act as a child who is being taught the catechism. Every morning—and whenever I have time—I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms, and such. I must still read and study them daily. Yet I cannot master the catechism as I wish. But I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and am glad to remain so.

Luther's Small Catechism is a handbook of Christian faith and life.

The Small Catechism is divided into six Chief Parts:

- The Ten Commandments
- The Apostles' Creed
- The Lord's Prayer
- Holy Baptism
- Confession & Office of the Keys
- The Sacrament of the Altar

In addition, the Small Catechism also includes the Table of Duties (Christian vocation); Morning, Evening, and Meal Prayers; and a set of twenty Christian Questions with their Answers for those who wish to go to the Sacrament.

Also included in many editions of Luther's Small Catechism is *A Short Explanation of Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism*. These are a series of questions and answers, written by past teachers of the Lutheran Church, to give a more in depth study of the six Chief Parts, along with references to passages from Scripture.

The Large Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther was written first, and the Small Catechism is a summary of what is found in the Large Catechism.

The Large Catechism is a collection of sermons on the six Chief Parts of the Christian faith.

In this course, *First Year* students will focus primarily on the text of the Small Catechism, for instance, the First Commandment and its meaning (front of green book).

Second Year students will supplement this work with *A Short Explanation of Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism* (back of green book).

Third Year students will focus on reading and reflecting on the Large Catechism.



In the third place, after you have taught them this short catechism, then take up the Large Catechism and give them also a richer and fuller knowledge.

On these review worksheets, quotations from the Large Catechism will be presented as offset text with a picture of Martin Luther.

The review section of these worksheets will be a summary of the teachings found in the Large Catechism.



Besides, catechism study is a most effective help against the devil, the world, the flesh, and all evil thoughts. It helps to be occupied with God's Word, to speak it, and meditate on it, just as the first Psalm declares people blessed who meditate on God's Law day and night (Psalm 1:2). Certainly you will not release a stronger incense or other repellant against the devil than to be engaged by God's commandments and words and speak, sing, or think on them.