



THE
LIGHTHOUSE CATECHISM



THE CHURCH AT
**TRACE
CROSSING**

LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS, MAKING DISCIPLES FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

The Lighthouse Catechism

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By Mathew Gilbert © 2015

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THE INTRODUCTION

The Greek word for “instruct” or “teach” is katecheo. Katecheo is where we get our word “catechize.” A Christian catechism is an organized teaching tool meant for the instruction and discipleship of believers both young and old. It is usually accomplished through the memorization of question and answers.

The goal behind this catechism is two-fold. First, Paul says he would rather speak five words for the instruction of others than ten thousand words in a tongue (1 Cor. 14:19). A crucial and central aspect of Christian discipleship is teaching (Matt. 28:19) and catechisms are a helpful and accessible tool to use in this process. Second, Moses calls Israelite households to instruct their children in the Shema (Deut. 6:1-4). It is my sincere conviction that catechisms are the best way to pass Christian theology and biblical truth on to the next generation.

The Lighthouse Catechism is adapted from the Baptism Catechism, Westminster Shorter Catechism, Heidelberg Catechism, and New City Catechism. I have simply taken the question and answers from these historic catechisms and modified them for children. The name of this catechism comes from a desire to guide our children with truth and guard them from deception. Lighthouses are pillars of light that guide sailors into the harbor and guard them from the rocks. The goal of this catechism is to guide children with the light of the gospel and guard them from false teaching. The catechism is divided into six major sections where we cover six major doctrines:

*The Doctrine of the Word of God
The Doctrine of God
The Doctrine of Man
The Doctrine of Christ
The Doctrine of Salvation
The Doctrine of the Church*

I recommend the memorization of these question and answers as part of your family devotions. These doctrines will be taught week by week to your children, but you are the primary spiritual leaders in your children’s lives. Take advantage of this resource by helping your children memorize some of the most crucial doctrines to the Christian faith.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me, or your church’s children’s ministry leaders.

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THE CATECHISM

Q 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying him forever. [Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 16:11; 37:4; 73:25-26; Isaiah 43:7]

PART 1 | The Doctrine of the Word of God

Q 2. What teaches us how we should glorify God by enjoying him forever?

A. The Word of God alone teaches us how we should glorify God by enjoying him forever. [Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Galatians 1:8-9; Isaiah 8:20; Luke 16:29, 31]

Q 3. What is the Word of God?

A. The Word of God is the Bible, made up of the Old and New Testaments, and inspired by God. [Scripture: 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 5:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:13; Psalm 19:7-8]

Q 4. What does the Bible mainly teach?

A. The Bible mainly teaches what man must believe about God and what God requires of man. [Scripture: Micah 6:8; John 20:31; 1 Corinthians 2:7-12; Romans 10:7; Hebrews 11:6]

PART 2 | The Doctrine of God

Q 5. Who is the first and best of beings?

A. God is the first and best of beings. [Scripture: Isaiah 44:6; Psalm 8:1; 96:4; 97:9; 1 Samuel 2:2]

Q 6. Who is God?

A. God is a personal spirit who is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable. [Scripture: John 4:24; Psalm 89:14; 90:2; 147:5; James 1:17; Revelation 4:8; Exodus 34:6-7; 1 Timothy 1:17; Numbers 23:19]

Q 7. Is there more than one God?

A. No. There is only one true and living God. [Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10; Psalm 96:4-5]

Q 8. How many persons are in the one true and living God?

A. There are three persons in the one true and living God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. [Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:11; 8:6; John 1:1; 10:30; 14:9; 20:28; Acts 5:3-4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:3]

Q 9. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are his eternal plans for everything that happens. [Scripture: Genesis 50:20; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 11:36; Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 46:10; Psalm 115:3; Amos 3:6]

Q 10. How does God carry out his decrees?

A. God carries out his decrees in creation and providence. [Scripture: Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Matthew 5:45; 6:26; Acts 14:17; Proverbs 16:9, 33; 19:21; 20:24; 21:1, 31]

Q 11. What is creation?

A. Creation is God's making everything out of nothing by his powerful word, and it was very good. [Scripture: Genesis 1:1, 31; Hebrews 11:3; Exodus 20:11; Romans 4:17]

Q 12. What is providence?

A. Providence is God's holy, wise, and powerful work to care for and rule his creatures. [Scripture: Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3; Psalm 103:19; Matthew 10:29-30]

PART 3 | The Doctrine of Man

Q 13. How did God create people?

A. God created people, male and female, in his own image.

[Scripture: Genesis 1:27-28; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24]

Q 14. Why did God create people?

A. God created people to know him, love him, and glorify him.

[Scripture: Isaiah 43:7; Psalm 16:11; Genesis 1:27-28]

Q 15. How can we glorify God?

A. We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, and obeying his commands. [Scripture: Deuteronomy 11:1; Matthew 22:37-40]

Q 16. What does the law of God require?

A. The law of God requires personal and perfect obedience.

[Scripture: Matthew 22:37-40; Leviticus 19:2]

Q 17. Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

A. No. Since the fall, all humans are born in sin and unable to keep the law of God perfectly. [Scripture: Romans 3:10-12, 23; Psalm 51:5]

Q 18. Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

A. The purpose of the law is to show us our need of a Savior.

[Scripture: Romans 3:20]

Q 19. Did Adam and Eve remain perfect as they were created?

A. No. Adam and Eve fell from perfection by sinning against God.

[Scripture: Genesis 3:6, 12-13]

Q 20. What is sin?

A. Sin is any desire or action that comes from a heart of unbelief.

[Scripture: 1 John 3:4; Romans 5:13; 14:23; 1 Peter 1:16; Matthew 5:48; 1 Corinthians 10:31]

Q 21. Did all mankind fall with Adam in his first sin?

A. Yes. All mankind fell with Adam in his first sin.

[Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Romans 5:12, 18-19]

Q 22. What are the consequences of the fall of man?

A. Because of the fall, all people are under the wrath and curse of God. [Scripture: Romans 6:23; Genesis 3:24; Galatians 3:10; John 3:36]

PART 4 | The Doctrine of Christ

Q 23. Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

A. Yes. God reconciles us to himself by a Redeemer.

[Scripture: Isaiah 53:6, 10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:21]

Q 24. Who is the Redeemer of God's people?

A. The only redeemer of God's people is the Lord Jesus Christ. [Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:5-6; John 14:6]

Q 25. Who is the Lord Jesus Christ?

A. The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who became man to bear the penalty of sin.

[Scripture: John 1:14; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 8:3; Philippians 2:5-8]

Q 26. How can Jesus Christ bear the penalty of sin?

A. Jesus Christ can bear the penalty of sin because he is fully God and fully man.

[Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11; 2 John 1:7; John 1:1]

Q 27. Why do we need Jesus Christ to be fully God?

A. We need Jesus Christ to be fully God because only God can bear the penalty of sin. [Scripture: John 1:1; John 8:58; Mark 1:1; Luke 2:11; Colossians 2:9; Revelation 21:6]

Q 28. Why do we need Jesus Christ to be fully man?

A. We need Jesus Christ to be fully man because man must pay the penalty of sin. [Scripture: Hebrews 2:17; 4:15]

Q 29. What roles does Jesus Christ perform as our Redeemer?

A. Jesus Christ performs the roles of a prophet, a priest, and a king. [Scripture: Acts 3:22; Hebrews 5:5-6; Revelation 19:16]

Q 30. How does Jesus Christ perform the role of a prophet?

A. Jesus Christ performs the role of a prophet by revealing God's will for our salvation. [Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19; Acts 3:22; John 15:15; Hebrews 1:1-2]

Q 31. How does Jesus Christ perform the role of a priest?

A. Jesus Christ performs the role of a priest by once for all offering himself as a sacrifice to God.

[Scripture: 1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 2:17; 7:25; 9:28; Ephesians 5:2; Romans 8:34]

Q 32. How does Jesus Christ perform the role of a king?

A. Jesus Christ performs the role of a king by ruling and defending his people. [Scripture: Psalm 110:1-2; Matthew 2:6; Luke 1:32-33; 1 Corinthians 15:25]

PART 5 | The Doctrine of Salvation

Q 33. How do we take part in Christ's redemption?

A. We take part in Christ's redemption when the Holy Spirit applies it to us. [Scripture: John 3:5-6; Titus 3:5-6]

Q 34. How does the Holy Spirit apply redemption to us?

A. The Holy Spirit applies redemption to us by uniting us to Christ by faith. [Scripture: 1 John 5:1; Philippians 1:29; Ephesians 2:8; Acts 16:14; 18:27; John 3:8; 6:64]

Q 35. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is receiving and resting on him alone for salvation. [Scripture: Galatians 2:16; Romans 3:21-25; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 10:39; John 1:12]

Q 36. What benefits do we receive by faith in Jesus Christ?

A. We are justified, adopted, and sanctified by faith in Jesus Christ. [Scripture: Romans 8:30-32; Ephesians 1:5; 1 Corinthians 1:30]

Q 37. What is justification?

A. Justification is our declared righteousness before God. [Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:5; Romans 3:22-26]

Q 38. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is God's act of bringing believers into his family. [Scripture: 1 John 3:1; John 1:12; Romans 8:16-17; Galatians 4:4-5]

Q 39. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is God's act of making believers holy. [Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:23-24; Romans 6:4, 6, 11, 14]

Q 40. What happens to believers at death?

A. The souls of believers are made perfect and immediately enter God's presence. [Scripture: Hebrews 12:23; Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Luke 23:43; 1 Thessalonians 4:14; Isaiah 57:2; Job 19:26]

Q 41. What happens to non-believers at death?

A. The souls of non-believers will suffer the penalty of sin forever separated from God's presence in hell. [Scripture: Luke 16:22-24; Daniel 12:2; John 5:29; Revelation 20:11-15]

Q 42. What is our only hope in life and death?

A. Our only hope in life and death is that we are not our own but belong to God in Christ. [Scripture: Romans 14:7-8]

PART 6 | The Doctrine of the Church

Q 43. What is the visible church?

A. The visible church is the gathering of believers in all places where the gospel is truly preached. [Scripture: Acts 2:42; 20:7; 7:38; Ephesians 4:11-12]

Q 44. What is the invisible church?

A. The invisible church is the whole number of God's people from all times and places. [Scripture: Ephesians 1:10, 22-23; John 10:16; 11:52]

Q 45. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God in praise, petition, confession of sin, and thanksgiving. [Scripture: Psalm 62:8; 1 John 5:14; Philippians 4:6; John 14:13-14]

Q 46. What should we pray?

A. The whole Word of God directs us in what we should pray. [Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 6:9-13]

Q 47. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is a command and picture of the gospel in which being immersed in water shows we belong to Christ and his Church. [Scripture: Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12]

Q 48. Who should be baptized?

A. Only those who repent of their sin and trust Jesus alone for salvation should be baptized. [Scripture: Acts 2:38; 8:12, 36; 10:47-48; Matthew 3:6; Mark 16:16]

Q 49. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is a command and picture of the gospel in which eating the bread and drinking the cup show the death of Jesus. [Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 10:16; Matthew 26:26-28]

Q 50. Who should partake of the Lord's Supper?

A. All Christians should partake of the Lord's Supper after examining themselves. [Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5:8; 11:27-31; 2 Corinthians 13:5]



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