

LUTHER'S Small Catechism for Kids

LEADER GUIDE



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Questions and Answers about the Christian Faith

The Christian faith is the confession that Jesus Christ is the world's only Savior and Redeemer.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of faith that You have given to us through Your Word and the Holy Spirit. Help us to always trust in You and in Your promise of forgiveness and life everlasting through Jesus Christ, our Savior. In His name we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCE THE LESSON

- Direct students to Lesson 1 in the workbook. Have them write a trivia question and the answer to the question in the section titled “Q&A.” Examples: What are the colors of the rainbow? What is 12 times 12?
- Ask for volunteers to read their questions. Other students can raise their hands to answer. Encourage students to write some of the questions and answers in the workbook.
- **One way we learn is by asking questions and learning the answers. Today we will study some questions and answers about the Christian faith to learn more about it.**

UNDERSTANDING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Read the questions and answers on pages 6–7 in *Luther's Small Catechism for Kids* together.

- Tell students that the word *Christian* was first used at Antioch: “For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians” (Acts 11:26). We call ourselves *Christians* because our faith is centered on Jesus Christ and His work of salvation.
- We believe in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Talk about what the one true God has done. God created all things, including people. He loves His creation, especially the people He created. He continues to care for all His creation. The Father's love for us is so great that He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to become a man and to save all people by His death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit brings people to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Direct students to “Understanding the Christian Faith” in the workbook. Instruct them to highlight or circle the sentences that are TRUE. If they need help, they can look at pages 6–7 in *Luther's Small Catechism for Kids*.

This lesson corresponds to pages 6–7 in Luther's Small Catechism for Kids.

A BIBLE ILLUSTRATION

Read or ask volunteers to read **John 3:16–18**. John 3:16 has been called “the Gospel in a nutshell.” This one verse tells the Good News about Jesus—who He is and what He came to earth to do. Direct students to draw a picture or write a few words telling what Jesus has done for them and for all people.

DIGGING DEEPER

Work through the second workbook page of this lesson with the students, reading and referencing the material on pages 6–7 in *Luther’s Small Catechism for Kids*. Under “The Main Idea,” have them copy the answer to the question “What is the Christian Faith?” Under “A Word to Know,” have them copy the definition of *faith* from the Catechism Glossary (found on pages 126–128). Have the students fill in the three “Learning about . . .” statements using answers they find in the catechism.

Once you have finished these sections, give the students time to reflect on the question in the “In your own words” box and write a few of their thoughts. (If time allows, you may also let them share their answers with a partner or small group.) The last activity on the page asks students to use a Word Bank to fill in the remaining words on the Bible Memory Verse.

SING

“I Know My Faith Is Founded” (*Lutheran Service Book* 587:1–3)

BONUS ACTIVITY

Use the following activity to reinforce understanding.

WHERE’S GOD?

Materials needed: Hidden pictures printable (look online and print out one for each student)

- Give everyone a hidden pictures puzzle. Give them five minutes to find as many hidden objects as they can.
- **Some people think they need to search and search to find God. But God is with us all the time, watching over us and caring for us. What is one way you see God working in this world?** (beauty of nature, healing, love and kindness between people, etc.) **We see God’s power and creativity as we look at the world He created. Hold up the Bible. We see God’s great love for us as we read about Jesus’ work on the cross for us. The Holy Spirit works through the Word to create and strengthen our faith in the one true God. God isn’t hiding—we can see Him working in every part of our lives!**

CLOSING PRAYER

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

NOTES:



Questions and Answers about the Christian Faith

The Christian faith is the confession that Jesus Christ is the world's only Savior and Redeemer.

Q&A

In the space below, write a trivia question and the answer on the left side. Then write questions and answers from other students on the right.

Understanding the Christian Faith

Read the questions and answers on pages 6–7 in *Luther's Small Catechism for Kids*. Then read the sentences below. Highlight or circle the three sentences that are TRUE.

- The Christian faith is the belief that Jesus Christ is the only Savior of the world.
- Jesus Christ was a good man but is not God.
- We learn God's truth about Jesus Christ in the Bible.
- The Bible is a collection of books that contain true and untrue stories.
- The two great doctrines (teachings) of the Bible are Law and Gospel.
- We cannot be sure that the Bible is the true Word of God.

A Bible Illustration

Read or listen to **John 3:16–18**.
John 3:16 is sometimes called “the Gospel in a nutshell.” This one verse tells the Good News about Jesus—who He is and what He came to earth to do. Draw a picture or write a few words telling what Jesus did for us.

Learn about the Christian Faith on pages 6–7 in *Luther's Small Catechism for Kids*.

DIGGING DEEPER

The Main Idea

Write the answer to “What is the Christian Faith?” on the lines below.

The Christian faith is the belief that Jesus

Christ is the only Savior of the world.

A Word to Know

Look up the following word in the Catechism Glossary (pages 126–128 in *Luther’s Small Catechism for Kids*) and write the meaning.

faith—

Belief and trust in God and His promises;

trust in a person or concept

Learning about the Christian Faith

Use the questions and answers on pages 6–7 in *Luther’s Small Catechism for Kids* to fill in the blanks.

1. God made all things and loves His creation, especially the people. He created.
2. Jesus is true God and true man in one person.
3. Jesus tell us that all the Scriptures are God’s own words and are completely true.

In your own words . . .

What does it mean that Jesus Christ is your Savior and your Lord?

Bible Memory Verse

Use the words in the Word Bank to fill in the blanks and complete the Bible Memory Verse.

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

John 14:6

Word Bank: truth; life; way



The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord God, our Creator and Redeemer, You give us every good gift, including forgiveness and life eternal. Help us to fear, love, and trust in You above all things. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCE THE LESSON

- Ask students to name people they trust—people they could go to for help (mom, dad, teacher, pastor, etc.). List these names on the board, and ask why they trust these people. What makes them think that these people would help them if they needed help?
- Direct students to Lesson 3 in the workbook. Read the instructions under “Who Can Help?” Students will write the name of a person who could help after each need.
- **God forgives our sins and give us eternal life. And while our parents provide food and our friends might give us a hug when we're sad, it's God who has given these people to help us. God created us, saved us, and gives us all that we need now and eternally!**

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

Read the First Commandment and the meaning together.

- Talk about what it means to have a god. What is a god? A god is someone or something people put their trust in to help them and give them what they need. Students might be familiar with Greek or Roman gods or other false gods. Emphasize that although some people might believe in or put their trust in someone or something else, there is only one true God—the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The one true God created us and the whole world, saved us through Jesus' death on the cross, and gives us faith through the Holy Spirit.
- Discuss the words *fear*, *love*, and *trust*. Often we use the word *fear* to mean “be afraid.” The meaning here is to be in awe of, to take seriously, to respect. Why should we be in awe of God? He created the universe, and you and me! Why should we take Him seriously and respect Him? He is perfect, and He will judge all who disobey Him. But we also love and trust in God because He forgives our sins for Jesus' sake and promises to take care of all our needs.
- Read together the bullet points under “Understanding the First Commandment” in the workbook. Students should draw a line through the sentences that tell how we SIN AGAINST the First Commandment. If they need help, they can look at page 9 in *Luther's Small Catechism for Kids*.

This lesson corresponds to pages 9–11 in Luther's Small Catechism for Kids.

A BIBLE ILLUSTRATION

Read or ask volunteers to take turns reading **Luke 12:22–34**. In this passage, Jesus is telling His followers that they should not worry about their needs, because God knows what they need and will take care of them. Have students write or draw a way that God takes care of their needs.

DIGGING DEEPER

Work through all sections on the second workbook page of this lesson with students, reading and referencing the material on pages 9–10 in *Luther's Small Catechism for Kids*. Have them copy the words of “The Main Idea” from the catechism. Likewise, have them copy the definition of *gods* from the Catechism Glossary (found on pages 126–128).

SING

“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus” (*LSB* 729:1, 4)

BONUS ACTIVITY

Use the following activity to reinforce understanding.

WHAT'S FIRST?

Materials needed: Bag of M&Ms, Skittles, or other candy with different colors

- **Life is full of choices. Every day we are asked to make decisions. Many of those decisions show what we think is most important in our lives. Take one candy of each color. For each color, think of one important choice or decision you face or have recently made.**
- After a few minutes, have students share some of their choices. **What would happen if we prayed about these decisions? How does God's Word help us make decisions?**
- Discuss how God gives us guidance through His Word. God knows what is best for us. **When we go to Him in prayer, He will guide us to make the best decisions that are pleasing to Him and helpful to others and ourselves!**

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask a volunteer to pray the prayer printed on page 11 in *Luther's Small Catechism for Kids*.

NOTES:



The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Who Can Help?

Think about the people you trust, the people you could go to for help. Read each need below. Next to each one, write the name of someone who could help.

A place to sleep:

A hug when I'm sad:

Understanding math:

Help when I'm sick:

Forgiveness of my sins:

Everlasting life:

Who created us and helps us with all these things and more?

Understanding the First Commandment

Read the First Commandment and the meaning. Then read the sentences below. Draw a line through the sentences that tell how we SIN AGAINST the First Commandment.

- Respect God so much that we do nothing against His will.
- ~~● Worship other gods.~~
- ~~● Love or trust in something or someone more than God.~~
- Love God more than anything and devote our life to Him.
- ~~● Make something more important than God.~~
- Trust God will take care of all our needs and keep His promises to us.

A Bible Illustration

Read or listen to **Luke 12:22–34**. Jesus tells His followers that they should not worry about food and clothes and other things, because God knows they need these things and He will take care of their needs. In the space provided, write or draw a way that God takes care of your needs.

Learn about the First Commandment on pages 9–11 in *Luther's Small Catechism for Kids*.

DIGGING DEEPER

The Main Idea

Write “The Main Idea” of the First Commandment on the lines below.

There is only one true God. God

wants us to put all our trust in Him for

everything we need.

A Word to Know

Look up the following word in the Catechism Glossary (pages 126–128 in *Luther’s Small Catechism for Kids*) and write the meaning.

gods—

Things or figures people love and trust to

take care of their needs; not the true God

Learning about the First Commandment

Use the questions and answers on pages 9–10 in *Luther’s Small Catechism for Kids* to fill in the blanks.

1. To have a god means to put our trust in someone or something to help us and give us all that we need.
2. To fear God means to take God seriously.
3. We trust and love God when we treasure Him more than anything and rely on Him to take care of us and keep His promises to us.

In your own words . . .

What is one thing God has done for you that shows His great love for you?

Bible Memory Verse

Use the words in the Word Bank to fill in the blanks and complete the Bible Memory Verse.

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:5

Word Bank: heart; might; love; soul