



~ COMMUNICANTS CLASS ~

REDEEMER KIDS

FOR PARENTS

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I. REQUIREMENTS

A. AGE

The Session of Redeemer have approved the approximate age of eight years old to become a Youth Communicant. We believe that a child of this age is capable of understanding the gospel, trusting Christ as their Savior, and taking part in the sacraments. Some children may come to know Christ earlier, but this is intended as a guideline.

B. WILLING INITIATION

Salvation, church membership, and partaking of the sacraments are serious matters of the heart. Though we require parental training and preparation for children, they should express a desire on their own in these things and not be coerced by parents or anyone else.

C. PARENTAL INSTRUCTION

While the elders of the church will be teaching and assisting with the material, this course is designed to be presented by parents in four lessons. Each child must undergo a series of training sessions with his parents as teachers before being examined by the Session. Parents are responsible to shepherd their child's heart in this process. They are to make sure the child completes each assignment and understands the content of the lesson in both head and heart.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

Redeemer believes that Scripture gives the Christian father the primary responsibility for the spiritual training of his children. We are committed to helping the father, with the support of his wife, evangelize and disciple his children. In homes where the mother is the only parent, she would accept the responsibility with the support of the church. This will not only fulfill a biblical mandate but hopefully foster a closer relationship between parents and children by communicating on a more intimate level and spending more focused time together.

When all the lessons, assignments and memory lessons have been learned, the parents must ask themselves the following important questions:

1. Is it clear to me that my child has exhibited he or she knows Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord both through knowledge of the facts and the fruit of their life?
2. Does my child understand what it means to be a member of Christ's church and responsibilities thereof?
3. Does my child realize the importance of the Lord's Supper and the consequences to those who partake of it in an unworthy manner?
4. Does my child's desire to be a communicant member equal or supersede my own desire to see him/her join?
5. Am I willing, even after spending the time on this course, to delay my child's joining if I have any doubt about his/her salvation or genuine interest in membership?

III. EXAMINATION

Upon completion of the course and affirmative answers to the preceding questions, an elder will follow up with the parents and they will be asked to discuss and confirm the readiness of their child for communicant membership. At that time, a date will be set for examination by the elders. Please know it is our desire to shepherd and walk alongside parents no matter how you might feel about your child's readiness.

LESSON 1

SIN – MEMBERSHIP VOW 1

FOR ADULTS

Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving his displeasure, and without hope save in his sovereign mercy?

FOR KIDS

DO YOU ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER IN GOD'S SIGHT, DESERVING HIS ANGER AND HOPELESS WITHOUT HIS MERCY?

BIBLE STUDY TIME:

THEME: We are all sinners. Sin is any lack of conformity to or transgression of God's law. We need a Savior!

PART ONE: CREATION (GENESIS 1:27-2:17)

Q3: Why did God make you and all things?

A3: For His own glory.

Q4: How can you glorify God?

A4: By loving him and doing what he commands.

Q5: Why are you to glorify God?

A5: Because he made me and takes care of me.

LET'S TALK:

- What does it mean to “glorify” God? How do we glory God?
- What does it mean to “enjoy” God? Do you enjoy him?
- What things do you enjoy more than him?
- What does it mean that we were made in the image of God?
- What were Adam and Eve supposed to do?
- What were Adam and Eve not allowed to do?

PART TWO: FALL (GENESIS 3:1-24)

LET'S TALK:

- What happened in the garden? Explain the story (in your own words).
- How did things change? (i.e. What did Adam and Eve do after their sin?)
- How did their relationship with God change? How did their relationship with each other change?
- What effect did sin have on all that God had made?
- Discuss the categories of guilt and ruin.

PART THREE: SIN

Q29: What is sin?

A29: Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God.

Q30: What is meant by lack of conformity?

A30: Not being or doing what God requires.

Q31: What is meant by transgression?

A31: Doing what God forbids.

LET'S TALK:

- What is sin?
- What is one thing you do that God commands you not to do?
- What is one thing God commands you to do that you don't do?
- What does God think of sin?
- What punishment does God tell us that sin deserves?
- Do you know that you are a sinner? How does someone who knows they are a sinner act?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

You are created in God's image and no one else is like you. List two things in the space below you like about the way God created you?

Write down one strength or gift or talent he has given you. How can you use your gift to bring glory to God?

Write out the following verses. Try to explain them in your own words.

ROMANS 3:23

ROMANS 6:23

Think about your life this week. Make a list of three sins you are guilty of on a regular basis. Think about these things. Why do you do them? What is your heart motivation in doing them?

#1

#2

#3

PERSONAL REFLECTION

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

Look up James 1:13-15. According to these verses, check the right one to blame when we sin.

- God
- Satan
- Ourselves and what we want
- Other people - parents, siblings, friends, etc.

HOMEWORK (WITH PARENTS)

1. MEMORIZE CATECHISM QUESTIONS 29-31.

Q29: What is sin?

A29: Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God.

Q30: What is meant by lack of conformity?

A30: Not being or doing what God requires.

Q31: What is meant by transgression?

A31: Doing what God forbids.

2. MEMORIZE ROMANS 3:23 & ROMANS 6:23.

3. PARENTS OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING AND DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD.

- Does your child know that he/she is a sinner? Does he/she live as if they know they are a sinner?
- Does your child readily confess his/her wrong-doing in conflict or does he/she consistently blame-shift or deny any guilt in the conflict?
- Is he/she quick to confess sin and seek forgiveness? (Is he/she a good repenter?)
- When he/she is caught in sin, ask questions like, “Why did you do that?” Is he/she able to diagnose the roots of their sinful behavior?
- Do they know their heart?

LESSON 2

SALVATION – MEMBERSHIP VOW 2

FOR ADULTS

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him for salvation as He is offered to you in the gospel?

FOR KIDS

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD AND THE SAVIOR OF SINNERS? DO YOU RECEIVE HIM BY FAITH AND TRUST HIM ALONE FOR YOUR SALVATION?

BIBLE STUDY TIME:

THEME: Jesus is a Savior of sinners. All you need to be saved is nothing!

PART ONE: GOD'S HOLINESS (ROMANS 3:10–26)

Q23: What covenant did God make with Adam?

A23: The covenant of life.

Q24: What is a covenant?

A24: A relationship that God establishes with us and guarantees by his word.

Q25: In the covenant of life, what did God require Adam to do?

A25: To obey God perfectly.

Q26: What did God promise in the covenant of life?

A26: To reward Adam with life if he obeyed God perfectly.

Q27: What did God threaten in the covenant of life?

A27: To punish Adam with death if he disobeyed God.

LET'S TALK:

- Why was the requirement that Adam and Even obey God perfectly?
- Discuss God's holiness
- God is holy. What does that mean?
- How can God forgive sin and still be just?
- If perfect obedience is what is required of us to be saved, then can we ever be saved through our own works?
- How, then, can we be saved?

PART TWO: SALVATION IN CHRIST (2 CORINTHIANS 5:21)

LET'S TALK:

- Do you believe that Jesus was and is God?
- Do you believe that he became a man in order to save man?
- What does Paul mean when he says, "He made him who knew no sin, to be sin for us..."?
- Did Jesus ever sin?
- Remember the 3 sins you came up with in your homework assignment. Think of a time in Jesus' life when he was tempted to sin in a similar way. Did he ever fall into temptation? Or was he perfectly obedient?
- Explain the "Great Exchange"
- What is the Gospel?

PART THREE: FAITH & REPENTANCE

Q58: What must you do to be saved?

A58: I must repent of my sin and believe in Christ as my Savior.

Q59: How do you repent of your sin?

A59: I must be sorry for my sin, and hate and forsake it.

Q61: What does it mean to believe in Christ?

A61: To trust in Christ alone for my salvation.

Q62: Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?

A62: No. I cannot repent and believe unless the Holy Spirit changes my heart.

LET'S TALK:

- How do you become a Christian? What do you have to do? (3 things)
- What is repentance?
- What is faith?

HOMEWORK (WITH PARENTS)

1. MEMORIZE CATECHISM QUESTIONS 58-59 & 61-62.

Q58: What must you do to be saved?

A58: I must repent of my sin and believe in Christ as my Savior.

Q59: How do you repent of your sin?

A59: I must be sorry for my sin, and hate and forsake it.

Q61: What does it mean to believe in Christ?

A61: To trust in Christ alone for my salvation.

Q62: Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?

A62: No. I cannot repent and believe unless the Holy Spirit changes my heart.

2. MEMORIZE EPHESIANS 2:8-9.

3. PARENTS OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING AND DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD.

- Discuss together what it means to not only repent of sins but also to repent of righteousness (i.e. all of the things we're looking to for standing with God).
- Talk with him/her about how you became a Christian. (Share your testimony with them.)
- Lead them in a prayer of repentance and faith (see below).

"FATHER IN HEAVEN, YOU ARE HOLY AND YOU HATE SIN. I AM A SINNER AND DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED FOR MY SIN. THANK YOU FOR SENDING YOUR SON JESUS TO DIE IN MY PLACE AND TO OBEY FOR ME. I REPENT OF MY SINS AND TRUST IN HIM ALONE FOR SALVATION. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN."

LESSON 3

HOLINESS – MEMBERSHIP VOW 3

FOR ADULTS

Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

FOR KIDS

DO YOU PROMISE THAT, WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GRACE/HELP, YOU WILL SEEK TO LIVE LIKE SOMEONE WHO FOLLOWS JESUS?

BIBLE STUDY TIME:

THEME: We are saved by faith alone, but saving faith is never alone.

PART ONE: REGENERATION (JOHN 3:1-9 & EZEKIEL 36:25-27)

Q32: What does every sin deserve?

A32: The wrath and curse of God.

Q39: What is the sinful nature that we inherit from Adam called?

A39: Original sin.

Q40: Can anyone go to heaven with this sinful nature?

A40: No. Our hearts must be changed before we can believe in Jesus and go to heaven.

Q41: What is this change of heart called?

A41: The new birth, or regeneration.

Q42: Who can change a sinner's heart?

A42: The Holy Spirit alone.

LET'S TALK:

- What does it mean to be born again?
- Why do we need a new heart? What does Ezekiel say our old hearts are like?
- What happens when we get a new heart? (What does Ezekiel say?)
- Do you think you have experienced the change of heart that the Bible talks about being a part of our salvation in Jesus?
- Explain “regeneration”

PART TWO: SANCTIFICATION

READ ROMANS 6:1-8

- Explain “sanctification”
- What do you think it means to follow Jesus?
- What kinds of things did Jesus do? How did he act? How was he weird?
- How does being a Christian practically change the way you live?
- What kinds of things do other people do that you are not permitted to do as a Christian? What kinds of things does Jesus command you to do that may make you look weird to other people?

READ 1 PETER 4:12-13

- What does this verse tell us will be the result of following Jesus?
- Are you ready to suffer for Jesus?
- Can you think of ways that you are already suffering because of your family's commitment to follow Jesus?
- What does God promise us in the Bible that helps us in times of suffering?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

- What does this verse say is the goal of God's working in our life?
- How do we grow to be more like Jesus? (Is it through trying hard or through faith?)
- Is this our work or the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

PART THREE: MEANS

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6-7

- In these verses Paul describes growth in sanctification by talking about gardening. How does this help us understand how we grow in our faith?
- Have you ever had a garden? Can you make the plants grow? What can you do?
- If the Holy Spirit is in charge of our growth in sanctification, does that mean that we don't have to do anything?
- What kinds of things does God command us to do that help us grow?
- Explain the "means of grace"
- What are the means of grace?
- Have you ever read the Bible before? Do you have a regular pattern for prayer? What kinds of things can you do to get the most out of church on Sundays?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

What is one area of sin where you know you need to grow? Write it in the space below. Look up some Bible passages that speak to this issue and write them in the space below also. (Have your parents help you if you need help).

Take time to pray this week about this sin and ask God to help you, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to overcome it. Pay attention! Did God answer your prayers? Did you notice any change in this area this week? (Ask your parents or your brothers and sisters if they saw any difference.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

Ask a parent/pastor/friend to pray for you in your struggle against this particular sin. Write down the name of the person who is going to pray for you below:

Think about the following list of spiritual disciplines. Write a couple of sentences about how you and your family are trying to practice them in your daily life. Think about some different ways you might be able to begin to make these a bigger part of your life.

#1 Scripture reading and memory

#2 Prayer

#3 Communion of the saints (Worship service, Community Groups, Youth Group)

#4 Good Christian friends

HOMEWORK (WITH PARENTS)

1. MEMORIZE CATECHISM QUESTIONS 32, 39-42.

Q32: What does every sin deserve?

A32: The wrath and curse of God.

Q39: What is the sinful nature that we inherit from Adam called?

A39: Original sin.

Q40: Can anyone go to heaven with this sinful nature?

A40: No. Our hearts must be changed before we can believe in Jesus and go to heaven.

Q41: What is this change of heart called?

A41: The new birth, or regeneration.

Q42: Who can change a sinner's heart?

A42: The Holy Spirit alone.

2. MEMORIZE EPHESIANS 2:10.

3. PARENTS OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING AND DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD.

- Do you see in your child evidence of a new heart? If not, talk with them about what that would look like and pray together for a new heart.
- Share part of your own struggle against sin with them. What steps are you taking to gain victories in those areas of your life?
- Talk with him/her about the means of grace. If you are not already doing so, discuss ways that you could consistently practice the spiritual disciplines of Bible study and prayer together. (for example Community Bible Reading and CBR Journaling)
- Talk about corporate worship and Community Groups. Discuss with him/her how they could get the most out of church on Sunday mornings. Encourage them to sing the songs and think about the words. Buy them a notebook so they can take notes during the sermon. Talk to them on Sunday afternoons about their classes that morning.

LESSON 4

CHURCH – MEMBERSHIP VOW 4 & 5

FOR ADULTS

Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your abilities?

Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church and promise to study its purity and its peace?

FOR KIDS

DO YOU PROMISE TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH IN ITS WORSHIP AND WORK AS BEST YOU CAN?

DO YOU SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH AND ITS DISCIPLINE? WILL YOU DO ALL YOU CAN TO MAKE THE CHURCH PURE AND PEACEFUL?

BIBLE STUDY TIME:

THEME: To be in a relationship with Jesus means to be in a relationship with his people.

PART ONE: SERVING IN THE CHURCH

READ EPHESIANS 4:7-16

- What are “spiritual gifts”? Why does Jesus give spiritual gifts to his people?
- What are some of the “gifts” Jesus gave to his church that are mentioned here in these verses?
- What does Paul say happens when these people who have been gifted to the church by Jesus are doing their jobs (hint: the answer is in vs. 12-13)? Explain in details vs. 12-13.
- Eph 4:15-16 says that it is not only pastors and teachers that help the church grow to maturity but that each part must work properly. Discuss the idea of the priesthood of believers.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-31

- What spiritual gifts does Paul mention in these verses? Take time to explain what each of these gifts are.
- Can you think of other gifts/talents that God might give to people that aren't mentioned here?
- Are there some spiritual gifts that are more important than others?
- Discuss how you come to know what your spiritual gifts are.
- Discuss the concept of serving vs. consuming. What do the categories "worship" and "work" mean? (What is the work of the church? How do we determine how to serve in the church toward that goal?)

GOSPEL CONNECTION (MATTHEW 20:28)

- Did Jesus come to be served or to serve?

PART TWO: SUBMITTING TO THE CHURCH

READ HEBREWS 13:17-18

- What are "spiritual gifts"? Why does Jesus give spiritual gifts to his people?
- What is submission?
- Who all does the Bible ask you to submit to?
- What are the leaders in our church called? What are their responsibilities? (Explain Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders and Deacons and their roles)
- Explain the concepts of "government" and "discipline" in the church. Why is discipline a good thing? What should our attitude toward discipline be?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

- Did Jesus resent being in submission to his Heavenly Father or was it a joy to Him?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

Make a list of the talents you have? What are you good at? What kinds of things do you enjoy doing the most?

What other things has God given you - time, “treasures” (money or possessions)?

Think about how you could use your time, talents, and treasures to serve other people. Read Matthew 20:26-28. Put into your own words what Jesus says in these verses.

Describe each of the following leaders in our church in your own words. (Do you know the names of any of these leaders in our church?) Tell about what they do and how you should respond to their leadership:

#1 Teaching Elder

#2 Ruling Elder

#3 Deacons

HOMEWORK (WITH PARENTS)

1. MEMORIZE MATTHEW 20:28.

2. PARENTS OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING AND DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD.

- Do you see in your child a fundamental selfishness? Is he/she willing to share with others? How does he/she serve your family (i.e. younger brothers and sisters or friends)?
- Talk together about how your family is using your time, talents, and treasures to serve other people. Dream together about ways you could do more of this.
- How does he/she respond to discipline? How does their response expose their heart attitude towards discipline? Give a personal testimony from your own life where discipline proved to be a good thing.
- Talk with him/her about what it means to submit. Give an example from your own life about a time you had to submit.



REDEEMER KIDS

BEHOLD, CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE
FROM THE LORD, THE FRUIT OF THE
WOMB, A REWARD. LIKE ARROWS IN
THE HAND OF A WARRIOR ARE THE
CHILDREN OF ONE'S YOUTH.

~ PSALM 127:3-4 ~