A Guide to Family Worship



God has given men the responsibility to provide spiritual leadership for their household. Husbands are called to follow Christ's example and facilitate their wives' sanctification by the Word (Eph. 5:26). Fathers (and in their absence, mothers) are called to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4; cf. Deut. 6:4ff). I think we know these truths. However, in my experience, few families spend the *intentional* time needed to obey these commands. In our busy world, it's increasingly difficult! I know it has been for our family. I've found that family worship is something that just doesn't happen without a good plan. We need to set aside dedicated time in our homes to grow in grace. This time can look as different as the families are that do it, but I think Donald Whitney's suggestions are doable and adaptable for most families. He says that at a minimum family worship should include instruction in the Word, prayer, and, ideally, singing. We've created this guide to help equip you in leading your family in worship in these three areas.

Word. Our children need to have regular exposure to the Bible and the teaching of the Bible. Simply put, read the Bible in your family and explain what your read. In 1999, Pastor Tom Macy introduced our church to Robert Murray M'Cheyne's Bible reading plan and the accompanying books written by D.A. Carson, For the Love of God, Volumes 1 and 2, which comment on one of the passages each day. (You can access these books in blog form here: thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/loveofgod.) Ever since, I have used this plan to guide my Bible reading and have loved the consistency and structure it provides to help me read "all of the Bible, all of the time." In this plan, there are four readings per day. If you read all four passages, you will read the whole Bible once in a year and the New Testament and Psalms twice. However, if that pace is too fast for you or your family you can read two readings per day and complete the plan in two years. Whatever your pace, I'm confident you'll grown in your love and understanding of God's Word as you read it often and read it in its entirety.

Don't worry if you get behind. It's not as much about the plan as it is about being in the Word. If I miss a few days, I'll just pick up where I'm supposed to be. I'm committed to this plan over the long haul. So over the course of time I'll get to any chapters I miss! Or you can disregard the dates and just read the reading for the next day keeping track of where you are in the list.

I also highly recommend using catechisms in the home for teaching children (and adults!) the central teachings of the Bible. I've found the New City Catechism (NCC) to be good for all ages. Catechism is simply a question and answer format of teaching and usually includes memorization of the catechism. With NCC, the children's answer is a portion of the adult answer and that's noted in bold. You can also download the NCC app or go

to their website (newcitycatechism.com) to find accompanying verses, videos, commentary, and prayers, in addition to more information about the catechism itself. This has been a great tool for our family. After we read a chapter from M'Cheyne's plan, we take five minutes at breakfast most mornings to learn or review one of the questions.

Prayer. In response to God's revelation in his Word, we should pray. In addition to praying for the immediate needs of our family, I like to pray the truths of the passage our family has read, or the truths in the catechism question, over my family. I also like to use the prayers of some of the great men in church history provided on the NCC app or in the *Valley of Vision*. Not only do our prayers teach our children how to pray, the prayers of the saints of old can teach them as well. And obviously it is important for our kids to learn the Lord's Prayer and its meaning (the NCC teaches this). We should also allow our children to pray. This gives them practice and allows us an opportunity to guide their prayers.

Singing. We're commanded to sing to one another (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). And songs are powerful portable theology! So, ideally, your family worship will include some singing. Our family uses songs we sing regularly here at First Free. We generally sing in the evenings a couple nights a week before bedtime. We've included song sheets of a number of our favorite hymns as well as a list of contemporary songs that we regularly sing that you can look up online (Google and YouTube are great resources here). If you don't play an instrument, you can sing the songs a capella or sing along with a recording online. Talk about the meaning of the words you sing. We can learn so much through the songs we know. So let's be intentional in what we learn through music.

Family worship/discipleship is not difficult, but it is difficult to carve out time for it, especially in our hectic days. But it's God's way of helping our families to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. It's worth the effort. It's our hope that this book will help you as you endeavor to intentionally raise your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Pastor Josh

The M'Cheyne Bible Reading Plan

(Modified by D.A. Carson in For the Love of God, Vol. 1 & 2)

January

1Gn 1; Mt 1; Ezra 1; Act 1 2Gn 2; Mt 2; Ezra 2; Act 2 3 Gn 3; Mt 3; Ezra 3; Act 3 4Gn 4; Mt 4; Ezra 4; Act 4 5 Gn 5; Mt 5; Ezra 5; Act 5 6Gn 6; Mt 6; Ezra 6; Act 6 7Gn 7; Mt 7; Ezra 7; Act 7 8 Gn 8; Mt 8; Ezra 8; Act 8 9Gn 9-10; Mt 9; Ezra 9; Act 9 10 Gn 11; Mt 10; Ezra 10; Act 10 11 Gn 12; Mt 11; Neh 1; Act 11 12 Gn 13; Mt 12; Neh 2; Act 12 13 Gn 14; Mt 13; Neh 3; Act 13 14 Gn 15; Mt 14; Neh 4; Act 14 15 Gn 16; Mt 15; Neh 5; Act 15 16 Gn 17; Mt 16; Neh 6; Act 16 17 Gn 18; Mt 17; Neh 7; Act 17 18 Gn 19; Mt 18; Neh 8; Act 18 19 Gn 20; Mt 19; Neh 9; Act 19 20 Gn 21; Mt 20; Neh 10; Act 20 21 Gn 22; Mt 21; Neh 11; Act 21 22 Gn 23; Mt 22; Neh 12; Act 22 23 Gn 24; Mt 23; Neh 13; Act 23 24 Gn 25; Mt 24; Esth 1; Act 24 25 Gn 26; Mt 25; Esth 2; Act 25 26 Gn 27; Mt 26; Esth 3; Act 26 27 Gn 28; Mt 27; Esth 4; Act 27 28 Gn 29; Mt 28; Esth 5; Act 28 29 Gn 30; Mk 1; Esth 6; Ro 1 30 Gn 31; Mk 2; Esth 7; Ro 2 31 Gn 32; Mk 3; Esth 8; Ro 3

February

1 Gn 33; Mk 4; Esth 9-10; Ro 4 2 Gn 34; Mk 5; Job 1; Ro 5 3 Gn 35-36; Mk 6; Job 2; Ro 6 4 Gn 37; Mk 7; Job 3; Ro 7 5 Gn 38; Mk 8; Job 4; Ro 8 6 Gn 39; Mk 9; Job 5; Ro 9 7 Gn 40; Mk 10; Job 6; Ro 10 8 Gn 41; Mk 11; Job 7; Ro 11 9 Gn 42; Mk 12; Job 8; Ro 12 10 Gn 43; Mk 13; Job 9; Ro 13 11 Gn 44; Mk 14; Job 10; Ro 14 12 Gn 45; Mk 15; Job 11; Ro 15

13 Gn 46; Mk 16; Job 12; Ro 16 14 Gn 47; Lk 1:1-38; Job 13; 1Co 1 15 Gn 48: Lk 1:39-80: Job 14: 1Co 2 16 Gn 49; Lk 2; Job 15; 1Co 3 17 Gn 50; Lk 3; Job 16-17; 1Co 4 18 Ex 1; Lk 4; Job 18; 1Co 5 19 Ex 2; Lk 5; Job 19; 1Co 6 **20** Ex 3; Lk 6; Job 20; 1Co 7 21 Ex 4; Lk 7; Job 21; 1Co 8 22 Ex 5; Lk 8; Job 22; 1Co 9 23 Ex 6; Lk 9; Job 23; 1Co 10 24 Ex 7; Lk 10; Job 24; 1Co 11 25 Ex 8; Lk 11; Job 25-26; 1Co 12 26 Ex 9; Lk 12; Job 27; 1Co 13 27 Ex 10; Lk 13; Job 28; 1Co 14 28 Ex 11:1-12:20; Lk 14; Job 29; 1Co 15

March

1Ex 12:21-51; Lk 15; Job 30; 1Co 16 2Ex 13; Lk 16; Job 31; 2Co 1 3 Ex 14; Lk 17; Job 32; 2Co 2 4 Ex 15; Lk 18; Job 33; 2Co 3 5 Ex 16; Lk 19; Job 34; 2Co 4 6 Ex 17; Lk 20; Job 35; 2Co 5 7Ex 18; Lk 21; Job 36; 2Co 6 8 Ex 19; Lk 22; Job 37; 2Co 7 9 Ex 20; Lk 23; Job 38; 2Co 8 10 Ex 21; Lk 24; Job 39; 2Co 9 11 Ex 22; Jn 1; Job 40; 2Co 10 12 Ex 23; Jn 2; Job 41; 2Co 11 13 Ex 24; Jn 3; Job 42; 2Co 12 14 Ex 25; Jn 4; Pr 1; 2Co 13 15 Ex 26; Jn 5; Pr 2; Gal 1 16 Ex 27; Jn 6; Pr 3; Gal 2 17 Ex 28; Jn 7; Pr 4; Gal 3 18 Ex 29; Jn 8; Pr 5; Gal 4 19 Ex 30; Jn 9; Pr 6; Gal 5 20 Ex 31; Jn 10; Pr 7; Gal 6 21 Ex 32; In 11; Pr 8; Eph 1 22 Ex 33; Jn 12; Pr 9; Eph 2 23 Ex 34; Jn 13; Pr 10; Eph 3 24 Ex 35; Jn 14; Pr 11; Eph 4 25 Ex 36; In 15; Pr 12; Eph 5 26 Ex 37; Jn 16; Pr 13; Eph 6 27 Ex 38; Jn 17; Pr 14; Phil 1 28 Ex 39; Jn 18; Pr 15; Phil

29 Ex 40; Jn 19; Pr 16; Phil 3 **30** Lv 1; Jn 20; Pr 17; Phil 4 **31** Lv 2-3; Jn 21; Pr 18; Col 1

1 Lv 4; Ps 1-2; Pr 19; Col 2

2Lv 5; Ps 3-4; Pr 20; Col 3

April

3 Lv 6; Ps 5-6; Pr 21; Col 4 4Lv 7; Ps 7-8; Pr 22; 1Th 1 5 Lv 8; Ps 9; Pr 23; 1Th 2 6Lv 9; Ps 10; Pr 24; 1Th 3 7Lv 10; Ps 11-12; Pr 25; 1Th 4 8 Lv 11-12; Ps 13-14; Pr 26; 1Th 5 **9**Lv 13; Ps 15-16; Pr 27; 2Th 1 10 Lv 14; Ps 17; Pr 28; 2Th 2 11 Lv 15; Ps 18; Pr 29; 2Th 3 12 Lv 16; Ps 19; Pr 30; 1Ti 1 13 Lv 17; Ps 20-21; Pr 31; 1Ti 2 14 Lv 18; Ps 22; Eccl 1; 1Ti 3 15 Lv 19; Ps 23-24; Eccl 2; 1Ti 4 16 Lv 20; Ps 25; Eccl 3; 1Ti 5 17Lv 21; Ps 26-27; Eccl 4; 1Ti 6 18 Lv 22; Ps 28-29; Eccl 5; 2Ti 1 19 Lv 23; Ps 30; Eccl 6; 2Ti 2 20 Lv 24; Ps 31; Eccl 7; 2Ti 3 21 Lv 25; Ps 32; Eccl 8; 2Ti 4 22 Lv 26; Ps 33; Eccl 9; Tit 1 23 Lv 27; Ps 34; Eccl 10; Tit 2 24 Nu 1; Ps 35; Eccl 11; Tit 3 25 Nu 2; Ps 36; Eccl 12; Philemon 26 Nu 3; Ps 37; Song 1; He 1 27 Nu 4; Ps 38; Song 2; He 2 28 Nu 5; Ps 39; Song 3; He 3 29 Nu 6; Ps 40-41; Song 4; He 4 30 Nu 7; Ps 42-43; Song 5; He 5

May

1 Nu 8; Ps 44; Song 6; He 6
2 Nu 9; Ps 45; Song 7; He 7
3 Nu 10; Ps 46-47; Song 8; He 8
4 Nu 11; Ps 48; Is 1; He 9
5 Nu 12-13; Ps 49; Is 2; He 10
6 Nu 14; Ps 50; Is 3-4; He 11
7 Nu 15; Ps 51; Is 5; He 12
8 Nu 16; Ps 52-54; Is 6; He 13
9 Nu 17-18; Ps 55; Is 7; Jas 1
10 Nu 19; Ps 56-57; Is 8:1-9:7; Jas 2
11 Nu 20; Ps 58-59; Is 9:8-10:4; Jas 3
12 Nu 21; Ps 60-61; Is 10:5-34; Jas 4
13 Nu 22; Ps 62-63; Is 11-12; Jas 5

14 Nu 23: Ps 64-65: Is 13: 1Pe 1 15 Nu 24; Ps 66-67; Is 14; 1Pe 2 16 Nu 25; Ps 68; Is 15; 1Pe 3 17 Nu 26; Ps 69; Is 16; 1Pe 4 18 Nu 27; Ps 70-71; Is 17-18; 1Pe 19 Nu 28; Ps 72; Is 19-20; 2Pe 1 20 Nu 29; Ps 73; Is 21; 2Pe 2 21 Nu 30; Ps 74; Is 22; 2Pe 3 22 Nu 31; Ps 75-76; Is 23; 1 Jn 1 23 Nu 32; Ps 77; Is 24; 1 Jn 2 24 Nu 33; Ps 78:1-39; Is 25; 1 In 3 25 Nu 34; Ps 78:40-72; Is 26; 1 In 26 Nu 35; Ps 79; Is 27; 1 Jn 5 27 Nu 36; Ps 80; Is 28; 2Jn 1 28 Dt 1; Ps 81-82; Is 29; 3 In 1 29 Dt 2; Ps 83-84; Is 30; Jude 30 Dt 3; Ps 85; Is 31; Rev 1 31 Dt 4; Ps 86-87; Is 32; Rev 2

June

1Dt 5; Ps 88; Is 33; Rev 3 2Dt 6; Ps 89; Is 34; Rev 4 3 Dt 7; Ps 90; Is 35; Rev 5 4 Dt 8; Ps 91; Is 36; Rev 6 **5** Dt 9; Ps 92-93; Is 37; Rev 7 6 Dt 10; Ps 94; Is 38; Rev 8 7Dt 11; Ps 95-96; Is 39; Rev 9 8 Dt 12; Ps 97-98; Is 40; Rev 10 9 Dt 13-14; Ps 99-101; Is 41; Rev 11 10 Dt 15; Ps 102; Is 42; Rev 12 11 Dt 16; Ps 103; Is 43; Rev 13 12 Dt 17; Ps 104; Is 44; Rev 14 13 Dt 18; Ps 105; Is 45; Rev 15 14 Dt 19; Ps 106; Is 46; Rev 16 15 Dt 20; Ps 107; Is 47; Rev 17 16 Dt 21; Ps 108-109; Is 48; Rev 18 17 Dt 22; Ps 110-111; Is 49; Rev 19 18 Dt 23; Ps 112-113; Is 50; Rev 20 19 Dt 24; Ps 114-115; Is 51; Rev 21 20 Dt 25; Ps 116; Is 52; Rev 22 21 Dt 26; Ps 117-118; Is 53; Mt 1 22 Dt 27:1-28:19; Ps 119:1-24; Is 54; Mt 2 23 Dt 28:20-68; Ps 119:25-48; Is 55; Mt 3 24 Dt 29; Ps 119:49-72; Is 56; Mt 4 25 Dt 30; Ps 119:73-96; Is 57; Mt 5 26 Dt 31; Ps 119:97-120; Is 58; Mt 6 27 Dt 32; Ps 119:121-144; Is 59; Mt 7 28 Dt 33-34; Ps 119:145-176; Is 60; Mt 8 29 Ish 1; Ps 120-122; Is 61; Mt 9 **30** Jsh 2; Ps 123-125; Is 62; Mt 10

July

1 Jsh 3; Ps 126-128; Is 63; Mt 11 2 Ish 4; Ps 129-131; Is 64; Mt 12 3 Jsh 5; Ps 132-134; Is 65; Mt 13 4 Jsh 6; Ps 135-136; Is 66; Mt 14 **5** Jsh 7; Ps 137-138; Jer 1; Mt 15 6 Jsh 8; Ps 139; Jer 2; Mt 16 7 Jsh 9; Ps 140-141; Jer 3; Mt 17 8 Jsh 10; Ps 142-143; Jer 4; Mt 18 9 Jsh 11; Ps 144; Jer 5; Mt 19 10 Jsh 12-13; Ps 145; Jer 6; Mt 20 11 Jsh 14-15; Ps 146-147; Jer 7; Mt 21 12 Jsh 16-17; Ps 148; Jer 8; Mt 22 13 Jsh 18-19; Ps 149-150; Jer 9; Mt 23 14 Jsh 20-21; Act 1; Jer 10; Mt 24 15 Jsh 22; Act 2; Jer 11; Mt 25 16 Jsh 23; Act 3; Jer 12; Mt 26 17 Jsh 24; Act 4; Jer 13; Mt 27 18 Idg 1; Act 5; Jer 14; Mt 28 19 Jdg 2; Act 6; Jer 15; Mk 1 20 Jdg 3; Act 7; Jer 16; Mk 2 21 Jdg 4; Act 8; Jer 17; Mk 3 22 Jdg 5; Act 9; Jer 18; Mk 4 23 Jdg 6; Act 10; Jer 19; Mk 5 24 Jdg 7; Act 11; Jer 20; Mk 6 25 Jdg 8; Act 12; Jer 21; Mk 7 26 Jdg 9; Act 13; Jer 22; Mk 8 27 Jdg 10; Act 14; Jer 23; Mk 9 28 Jdg 11; Act 15; Jer 24; Mk 10 29 Jdg 12; Act 16; Jer 25; Mk 11 30 Jdg 13; Act 17; Jer 26; Mk 12 31 Idg 14; Act 18; Jer 27; Mk 13

August

1 Jdg 15; Act 19; Jer 28; Mk 14 2 Jdg 16; Act 20; Jer 29; Mk 15 3 Jdg 17; Act 21; Jer 30-31; Mk 16 4 Idg 18; Act 22; Jer 32; Ps 1-2 5 Jdg 19; Act 23; Jer 33; Ps 3-4 6 Jdg 20; Act 24; Jer 34; Ps 5-6 7 Jdg 21; Act 25; Jer 35; Ps 7-8 8 Ruth 1; Act 26; Jer 36,45; Ps 9 **9** Ruth 2; Act 27; Jer 37; Ps 10 10 Ruth 3-4; Act 28; Jer 38; Ps 11-12 11 1Sa 1; Ro 1; Jer 39; Ps 13-14 12 1Sa 2; Ro 2; Jer 40; Ps 15-16 13 1Sa 3; Ro 3; Jer 41; Ps 17 14 1Sa 4; Ro 4; Jer 42; Ps 18 15 1Sa 5-6; Ro 5; Jer 43; Ps 19 16 1Sa 7-8; Ro 6; Jer 44; Ps 20-21

17 1Sa 9; Ro 7; Jer 46; Ps 22
18 1Sa 10; Ro 8; Jer 47; Ps 23-24
19 1Sa 11; Ro 9; Jer 48; Ps 25
20 1Sa 12; Ro 10; Jer 49; Ps 26-27
21 1Sa 13; Ro 11; Jer 50; Ps 28-29
22 1Sa 14; Ro 12; Jer 51; Ps 30
23 1Sa 15; Ro 13; Jer 52; Ps 31
24 1Sa 16; Ro 14; La 1; Ps 32
25 1Sa 17; Ro 15; La 2; Ps 33
26 1Sa 18; Ro 16; La 3; Ps 34
27 1Sa 19; 1Co 1; La 4; Ps 35
28 1Sa 20; 1Co 2; La 5; Ps 36
29 1Sa 21-22; 1Co 3; Eze 1; Ps 37
30 1Sa 23; 1Co 4; Eze 2; Ps 38
31 1Sa 24; 1Co 5; Eze 3; Ps 39

September

11Sa 25; 1Co 6; Eze 4; Ps 40-41 21Sa 26; 1Co 7; Eze 5; Ps 42-43 3 1Sa 27; 1Co 8; Eze 6; Ps 44 41Sa 28; 1Co 9; Eze 7; Ps 45 **5** 1Sa 29-30; 1Co 10; Eze 8; Ps 46-47 61Sa 31; 1Co 11; Eze 9; Ps 48 72Sa 1; 1Co 12; Eze 10; Ps 49 8 2Sa 2; 1Co 13; Eze 11; Ps 50 92Sa 3; 1Co 14; Eze 12; Ps 51 **10** 2Sa 4-5; 1Co 15; Eze 13; Ps 52-54 11 2Sa 6; 1Co 16; Eze 14; Ps 55 12 2Sa 7; 2Co 1; Eze 15; Ps 56-57 13 2Sa 8-9; 2Co 2; Eze 16; Ps 58-59 14 2Sa 10; 2Co 3; Eze 17; Ps 60-61 15 2Sa 11; 2Co 4; Eze 18; Ps 62-63 16 2Sa 12; 2Co 5; Eze 19; Ps 64-65 172Sa 13; 2Co 6; Eze 20; Ps 66-67 18 2Sa 14; 2Co 7; Eze 21; Ps 68 19 2Sa 15; 2Co 8; Eze 22; Ps 69 **20** 2Sa 16; 2Co 9; Eze 23; Ps 70-71 21 2Sa 17; 2Co 10; Eze 24; Ps 72 22 2Sa 18; 2Co 11; Eze 25; Ps 73 23 2Sa 19; 2Co 12; Eze 26; Ps 74 24 2Sa 20; 2Co 13; Eze 27; Ps 75-76 25 2Sa 21; Gal 1; Eze 28; Ps 77 26 2Sa 22; Gal 2; Eze 29; Ps 78:1-39 272Sa 23; Gal 3; Eze 30; Ps 78:40-72 28 2Sa 24; Gal 4; Eze 31; Ps 79 **29** 1Ki 1; Gal 5; Eze 32; Ps 80 30 1Ki 2; Gal 6; Eze 33; Ps 81-82

October

11Ki 3; Eph 1; Eze 34; Ps 83-84 21Ki 4-5; Eph 2; Eze 35; Ps 85 31Ki 6; Eph 3; Eze 36; Ps 86 41Ki 7; Eph 4; Eze 37; Ps 87-88 5 1Ki 8; Eph 5; Eze 38; Ps 89 61Ki 9; Eph 6; Eze 39; Ps 90 71Ki 10; Phil 1; Eze 40; Ps 91 8 1Ki 11; Phil 2; Eze 41; Ps 92-93 91Ki 12; Phil 3; Eze 42; Ps 94 10 1Ki 13; Phil 4; Eze 43; Ps 95-96 11 1Ki 14; Col 1; Eze 44; Ps 97-98 12 1Ki 15; Col 2; Eze 45; Ps 99-101 13 1Ki 16: Col 3: Eze 46: Ps 102 14 1Ki 17; Col 4; Eze 47; Ps 103 15 1Ki 18; 1Th 1; Eze 48; Ps 104 16 1Ki 19; 1Th 2; Dn 1; Ps 105 171Ki 20; 1Th 3; Dn 2; Ps 106 18 1Ki 21; 1Th 4; Dn 3; Ps 107 19 1Ki 22; 1Th 5; Dn 4; Ps 108-109 20 2Ki 1; 2Th 1; Dn 5; Ps 110-111 212Ki 2; 2Th 2; Dn 6; Ps 112-113 22 2Ki 3; 2Th 3; Dn 7; Ps 114-115 23 2Ki 4; 1Ti 1; Dn 8; Ps 116 24 2Ki 5: 1Ti 2: Dn 9: Ps 117-118 25 2Ki 6; 1Ti 3; Dn 10; Ps 119:1-24 26 2Ki 7; 1Ti 4; Dn 11; Ps 119:25-48 27 2Ki 8; 1Ti 5; Dn 12; Ps 119:49-72 28 2Ki 9; 1Ti 6; Ho 1; Ps 119:73-96 29 2Ki 10-11; 2Ti 1; Ho 2; Ps 119:97-120 30 2Ki 12; 2Ti 2; Ho 3-4; Ps 119:121-144 312Ki 13; 2Ti 3; Ho 5-6; Ps 119:145-176

November

12Ki 14; 2Ti 4; Ho 7; Ps 120-122 22Ki 15; Tit 1; Ho 8; Ps 123-125 32Ki 16; Tit 2; Ho 9; Ps 126-128 42Ki 17; Tit 3; Ho 10; Ps 129-131 52Ki 18; Philemon; Ho 11; Ps 132-134 62Ki 19; He 1; Ho 12; Ps 135-136 72Ki 20; He 2; Ho 13; Ps 137-138 82Ki 21; He 3; Ho 14; Ps 139 92Ki 22; He 4; Joel 1; Ps 140-141 10 2Ki 23; He 5; Joel 2; Ps 142 11 2Ki 24; He 6; Joel 3; Ps 143 122Ki 25; He 7; Am 1; Ps 144 13 1Ch 1-2; He 8; Am 2; Ps 145 14 1Ch 3-4; He 9; Am 3; Ps 146-147 15 1Ch 5-6; He 10; Am 4; Ps 148-150 16 1Ch 7-8; He 11; Am 5; Lk 1:1-38

171Ch 9-10; He 12; Am 6; Lk 1:39-80
181Ch 11-12; He 13; Am 7; Lk 2
191Ch 13-14; Jas 1; Am 8; Lk 3
201Ch 15; Jas 2; Am 9; Lk 4
211Ch 16; Jas 3; Ob 1; Lk 5
221Ch 17; Jas 4; Jon 1; Lk 6
231Ch 18; Jas 5; Jon 2; Lk 7
241Ch 19-20; 1Pe 1; Jon 3; Lk 8
251Ch 21; 1Pe 2; Jon 4; Lk 9
261Ch 22; 1Pe 3; Mic 1; Lk 10
271Ch 23; 1Pe 4; Mic 2; Lk 11
281Ch 24-25; 1Pe 5; Mic 3; Lk 12
291Ch 26-27; 2Pe 1; Mic 4; Lk 13
301Ch 28; 2Pe 2; Mic 5; Lk 14

December

11Ch 29; 2Pe 3; Mic 6; Lk 15 22Ch 1; 1 Jn 1; Mic 7; Lk 16 **3**2Ch 2; 1 Jn 2; Nah 1; Lk 17 42Ch 3-4; 1 Jn 3; Nah 2; Lk 18 52Ch 5:1-6:11; 1 Jn 4; Nah 3; Lk 19 62Ch 6:12-42; 1 Jn 5; Hab 1; Lk 20 72Ch 7; 2Jn 1; Hab 2; Lk 21 8 2Ch 8; 3 Jn 1; Hab 3; Lk 22 92Ch 9; Jude; Zph 1; Lk 23 10 2Ch 10; Rev 1; Zph 2; Lk 24 112Ch 11-12; Rev 2; Zph 3; Jn 1 12 2Ch 13; Rev 3; Hag 1; In 2 13 2Ch 14-15; Rev 4; Hag 2; In 3 14 2Ch 16; Rev 5; Zech 1; Jn 4 15 2Ch 17; Rev 6; Zech 2; Jn 5 16 2Ch 18; Rev 7; Zech 3; Jn 6 172Ch 19-20; Rev 8; Zech 4; Jn 7 18 2Ch 21; Rev 9; Zech 5; Jn 8 19 2Ch 22-23; Rev 10; Zech 6; Jn 9 20 2Ch 24; Rev 11; Zech 7; Jn 10 21 2Ch 25; Rev 12; Zech 8; Jn 11 22 2Ch 26; Rev 13; Zech 9; Jn 12 23 2Ch 27-28; Rev 14; Zech 10; Jn 13 24 2Ch 29; Rev 15; Zech 11; Jn 14 25 2Ch 30; Rev 16; Zech 12:1-13:1; Jn 15 26 2Ch 31; Rev 17; Zech 13:2-9; Jn 16 272Ch 32; Rev 18; Zech 14; Jn 17 28 2Ch 33; Rev 19; Mal 1; Jn 18 29 2Ch 34; Rev 20; Mal 2; Jn 19 30 2Ch 35; Rev 21; Mal 3; Jn 20 31 2Ch 36; Rev 22; Mal 4; Jn 21

New City Catechism

PART 1

God, creation and fall, law

01

What is our only hope in life and death?

That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

Q 2

What is God?

God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will.

Q3

How many persons are there in God?

There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Q4

How and why did God create us?

God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.

Q 5

What else did God create?

God created all things by his powerful Word, and all his creation was very good; everything flourished under his loving rule.

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Children's answers are in **bold**.

06

How can we glorify God?

We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.

Q 7

What does the law of God require?

Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done.

Q8

What is the law of God stated in the Ten Commandments?

You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below—you shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.

Q9

What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

First, that we know and trust God as the only true and living God.
Second, that we avoid all idolatry and do not worship God improperly.
Third, that we treat God's name with fear and reverence, honoring also his Word and works.

Q 10

What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?

Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in public and private worship of God, rest from routine employment, serve the Lord and others, and so anticipate the eternal Sabbath. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother, submitting to their godly discipline and direction.

Q 11

What does God require in the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments?

Sixth, that we do not hurt, or hate, or be hostile to **our neighbor,** but be patient and peaceful, pursuing even our enemies with love. **Seventh, that**

we abstain from sexual immorality and live purely and faithfully, whether in marriage or in single life, avoiding all impure actions, looks, words, thoughts, or desires, and whatever might lead to them. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else, nor withhold any good from someone we might benefit.

0 12

What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive, but speak the truth in love. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone or resenting what God has given them or us.

0 13

Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.

0 14

Did God create us unable to keep his law?

No, but because of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, all of creation is fallen; we are all born in sin and guilt, corrupt in our nature and unable to keep God's law.

0 15

Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

That we may know the holy nature and will of God, and the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior. The law also teaches and exhorts us to live a life worthy of our Savior.

Q₁₆

What is sin?

Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law—resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation.

Q 17

What is idolatry?

Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.

Q 18

Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished?

No, every sin is against the sovereignty, holiness, and goodness of God, and against his righteous law, and God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them in his just judgment both in this life, and in the life to come.

Q 19

Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

Yes, to satisfy his justice, God himself, out of mere mercy, reconciles us to himself and delivers us from sin and from the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer.

Q 20

Who is the Redeemer?

The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, in whom God became man and bore the penalty for sin himself.

PART 2

Christ, redemption, grace

Q 21

What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

One who is truly human and also truly God.

022

Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses.

Q 23

Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.

Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?

Since death is the punishment for sin, Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God. By his substitutionary atoning death, he alone redeems us from hell and gains for us forgiveness of sin, righteousness, and everlasting life.

Q₂₅

Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God graciously imputes Christ's righteousness to us as if it were our own and will remember our sins no more.

Q26

What else does Christ's death redeem?

Christ's death is the beginning of the redemption and renewal of **every part of fallen creation**, as he powerfully directs all things for his own glory and creation's good.

Q 27

Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith. Nevertheless God in his mercy demonstrates common grace even to those who are not elect, by restraining the effects of sin and enabling works of culture for human well-being.

Q 28

What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith?

At the day of judgment they will receive the fearful but just sentence of condemnation pronounced against them. They will be cast out from the favorable presence of God, into hell, to be justly and grievously punished, forever.

029

How can we be saved?

Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the perfect righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in him.

Q30

What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Faith in Jesus Christ is acknowledging the truth of everything that God has revealed in his Word, trusting in him, and also receiving and resting on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Q31

What do we believe by true faith?

Everything taught to us in the gospel. The Apostles' Creed expresses what we believe in these words: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Q 32

What do justification and sanctification mean?

Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us.

Q 33

Should those who have faith in Christ seek their salvation through their own works, or anywhere else?

No, they should not, as everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ. To seek salvation through good works is a denial that Christ is the only Redeemer and Savior.

Q34

Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?

Yes, because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, also renews us by his Spirit; so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; so that we may be assured of our faith by the fruits; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

Q35

Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from?

All the gifts we receive **from** Christ we receive through **the Holy Spirit**, including faith itself.

PART 3

Spirit, restoration, growing in grace

Q36

What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?

That he is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son, and that God grants him irrevocably to all who believe.

Q37

How does the Holy Spirit help us?

The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, comforts us, guides us, gives us spiritual gifts and the desire to obey God; and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.

Q38

What is prayer?

Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God in praise, petition, confession of sin, and thanksgiving.

Q39

With what attitude should we pray?

With love, perseverance, and gratefulness; in humble submission to God's will, knowing that, for the sake of Christ, he always hears our prayers.

Q40

What should we pray?

The whole Word of God directs and inspires us in what we should pray, including the prayer Jesus himself taught us.

Q41

What is the Lord's Prayer?

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily

bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Q 42

How is the Word of God to be read and heard?

With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith, store it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

Q 43

What are the sacraments or ordinances?

The sacraments or ordinances given by God and instituted by Christ, namely **baptism and the Lord's Supper**, are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith by his death and resurrection. By our use of them the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.

Q 44

What is baptism?

Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to his church.

0 45

Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

No, only the blood of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from sin.

Q46

What is the Lord's Supper?

Christ commanded all Christians to eat bread and to drink from the cup in thankful remembrance of him and his death. The Lord's Supper is a celebration of the presence of God in our midst; bringing us into communion with God and with one another; feeding and nourishing our souls. It also anticipates the day when we will eat and drink with Christ in his Father's kingdom.

0 47

Does the Lord's Supper add anything to Christ's atoning work?

No, Christ died once for all. The Lord's Supper is a covenant meal celebrating Christ's atoning work; as it is also a means of strengthening our

faith as we look to him, and a foretaste of the future feast. But those who take part with unrepentant hearts eat and drink judgment on themselves.

Q 48

What is the church?

God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

Q 49

Where is Christ now?

Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us, until he returns to judge and renew the whole world.

Q 50

What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.

Q 51

Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension?

Christ physically ascended on our behalf, just as he came down to earth physically on our account, and he is now advocating for us in the presence of his Father, preparing a place for us, and also sends us his Spirit.

Q 52

What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

It reminds us that this present fallen world is not all there is; soon we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new city, in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be fully and forever freed from all sin and will inhabit renewed, resurrection bodies in a renewed, restored creation.

All I Have Is Christ



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Before The Throne Of God Above



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Behold Our God



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I Will Glory In My Redeemer



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O Great God



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A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



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Music: Martin Luther, 1529. Public Domain.

All Creatures Of Our God And King



Words: Francis of Assis, ca. 1225; Translated by William H. Draper, 1926.Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623. Public Domain.

Be Thou My Vision Unison D G D Α 1.Be thou vis sion, O Lord of my heart; my 2.Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; 3.Be thou bat - tle shield. fight; my sword for my 4.Rich - es heed not. nor man's emp - ty praise, 5.High King of heav - en, vic to my ry won, A/C# naught be all else to me, save that artwith thee and with Lord; ev - er thou me, be thou my dig - ni - ty, thou my de light, and al mine in her - i - tance, now ways: reach heav - en's jovs, O bright heav'n's Sun! thou my best thought, by day or by night, Fa ther, Ι thy thou my great true son, thou my soul's shel ter, thou high tow'r: my thou ly, first heart, thou and on in my Heart of fall, own heart, what - ev be my $_{\mathrm{D}}$ \neg D/F# D Em/G Em7 G/A Bmwak - ing sleep - ing, pres - ence light. orthy my

Words: Ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th cent.; Tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912. Music: Traditional Irish melody. Public Domain.

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Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing



Words: Robert Robinson, 1758; alt. Music. Asahel Nettleton, 1825. Public Domain.



Words: Thomas Ken, 1709. Music: Louis Bourgeois's Genevan Psalter, 1551. Public Domain.

Fairest Lord Jesus



Words: Münster Gesangbuch, 1677; Tr. anon. 1850, 1873. Music: Schlesische Volkslieder, Leipzig, 1842. Public Domain.



Words: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826. Music: John B. Dykes, 1861. Public Domain.

How Firm a Foundation



Words: Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787.

Music: Traditional American melody; Caldwell's Union Harmony, 1837. Public Domain.

Immortal, Invisible D۶ B♭m Fm Ab/Eb 1.Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - lv wise, 2.Un - frest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, all, life thou giv - est— to both great and small, 4.Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pur Fa - ther of light, Fm light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; true life all; in all life thou liv - est—the of an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; Eb/G Ab/C bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient Days, jus - tice, like moun - tains, high bove thy soar - ing a blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree, praise we would ren - der— O help see Ab/C Εb Fm B♭m/D♭ Εb Ab/Eb Ab might - y, vic - to - rious—thy praise. great name we clouds, which are foun-tains love. ofgood - ness and with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - eth thee. on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867. Music: Traditional Welsh hymn melody. Public Domain.

It Is Well With My Soul



Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873. Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1876. Public Domain.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863. Music: *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665. Public Domain.

Other Praise and Worship Songs

Across the Lands (Getty/Townend)

Be Unto Your Name (Sadler/DeShazo)

Beautiful Savior (Townend)

Cornerstone/Solid Rock (Mote/Lijero/Myrin/Morgan/Bradbury)

Holy Spirit (Getty/Townend)

How Deep the Father's Love for Us (Townend)

In Christ Alone (Getty/Townend)

Jesus Paid It All/O Praise the One (Nifong/Hall/Grape)

Knowing You (Kendrick)

My Heart Is Filled (Getty/Townend)

O Church Arise (Getty/Townend)

Psalm 62 (Townend/Keyes)

Speak O Lord (Getty/Townend)

The Power of the Cross (Getty/Townend)

The Wonderul Cross (Watts/Tomlin/Reeves/Walt/Mason)

We Will Glorify (Paris)

Wonderful, Merciful Savior (Rodgers/Wyse)