

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS

WEEK 23

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 23: *What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?*

ANSWER: Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in His estate of humiliation and exaltation.



MONDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 16A

Scripture: Read Acts 3:13-26

Key Thought: *Jesus executes the office of a prophet.*

Questions:

- ☞ What is a prophet?
- ☞ Why did God create the office of prophet?
- ☞ Who were some of the prophets of the Old Testament?
- ☞ What did Moses say about the Prophet God would raise up?
- ☞ What sets Jesus apart from all other true prophets?
- ☞ How does the prophetic office of Jesus contribute to our redemption?

Prayer

Notes: The question before us this week actually serves as an introduction for the next several questions in the *Shorter Catechism*, which explain the way in which Christ accomplished our redemption. The affirmation of Answer 23 is that Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of prophet, priest, and king. In the next few weeks, we will look more closely at each of these offices and the particular importance of each. Introduce the importance of the office of prophet to your children today, explaining to them that the fall of man destroyed his ability to rightly understand the Word of God. In His grace and mercy, God created the office of prophet, in order to declare His Word to sinful mankind. The office of prophet in the Old Testament, like that of priest and king, looked forward to the person and work of Christ, who would restore knowledge (prophet), righteousness (king), and holiness (priest) to His people. This is why Moses spoke of the Prophet God would one day raise up from among his brethren. Many people today are willing to acknowledge that Jesus Christ was a prophet, like many others. The Scriptures affirm that He is not just any prophet, however, but the true Prophet of whom all other prophets were merely shadows and types. He not only declares the Word of God, but He is the very

Word of God, who restores knowledge to His true sheep, who hear and heed His voice. Praise God together for providing for the redemption of our fallen knowledge of God through Christ in His office of prophet.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 16A

Scripture: Read Hebrews 5:1-10

Key Thought: *Jesus executes the office of a priest.*

Questions:

- ☞ What is a priest?
- ☞ Why did God create the office of priest?
- ☞ Who were appointed as priests in the Old Testament?
- ☞ Were the Old Testament priests able to redeem the people?
- ☞ What sets Jesus apart from the Old Testament priests?
- ☞ How does the priestly office of Jesus contribute to our redemption?

Prayer

Notes: The second office that Jesus executes as our Redeemer is that of a priest. Explain the function of the priesthood in the Old Testament to your children, showing them that this was God's gracious provision for the penalty due to man for his sin. Through the priest's offering of blood sacrifices, atonement was made symbolically for the guilt of the people. Also, because of the work of the priest, the people were able to stand before God without being condemned. Show them that the sacrifices of the Old Testament priests could not truly take away the guilt of the people, but pointed them forward to God's full provision of atonement through the Great High Priest, Jesus Christ. Jesus was superior to the priests of the Old Testament in many ways. He had no sin of His own to atone for. He accomplished redemption once and for all through the single sacrifice of Himself as a Lamb without blemish. His priesthood has eternal value, since He is the infinite God-man. Explain to your children that the priestly work of Christ was necessary to our redemption, because it restored holiness to those who had been made unclean through sin. Praise God for His grace and mercy in providing for the redemption of our sinful hearts, through the sacrifice of our Great High Priest.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 16A

Scripture: Read Isaiah 9:1-7

Key Thought: *Jesus executes the office of a king.*

Questions:

- ☪ What is a king?
- ☪ Why did God create the office of king?
- ☪ Who were some of the kings of the Old Testament?
- ☪ What did Isaiah foretell about the kingdom (government) of Christ?
- ☪ What sets Jesus apart from all other kings?
- ☪ How does the kingly office of Jesus contribute to our redemption?

Prayer

Notes: The third office that Jesus executes as our Redeemer is that of a king. As a prophet, He came to redeem man's fallen knowledge. As a priest, He came to redeem man's lost holiness. As a king, He came to restore man's fallen righteousness. Explain to your children that the office of king is ordained by God to enforce law and ensure justice. He is to punish the wicked and protect the righteous. In Adam's fall, mankind lost the will and ability to do what is right according to God's law. The office of king was ordained by God to compel men to obedience under threat of punishment, since they would not obey willingly. Earthly kings, like prophets and priests, pointed forward to the True King who would restore righteousness and subdue the hearts of men—the Lord Jesus Christ. The prophecy recorded in Isaiah 9:1-7 speaks of the “kingdom” and “government” of the Messiah. The Scriptures reveal that Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords, and He claimed this authority through His perfect obedience to the law of God. Praise God for the perfect righteousness of King Jesus and pray for grace to submit to His authority in all things.



THURSDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 16A

Scripture: Read Matthew 21:1-13

Key Thought: *Jesus executed these offices in His humiliation.*

Questions:

- ☪ Can you see the three offices of Christ in the passage from Matthew 21?
- ☪ How did Jesus act as a prophet during His days on earth?
- ☪ How did Jesus act as a king during His days on earth?
- ☪ How did Jesus act as a priest during His days on earth?
- ☪ Why was it necessary for Him to execute these offices during His humiliation?

Prayer

Notes: The *Catechism* teaches that Jesus executed the offices of prophet, priest, and king during the days of His humiliation—that is, during the days that He walked upon the earth. The passage from Matthew 21 shows all three of these offices being carried out by Jesus. He is called “king” in verse 5. In verse 11, He

is called “the prophet.” And in verses 12-13 he exercises the authority of a priest in cleansing the temple. Jesus Christ possessed the authority of these three offices in the days of His earthly ministry. Explain to your children that His perfect fulfillment of these offices enabled Him to present Himself as a substitute for fallen men. It was necessary for Jesus to fulfill these offices during His humiliation in order to accomplish the redemption of His people and restore them in knowledge, righteousness and holiness. His fulfillment of these offices also demonstrated to the world that He was truly the promised Redeemer, possessing the authority of all three offices in one Person.



FRIDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 16A

Scripture: Read Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 12:25; Isaiah 9:6-7

Key Thought: *Jesus executes these offices in His exaltation.*

Questions:

- ☪ Can you see the three offices of Christ in these passages of Scripture?
- ☪ How does Jesus act as a prophet now? How should you respond?
- ☪ How does Jesus act as a king now? How should you respond?
- ☪ How does Jesus act as a priest now? How should you respond?

Prayer

Notes: Jesus not only executed the offices of prophet, priest, and king during His days upon the earth, but He continues to execute them in His exaltation through all eternity. His exaltation to the right hand of God shows that the Father has accepted His perfect work and that the authority of His offices is settled in heaven. The passages cited above plainly declare that Jesus continues as prophet, priest, and king before God. As prophet, He declares God's Word and commands obedience. As priest, He intercedes before God on our behalf. As king, He commands and enforces righteousness and punishes the wicked. We are required to respond by heeding His Word, trusting in His sacrifice, and submitting to His authority in all things. Pray together for an ever-increasing understanding of Christ in His three offices and for grace to respond to Him in faith and obedience.



Note: Only five lessons per week are included. You are encouraged to lead your family in worship seven days a week. On weekends, you may want to review or build upon the lessons from the previous week, discuss the sermon from Sunday morning, or work on questions from the Catechism or memory verses. These lesson suggestions are intended to provide a simple framework for parents to build upon. You are not limited to this content. The habit of morning and evening family worship is the biblical ideal. We hope you can use these lessons as a starting point for the development of a blessed practice of family worship in your home.