

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS WEEK 21

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 21: *Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?*

ANSWER: The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever.



MONDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 111B

Scripture: Read John 10:22-30

Key Thought: *God sent a Redeemer for His elect.*

Questions:

- ☞ According to Jesus, why did the Jews who confronted Him remain in unbelief?
- ☞ How were the true sheep to be recognized?
- ☞ What did Jesus do for His true sheep?
- ☞ Does this passage teach that redemption is possible for all men?
- ☞ How can you know that you are among the true sheep?

Prayer

Notes: We will focus our attention this week on the person and work of the Redeemer of God's elect, who is the glorious Lord Jesus Christ. The *Catechism* begins by affirming that God sent a Redeemer for His elect. The clear implication here is that salvation is particular, rather than general. In other words, Christ was sent by God to save a specific number of individuals, namely, the elect. There are some who are chosen to eternal life, and others who are not. A proper understanding of this truth is essential to maintaining the glory of God alone in salvation and the dependence of man upon His grace. Help your children to see that in the passage from John 10, Jesus clearly identifies two distinct groups of people—those who are “of My sheep” and those who are “not of My sheep.” It is only the true sheep of Jesus (the elect) who are enabled to believe and follow Him. Those who are not of His sheep will not and cannot believe. Point out the incomparable blessings that come through Jesus to His sheep, including the wonderful security of knowing that “no one is able to snatch them out of God's hand.” Explain that we may know that we are among the true sheep of Jesus by examining ourselves for the evidence of a new heart, which He gives to all that He draws to Himself. Do we follow Him willingly, gladly, humbly, and thankfully? Do we

obey His Word in our thoughts, words, and actions? Only those who are His true sheep are able to do so by His grace at work within them. Pray together, thanking God for sending a Redeemer for His elect, and asking Him to increase daily the evidence in your life that you are counted among the true sheep of the Good Shepherd.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm III B

Scripture: Read Acts 4:1-12

Key Thought: *There is only one Redeemer.*

Questions:

- ☞ Why are men in need of salvation?
- ☞ If anyone is to be saved, who must provide redemption?
- ☞ Is the name of Jesus sometimes compared with the names of the leaders of other religions? What are some of these names?
- ☞ How is Jesus Christ different from all others?
- ☞ Is it possible to be saved apart from faith in Jesus Christ?

Prayer

Notes: Today we will concentrate on the unique nature of the work of Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of God's elect. The uniqueness of Jesus is emphasized by Peter when he asserts that "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Our understanding of this essential truth must begin with the comprehension of the fact that sin has utterly ruined us, placed us in need of salvation, and made us incapable of redeeming ourselves. If we are to be saved, God will have to provide for our redemption on His own terms. This He has done through His precious Son Jesus Christ. We often hear the name of Jesus listed among those who are held by the world to be great "religious" leaders. He is often named along with men like Mohammed, Buddha, and Confucius as merely one of several teachers who pointed the way to "salvation." What separates Jesus from and exalts Him above all others is the fact that He alone actually accomplished salvation for His people through His own life, death, and resurrection. Every other religious leader that has ever lived claims only to point men to the way in which they can accomplish their own salvation. But the truth of God is that man is utterly lost and helpless, and needs someone who is able to accomplish in his place what he is unable and unwilling to do himself. Every other religious leader points men to themselves, and thus leaves them lost forever. In the end, these men all died, but Jesus rose from the dead as a testimony that God accepted His sacrifice on our behalf. It is only through God's own appointed Redeemer, Jesus Christ, that men must be saved.

WEDNESDAY

Praise: Sing Psalm 111B

Scripture: Read John 1:1-14

Key Thought: *The Redeemer is the eternal Son of God.*

Questions:

- ☞ Was there ever a time when Jesus did not exist?
- ☞ Before He was born into this world, where was Jesus?
- ☞ Why was it necessary for the Redeemer to be God?
- ☞ What does it mean that Jesus was “begotten of the Father”?

Prayer

Notes: In speaking of the nature of Christ, the *Catechism* affirms the biblical truth that He is “the eternal Son of God.” It is important to understand that Jesus did not begin to exist with His incarnation, but is the eternal Second Person of the Trinity. He was with God from all eternity, along with the Holy Spirit. Explain to your children that it was necessary for the Redeemer to be God, because the sin for which He died was the eternal punishment of all of the elect. No mere man could possibly pay the eternal penalty due to all of God’s people. At best, one perfect man might offer himself as a substitute for one imperfect man. But only a Divine Redeemer could offer Himself as a substitute for many, and take upon Himself the eternal consequences of their sin. Teach your children also that the word “begotten” means that Jesus possesses from all eternity the nature of a Son in relation to God. It does not mean that He has a beginning in time, but refers to the relationship that has existed in eternity between the Father and the Son within the Trinity. It is also used to refer to the time of Jesus’ incarnation as a man, but as we have seen, He existed as the eternal God before He was ever born into this world. Praise God together for His remarkable grace, through which the eternal Son of God was sent to bear the sin of His people and accomplish their redemption.

THURSDAY

Praise: Sing Psalm 111B

Scripture: Read Philippians 2:1-11; Hebrews 2:17-18

Key Thought: *The Redeemer became man.*

Questions:

- ☞ When did Jesus become man?
- ☞ How did Jesus become man?
- ☞ Why was it necessary for Jesus to become man?
- ☞ What does this teach us about the grace of God?
- ☞ What does this teach us about how we should live?

Prayer

Notes: We move now to the simple and yet inexpressibly profound truth of the gospel—that the eternal Son of God became man! The eternal God entered the realm of time; the infinite God took upon Himself the limitations of space; the One who is eternal Spirit wrapped Himself in flesh and blood, experiencing pain and suffering; the Life of the world gave Himself up to death for the sake of His elect! Discuss with your children the amazing implications of the incarnation of Jesus, the eternal Son of God, when He became man. Show them that it was necessary for our redemption that He be “made like us in all things.” If He was to be a proper substitute for sinful men, He must be a man Himself. Explain to them that Jesus Christ was a perfect man—without sin—in order to be a perfect sacrifice for us. Help them to see the incredible grace of God, who loved us so much that He took our place and bore our punishment so that we might be reconciled to Him. Show them how Paul applies this truth to our interactions with one another, urging us to “let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” Pray together, thanking God for sending His Son as a man to bear our iniquity and asking Him to enable you to grow daily in your understanding of His sacrifice and in conformity to the mind of Christ.



FRIDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 111B

Scripture: Read Acts 1:1-11; Hebrews 7:23-28

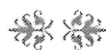
Key Thought: *Jesus remains fully God and fully man forever.*

Questions:

- ☪ What happened to the physical body of Jesus after His resurrection?
- ☪ Did Jesus cease to be man when He ascended to heaven?
- ☪ Why is it important that He continues to be “God and man...forever”?

Prayer

Notes: The final part of our *Catechism* question affirms that Jesus remains God and man after His ascension. The body of Jesus ascended into heaven. He did not cease to be man, but stands always before the Father as our representative, having accomplished our redemption. Explain the importance of this to your children, and help them to see the great assurance that we have in knowing that He ever lives to make intercession for us. Praise God together for His unsearchable grace!



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.