

Bible Basics – Lesson 4
The Small Catechism – Part 1

The Catechism Itself

1 – Commandments

2 – Creed

3 – Lord's Prayer

The Man

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther

- ✓ Born: 1483; Died 1546
- ✓ Denomination: Roman Catholic
- ✓ RCC: Monk > Priest > Doctor of Theology
- ✓ God required righteousness, *BUT he was a sinner.*
- ✓ Conversion (31 years old): ^{NIV} **Romans 1:17** “...in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith [not by works]...”
- ✓ What are the necessary ingredients of faith?
 - a. Knowledge and Agreement **OR**
 - b. Knowledge and Agreement and Trust

Two Equations

Connecting Knowledge and Agreement and Trust

Faith + Works = Heaven

K & A T

Motivation: *I must work to earn heaven!*

Faith = Heaven → Works

K & A & T

Motivation: *I gladly work to express my thanks for heaven!*

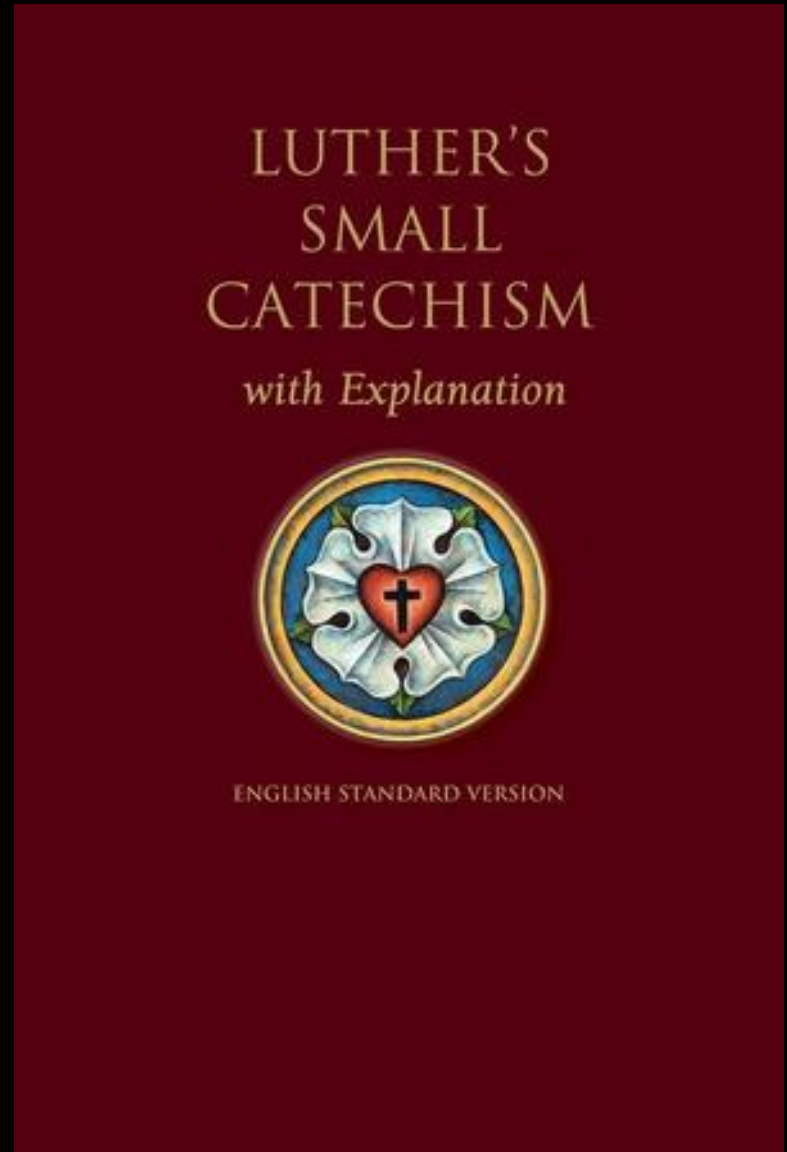
The Book

Small Catechism with Explanation

Catechism – **Short**

Explanation – **Long**

Appendix – **Important**



The Small Catechism

Section 1:

- a. The **Ten Commandments** *(shows our sin)*
- b. The **Creed** *(saves us from our sins)*
- c. The **Lord's Prayer** *(God is now our Father...)*
- d. The **Sacrament of Holy Baptism** *(how God clothed us with Jesus)*
- e. **Confession** *(how we continue to remember our sin and God's forgiveness)*
- f. The **Sacrament of the Altar** *(how God individually assures us that we are forgiven)*

The Small Catechism

Section 2 – Daily Prayers

Section 3 – Table of Duties

Section 4 – Christian Questions with Their Answers

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

Format:

- Question
- Answer
- Bible Verses – *The catechism is important BECAUSE it is based on the Bible!*

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The First Chief Part – The Ten Commandments

1. **What** word summarizes the Ten Commandments?
2. **How** does God love us? (C, P, S)
3. **Who** do the Ten Commandments tell us to love?
4. **Why** do we try to keep the Ten Commandments?
5. **Can** keeping the Ten Commandments save us?
6. **How** are the Ten Commandments like a mirror?
7. **What** are the Ten Commandments? (Handout)

BTW: Numbering The Ten Commandments

Option 1

Ex. 20:3 – First (v. 4 explains v. 3)

Ex. 20:7 – Second

Ex. 20:8 – Third

Ex. 20:12 – Fourth

Ex. 20:13 – Fifth

Ex. 20:14 – Sixth

Ex. 20:15 – Seventh

Ex. 20:16 – Eighth

Ex. 20:17a – Ninth

Ex. 20:17b – Tenth

Option 2

Ex. 20:3 – First

Ex. 20:4 – Second

Ex. 20:7 – Third

Ex. 20:8 – Fourth

Ex. 20:12 – Fifth

Ex. 20:13 – Sixth

Ex. 20:14 – Seventh

Ex. 20:15 – Eighth

Ex. 20:16 – Ninth

Ex. 20:17 – Tenth

Option 1: Roman Catholic and Lutheran

Option 2: Orthodox and Reformed (Presbyterian; Congregational; Baptist; etc.)

BTW: When It Comes to TRUST

Keep This in Mind

God the Father – *Creator and Provider*



Possessions – *Gifts from God*



People – *Trust THE GIVER, not the gifts*

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The First Chief Part – The Ten Commandments

What day of the week is the Sabbath day?

Saturday (*God created from...*)

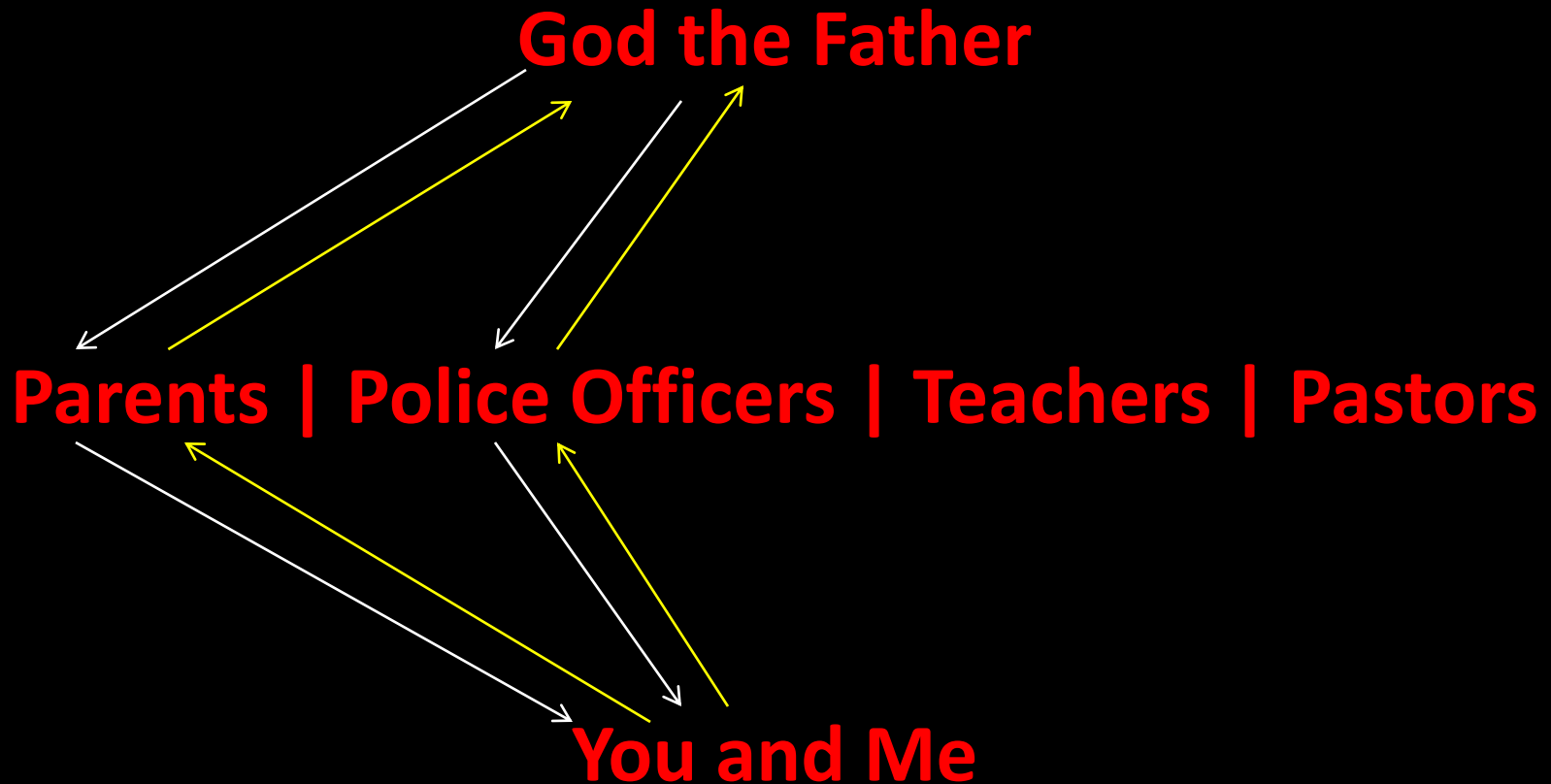
Most Christians worship *each Sunday* because of what significant event?

Jesus' Resurrection

Every Sunday is a Resurrection Celebration!

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

A Fourth Commandment Illustration



Those in the middle *represent* God the Father

↓ Blessings Received

↑ Honor Given

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The First Chief Part – The Ten Commandments

Ways to break the Fifth Commandment:

- ✓ Murder
- ✓ Abortion
- ✓ Euthanasia
- ✓ Suicide
- ✓ Anger and Hatred toward our neighbor

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The First Chief Part – The Ten Commandments

Ways to break the Sixth Commandment:

- ✓ Adultery
- ✓ Incest
- ✓ Homosexual Intercourse
- ✓ Fornication
- ✓ Pornography
- ✓ Obscenity
- ✓ Looking with Lust toward our Neighbor

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The First Chief Part – The Ten Commandments

7: You shall not steal

Think about your possessions...

^{NIV} **Proverbs 30:8-9** “Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.”

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The First Chief Part – The Ten Commandments

9 & 10: You shall not covet

Coveting is having a *sinful desire* for anyone or anything belonging to your neighbor.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Law

The Law has **three uses**:

- ✓ It works like a **CURB** to control sin and keep order in the world.
- ✓ The Law works like a **MIRROR** to show us our sin and our need for the Savior.
- ✓ The Law works like a **GUIDE** to show us, *as Christians*, how to live God-pleasing lives.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

Law and Gospel

Identify each **Law** statement with an “**L**” (SOS) and each **Gospel** statement with a “**G**” (SOS).

1. _____ teaches what we should and should not do.
2. _____ should be proclaimed to sinners who are troubled in their minds because of their sins.
3. _____ teaches what God has done for our salvation.
4. _____ shows us our sin and the wrath of God.
5. _____ should be proclaimed to all people, especially to sinners who are *not* sorry for their sins.
6. _____ shows us our Savior and His saving work.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Second Chief Part – The Creed

Many churches confess these ancient creeds:

- ✓ Apostles (fourth century) – *Baptism*
- ✓ Nicene (A.D. 325) – *Lord's Supper*
- ✓ Athanasian (sixth century) – *Trinity Relationship*

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Second Chief Part – The Creed

First Article – Creation: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

See Dr. Luther's great explanation in your catechism!

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Second Chief Part – The Creed

Questions related to the First Article:

- ✓ Did God create all things in six 24-hour days? **Y N**

The Bible indicates evening and morning with each day!

- ✓ Approximately how many years ago did God create all things?

600

6,000

6 million

6 billion

Explanation – See the handout: *Dating and Dinosaurs*

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Second Chief Part – The Creed

Second Article – Redemption: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Plate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

See Dr. Luther's great explanation in your catechism!

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Second Chief Part – The Creed

Questions related to Christ's Work of Redemption:

T F Christ died for the sins of all people, *believers and unbelievers* (1 Peter 3:18).

T F Because Christ died on a cross for everyone, all people will go to heaven (1 John 5:11-12).

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Second Chief Part – The Creed

Why did Jesus descend into hell?

- a. To be further punished for all sins.
- b. To announce His victory over sin and death.

Victory Tour Shirt...

How many days between Jesus' resurrection and ascension?

40 Days

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Second Chief Part – The Creed

Third Article – Sanctification: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Second Chief Part – The Creed

Does anyone have the ability of himself to believe in Jesus for eternal life? **Y** **N**

Our condition before God saved us:

- ✓ Ephesians 2:1 ➡ *spiritually dead*
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 2:14 ➡ *spiritually blind*
- ✓ Romans 8:7 ➡ *spiritual enemies of God*

T **F** For people who are not saved, it is their own fault.

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Second Chief Part – The Creed

T F The holy Christian church includes all who believe in Jesus for eternal life.

The holy Christian church is:

- a. Visible – *you can see it.*
- b. Invisible – *you cannot see it.*

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Third Chief Part – The Lord's Prayer

What is prayer? Prayer is speaking to God in words and thoughts.

For each part of the Lord's Prayer, *be sure to read Dr. Luther's brilliant explanations!*

A Prayer Diagram

Our restored relationship with God is essential for prayer:

God – the Father

(1 Timothy 2:5)



Sin Separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2)

God – the Son took away the sin of the world

(John 1:29) *and is the only way to God the Father* (John 14:6)

God – the Holy Spirit helps us communicate with the Father

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

^{ESV} **Romans 8:26** ...the Spirit himself intercedes for us...

People



An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Third Chief Part – The Lord's Prayer

The Introduction: Our Father who art in heaven.

When we know Jesus as Savior, God is our Father!

The First Petition: Hallowed be Thy name.

Since God's name is holy, we should use it in holy ways and His holiness should be reflected in our lives!

The Second Petition: Thy kingdom come.

As members of God's kingdom, He is reigning in our hearts and lives!

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Third Chief Part – The Lord's Prayer

The Third Petition:

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In heaven – always!

On earth – God's will is always best!

The Fourth Petition:

Give us this day our daily bread.

Much more than food!

Let us see God's gifts and give Him thanks!

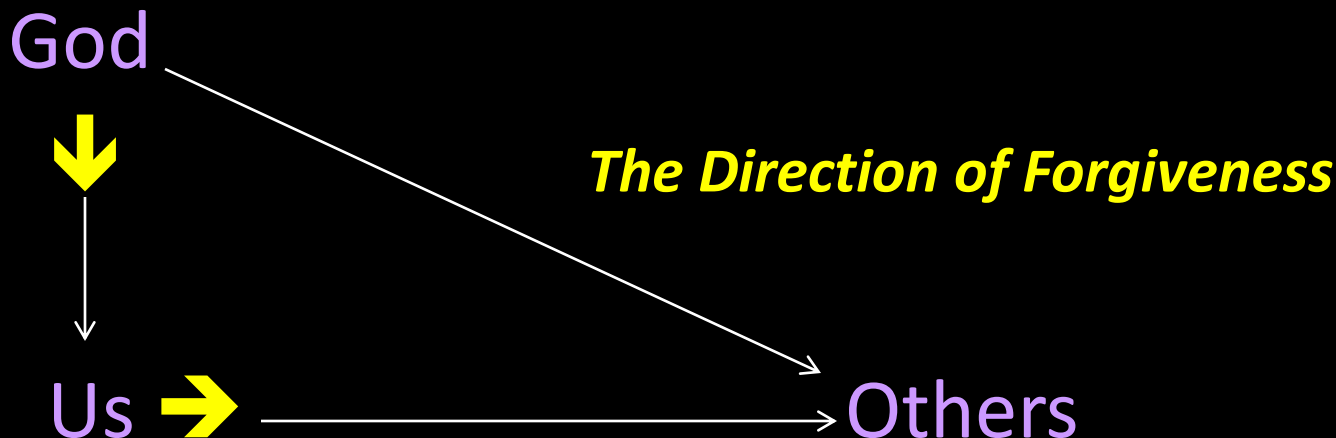
An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Third Chief Part – The Lord's Prayer

The Fifth Petition:

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Forgiveness is Essential



An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Third Chief Part – The Lord's Prayer

The Sixth Petition:

And lead us not into temptation.

In other words, lead us so that we are not tempted!

The Seventh Petition:

But deliver us from evil.

*Since evil is everywhere, Dr. Luther noted the evils associated with **body and soul, possessions and reputation!***

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The Third Chief Part – The Lord's Prayer

The Conclusion:

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*The conclusion is **NOT** in the **Greek text of the Bible!***

What did Jesus say immediately after teaching His disciples the Lord's Prayer?

^{NAS} **Matthew 6:14-15** “For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

An Explanation of The Small Catechism

The End of Part 1

For Next Week

Skim / Read the Rest of the Catechism

Thanks for Attending!

Questions? Please let me know!