



A Simple Way: Treasuring Luther's *Small Catechism*

Week 1 Devotional Discussion Questions for Adults

Monday

Martin Luther urged teaching the *Small Catechism* “following the text word for word, so that (students) can also repeat it back to you and learn it by heart.” Were you taught the catechism that way? How much of it do you remember? What is helpful—or not—about that kind of rote memorization?

Tuesday

Luther intended the *Small Catechism* as “a simple way in which the head of a house is to present (it) to the household.” Why did it end up being used mostly as confirmation curriculum instead? How can it be returned to home use?

Wednesday

Luther wrote the *Small Catechism* after he learned that “the ordinary person ... knows absolutely nothing about the Christian faith and ... many pastors are completely unskilled and incompetent teachers.” Is the general knowledge of Christian teaching better now? How can we improve our teaching of the faith?

Thursday

In the *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote, “I must still read and study the catechism daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of (it)—and I also do so gladly.” What is it about this book, which was written for simple people, that still requires and informs life-long learning?

Friday

In the introduction to the *Small Catechism*, Luther wrote, “Those who do not want to learn these things ... should also not be admitted to (Holy Communion), should not be sponsors for children at baptism and should not exercise any aspect of Christian freedom.” Why is knowing the commandments, creeds and Lord's Prayer so essential to Christian faith and life?

Week 1 Devotional Discussion Questions for Families with Children

Monday

What does it mean to memorize something? What are some things that you have memorized? How do you memorize something?

Tuesday

If you were to be a teachers of something like, doing dishes, coloring, baking, fixing a car, etc. what would you like to teach?

Wednesday

If someone didn't know anything about church, the Bible, God, or Jesus, how would you start telling them about each of those?

Thursday

Why do you think we read our Bible over and over again? Or learn the same Bible story a few times throughout all of Sunday School?

Friday

If you could pick someone you know to teach you about Jesus and your faith all the way from when you were a baby until you become an adult who would you pick? Why?

Catechisms

For this fall series hard copies of the catechism will be available at church for your use. There is also a catechism app you can download from CPH. You can find the link for that on the Faith Website at Faithlc.com by clicking on the theme image from the four home slider pictures, or you can search for it in the Google Play Store: Luther's Small Catechism from CPH.