

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS

WEEK 24

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 24: *How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?*

ANSWER: Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by His word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

MONDAY

Praise: Sing Psalm 78A

Scripture: Read Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Key Thought: *Jesus Christ is the perfect prophet.*

Questions:

- ☞ What is the function of a prophet?
- ☞ How did the Old Testament prophets know the mind of God?
- ☞ How did Jesus know the mind of God?
- ☞ By whose authority did the Old Testament prophets speak?
- ☞ By whose authority did Jesus speak?
- ☞ Where do we find the words of Christ? How are we to respond?

Prayer

Notes: This week we will examine more closely the work of Christ in the office of prophet. Explain again to your children that a prophet is one who declares the Word of God with authority. God provided prophets for His people because sin had turned their minds and their understanding against Him. The Old Testament prophets were forerunners of Christ, who is the true prophet of God. God revealed His will to them by His Spirit, and they spoke with the authority of God. Christ, in contrast, knew the mind of God perfectly and directly, and spoke God's Word by His own authority. This is why those who heard Him were often astonished at the authority with which He spoke. Show your children that the Word of Christ as prophet is found in the whole of the Scriptures, and not merely in the words He spoke during the days of His earthly ministry. Point out to them the duty of all men to listen to His words and to respond in humble obedience. Pray together for God's grace to understand and obey the Word of God and thank Him for sending Christ as prophet to reveal His truth to us and to restore our fallen knowledge.

TUESDAY

Praise: Sing Psalm 78A

Scripture: Read John 20:24-31; Isaiah 8:20

Key Thought: *As prophet, Jesus teaches us by His Word.*

Questions:

- ☪ Does Jesus speak to us today as our prophet?
- ☪ How does He speak to us?
- ☪ Does Jesus use men to communicate His truth to us? How?
- ☪ How are we to judge the words of those who claim to speak in the name of Jesus?
- ☪ Do we require any revelation apart from what has been given to us in the Bible?

Prayer

Notes: The *Catechism* teaches that Jesus reveals God's will by His Word. We do not hear His voice speaking directly to us, as His disciples did, but He has given us a perfect and complete record of His will in the pages of the Bible. Explain to your children that the Bible is the voice of Christ, speaking to us in His prophetic office. God uses men to communicate the truth of Christ as well, but only as they declare the Word of God in the Scriptures. Show them that the perfect revelation of God in the Bible is the standard by which every man's teaching must be measured. Any teaching that cannot be proved to be Scriptural is false and must be rejected. The Spirit of Christ has given the Scriptures to His people as a perfect record of His will for us in every part of life. We do not need any further revelation to "supplement" the Bible. Nor should we search for any so-called "lost revelation" that was not recorded in the Scriptures. John 20:30-31 assures us that God has recorded everything we need for life and salvation in the Scriptures that we have received. Praise God for His perfect Word, and ask Him for an ever increasing love for and obedience to every word of Scripture.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 78A

Scripture: Read John 14:23-26

Key Thought: *As prophet, Jesus teaches us by His Spirit.*

Questions:

- ☪ What does this passage say about those who love Christ?
- ☪ What does this passage say about those who do not love Christ?
- ☪ What does Jesus call the Holy Spirit in John 14:26? How does the Holy Spirit "help" us?
- ☪ Does the Holy Spirit add words to those spoken by Christ?
- ☪ How does the Holy Spirit "remind" us of Christ's teaching?

Prayer

Notes: As our prophet, Jesus speaks to us through His Word and through His

Spirit. Today's focus is on the place of the Holy Spirit in revealing the Word of Christ to us. Show your children that Jesus declares that those who love Him can be distinguished from those who don't by their response to His Word, the Bible. Explain to them that the role of the Holy Spirit as our "Helper" is to remind us of all the teachings of Christ. Note carefully that the Holy Spirit does not give us new revelation, but that He reminds us of the revelation that Christ has given in complete form in the Scriptures. Talk with your children about the ways in which the Spirit reminds us of the words of Christ, through enabling us to understand, believe, and apply the teachings of Scripture in our lives. The Holy Spirit works through the means that God has appointed (worship, Bible study, preaching, and prayer) to bring the words of Jesus to our remembrance. We cannot understand or remember Christ's words apart from the Spirit working in us. Pray for the Spirit of Truth to help you to know and obey His Word, that you may be identified as one who truly loves Christ and keeps His Word.



THURSDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 78A

Scripture: Read John 15:1-14

Key Thought: *As prophet, Jesus reveals to us the will of God.*

Questions:

- ☞ What do we mean when we speak of "the will of God" for us?
- ☞ Can "feelings" reveal God's will to us? Why or why not?
- ☞ Can circumstances reveal God's will to us? Why or why not?
- ☞ Can human reason reveal God's will to us? Why or why not?
- ☞ How can we truly know God's will for us?

Prayer

Notes: As our perfect prophet, Jesus reveals the will of God to His people. Explain to your children what is meant by "the will of God," that is, His direction and purpose for us in any given situation. There are many who speak of knowing God's will for them in particular situations of life through subjective feelings, circumstances, or the exercise of human reason. None of these things, however, can be trusted to reveal the true will of God for us, since they are all subject to being distorted by sin. We may "feel" that something is right, which is really contrary to God's Word. We may misjudge circumstances in our lives and make a wrong decision. Neither can we trust our own ability to think and reason, because our minds have been corrupted by sin and are not yet free of error. The only reliable standard by which we may truly know the will of God for our lives is the Word of God, given to us by our Perfect Prophet, Jesus Christ. Show your children that they must evaluate every decision according to

the clear teachings of God's Word, rather than relying on feelings, circumstances, or human wisdom. Praise God for giving us a true and sufficient record of His will for us in all things, and pray for grace to follow His Word in every decision of life.



FRIDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 78A

Scripture: Read 1 Peter 1:10-25

Key Thought: *As prophet, Jesus reveals to us the way of salvation.*

Questions:

- ☞ By what Spirit did the prophets of old speak?
- ☞ What message did they proclaim?
- ☞ Did they know that they were speaking of things that would be revealed in Christ?
- ☞ What is the message of salvation that Jesus Christ brought to us as our true prophet?
- ☞ How should we live if we believe His Word?

Prayer

Notes: The ultimate purpose of the prophetic work of Christ was to make known to the people of God the gospel of salvation. The Old Testament prophets spoke through the Spirit of Christ and proclaimed the grace of salvation which would be fully revealed in Him. They knew that their message was looking forward to something that would be revealed in the fullness of time. Walk your children through the passage from 1 Peter and help them to see the content of the gospel as it is unfolded there (see especially vv. 19-21). These verses reveal the fulfillment of all the prophecies concerning salvation, including the blood sacrifice of a perfect Redeemer, the eternal purpose of God to save His people, the means of redemption (through believing in Christ), the proof of His acceptance before God in His resurrection, and the hope of eternal life that we have in Him. Show them also how faith in the gospel is to affect the lives of those who believe. Pray together, thanking God for revealing His will for the salvation of His people in Christ and asking Him for grace to live according to the Word of God, which endures forever, as those who have been born again.



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.