

# **Lesson 1: Introduction to the Catechism**

## **TEACHER PREPARATION**

### **Video Preparation - Introduction**

Watch [Pastor Aaron Fenker's video](#) where he gives an overview of the first chief part of Luther's Small Catechism.

While you are watching, reflect on these points:

- The three uses of the law: curb, guide and mirror
- The two tables of the law: faith for God and love for your neighbor
- The purpose of each specific commandment

Watch the [Video Catechism: Introduction](#) with Pastor Mark Buetow and answer the questions in the video description..

## **TEACHER GUIDE**

### **Target Question:**

What is a Christian?

### **Link to presentation slides:**

Confirmation Year 1: [Lesson 1 Slides](#) (Pptx. version available in download folder)

### **Opening:**

Sing together [These Are the Holy Ten Commands](#)

LSB 581

### **Memory Work**

Recite the entire 6 chief parts of the Catechism

### **Video**

Each week, students will have a short 3-5 minute video to watch at home to prepare for their next lesson. These videos will address the target question of the lesson. The video will pause throughout to allow a question that needs to be answered before continuing. This week, begin with this video to model for the students what to do at home.

[Pastor Simek's weekly video](#)

Discuss video

## **Brain Break Time!**

### **Suggestion:**

Ear-Nose Switcheroo

This is a quick and easy challenge to reset the brain. Instruct kids to touch their left ear with their right hand and at the same time touch their nose with their left hand. Then have them switch their hands and touch their right ear with their left hand and their nose with their right hand. Switch back and forth a few times. Then have them close their eyes, take a deep breath, and blow it all out.

## **Instruction/Discussion**

### **What is Confirmation?**

Confirmation isn't your graduation from Sunday School. It's your opportunity to formally confirm that the faith into which you were baptized is the faith that you now confess. And in order to confess that faith from an informed stance, we take the time to teach it to you over the next year (or two or three!).

As Lutherans, we have three main resources that not only teach the content of our Christian faith but reinforce it and support us in it for the rest of our lives. Can you guess what those resources are?

1. Bible
2. Catechism
3. Hymnal

### **What is the Catechism?**

On Confirmation day, you will be asked, "Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the *Small Catechism* to be faithful and true?" (LSB 273)

You probably don't know much about the *Small Catechism* (yet), but if you've been attending church regularly you also probably know more of it than you realize, like the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed, and maybe a few of the Ten Commandments! The *Small Catechism* book contains a lot of additional questions and answers that we'll use in class, but the main parts of it are listed on your Guided Notes worksheet.

Generally, we divide the six parts of the *Small Catechism* into two categories: the Word and the Sacraments. We will get into the categories in (much) more detail when we learn about each chief part, but to start us off, this will do.

The Word: These are all right from the Bible.

### **Why would the Apostles' Creed be considered part of the Word? Is it inspired like Scripture?**

The Gifts/Sacraments: These are how we receive gifts from God. Did you realize that was going on here during Communion and Baptisms?

### **What is a Christian?**

Does 'being a good person' or following the rules make you a Christian? Does loving God make you a Christian?

Read John 14:6, Mark 16:16 and Titus 3:5-8.

A Christian is one who has faith and trusts in their salvation through baptism and Christ's crucifixion on the cross. (Grace by faith)

### **How do good works make a Christian?**

God commands Christians to do good works, not to earn their salvation, but out of love for their neighbor.

### **Who is God?**

Read Matthew 3:13-17

Read the Apostles' Creed

God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father who is the creator (maker of Heaven and earth), the Son who suffered, died and rose again to forgive our sins and the Holy Spirit who brings us to faith.

## How do we know who God is?

Read John 20:30-31

After rising from the dead, the Son shows the disciples the wounds in his side and hands. He tells them to go and tell others what they have witnessed.

## Who wrote the bible?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:21

God wrote the bible, using men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit

## How can we trust this?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

We trust by grace through faith

## Where does human reason fit in learning about and understanding scripture?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-14, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Isaiah 1:16-18

Human reason has limits, therefore we cannot reason through these things on our own, we need faith first. Once faith comes, we can reason through “the Spirit who is from God” and not through “the spirit of the world.”

2 uses of reason -

Magisterial - letting human reason rule, or be the deciding argument in all matters. Similar to a magistrate or judge sitting or ruling over a courtroom.

Ministerial - letting reason serve, or minister, the scripture. This reason sits below and submits to the scripture. This is the proper use of reason when wrestling with scripture.

## What are the two great teachings of the bible?

Read Romans 3:20-28

Law - shows us our sin

Gospel - shows us our savior

## What are the chief parts of the Christian faith and life? (Hint, look at the chief parts of the Catechism covered at the beginning of the lesson)

10 commandments

Apostles' Creed

Lord's Prayer

Baptism

Confession and Absolution

Sacrament of the Altar

## Closing

[Sing together Water, Blood and Spirit Crying](#)

LSB 597

## Homework

Remember to have students watch the [preview video](#) before the next time you meet to help prepare them!

The parent track has discussion questions to work through with their child before next week's lesson. Students will work through this as well.

## Supplemental

**If you have extra time, try some of these activities to continue your learning!**

- Try the Catechism Scavenger Hunt included in this package!