

Bible ABC's



and Catechism

All three of our children were raised on a Bible ABC book. Over some 20 years the little book has been shredded by constant use. It provided our children with some of the

essentials of sin, salvation, sanctification and service to God. My wife and I fondly remember those years when we taught our children these wonderful verses, praying that God would open their eyes and cause them to be born again. My wife especially spent hours reviewing these verses and going through the catechism written out on an old notebook, pounding them into those precious minds.

As a pastor I was searching for the same Bible ABC book to give to the parents of Graceview Presbyterian Church, and discovered it was out of print and those that were available were tremendously over priced. We need such a book in our Church.

This new edition is especially designed for Presbyterians and those who appreciate the good theology of the Children's Catechism. This is written from a paedobaptist view point. It teaches good Presbyterian theology. My prayer is that this will be used of God to draw many covenant children to the Savior, and nurture their faith.

John Tucker

Graceview ARP Church Southaven, MS

This book is to be used to lay a spiritual foundation for young children ages 4-10. The verses should be memorized and then the corresponding catechism questions. The verses

and the questions are meant to compliment each other. This is a simple way to introduce children to the concept of catechizing, which is a series of questions and answers. The early Church called their converts, catechumens. John Calvin and Martin Luther used this concept to teach basic theology.

Make it fun! Provide your children with some reward or treat for successfully learning these verses and questions. Come up with a system that is exciting. Be creative and use this system in such a way that your children will want to learn these verses.

Be persistent. Go all the way through the book and don't stop. It will take a commitment on your part. Your children will learn some good verses and great truth, if you can keep on keeping on.

The objective is to introduce children to Christ and show them their need. I believe children can profess faith in Christ. It is my desire to reach Covenant children at an early age so that there is not a day that they do not remember knowing Christ.

A

ll we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6



Sheep are cute and cuddly animals. Their soft white wool is beautiful and keeps us warm in the cold of winter. But sheep are not very smart animals and have to be watched continually by a shepherd. They will wander off and get into trouble. The shepherd has to be constantly alert for their safety. Our verse reminds us that in Adam we have all gone astray and sinned. Our catechism question reminds us that we went astray not simply because of our own sinful acts but because of Adam's sin. Because we are Adam's

children we are all sinners and in need of a savior.

Q 36 What is that sinful nature which we inherit from Adam called?

A: Original sin.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.
Acts 16:31

You were baptized as an infant because your parents believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. God includes children of believing parents in the Covenant Promise. In Genesis 17:7 the Bible says that God will be a God to parents and to their children. In Acts 2:39 the Bible says the promise is to you and to your children. The Covenant Promise is still operating today. One day you will need to personally trust Christ as your Savior. This is called a profession of faith and is necessary for you to become a Christian. Believing in Christ isn't just knowing that he is the Son of God who died on the cross for your sins. Belief is to trust Christ personally. It means to rest upon Christ as you would sit on a chair and place your whole weight upon his grace. Have you trusted Christ as your Savior?



Q 57 What is it to believe or have faith in Christ?
A. To Trust in Christ alone for salvation.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (Eph 6:1)

Families are important. God has placed parents over children as their authority for instruction and discipline. God's way is for the older and more mature to teach the immature. God's way is rule by parents in the home. Moses commanded dads and moms to teach their children the essentials of the faith. Children are to receive God's truth with open hearts so that the good word produces fruit. Parents are God's gift. Love and obey your parents even when you don't agree with them and God will bless you with long life. God loves obedience, especially when children obey their parents. Honoring parents is the first commandment with a promise.



- Q 92. What does the fifth commandment teach us?
A. To love and obey our parents and teachers.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. James 4:8

Sin separates people from God. God loves us very much but he does not love our sin. Christ died on the cross and paid the awful penalty for sin so that we could be freed from sin. We think that sin makes us feel good but it actually hurts and harms us. Sin is like a weed that if it is not removed from our hearts will grow and take control of our hearts. God's way is called repenting. It is turning from sin and embracing God. The wonderful promise of the Gospel is that if we turn from our sin and turn to him we will be forgiven. We draw near to God when we repent.



Q 56 What is it to repent?

A. To be sorry for sin, and to hate and forsake it because it is displeasing to God.

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right. Prov 20:11

Do you think this little boy is supposed to be eating these cookies? It appears as if he is taking them without his mother's permission. That is too bad. He is only cheating himself. He is disobeying his mother and his character is hurt. He may think that his mother can't see him and its time to eat those cookies. But what about God? Does he not know that God always sees him? God is everywhere. Its important for children to feel responsible for their acts and to be taught to live in the presence of God. This helps develop godly character. Being good does not earn God's pleasure but being good reflects gratitude for God's grace.



Q 11. Can you see God?

A. No I cannot see God but he always sees me.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom 6:23

The price of sin is too high. Adam and Eve were thrown out of the beautiful Garden of Eden because they sinned. No longer could they walk with God and enjoy the beautiful trees and eat the delicious fruit and smell the flowers. There were no thistles, thorns or weeds to spoil the garden. It really was heaven on earth. Why would they sin against God who loved them and took care of their every need? Eve listened to the serpent who questioned God's word. She picked the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and gave it to Adam. Your sin cost the Lord Jesus his life. Have you received the gift of eternal life and trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your savior?



Q 37. What does every sin deserve?

A. The wrath and curse of God.

G

od is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)

God is like a mountain. He is strong and secure. He cannot be moved no matter how bad or difficult life gets God will not be moved. Jesus put it like this in the sermon on the Mt He said that whoever listens to his words is like a man who builds his house on a rock. It has a strong foundation and cannot be washed away. The foolish man built his house on the sand and when the rains came it was washed away. Which one do you want to build your spiritual life on; the rock solid promises of God or the soft sand of this world? If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior then you have a strong, solid foundation to build your life on. Our catechism question reminds us that security and safety in life begins with God. It is very short and simple but the most important truth you will ever learn.



Q 1. Who made you?
A. God

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, (Psa 23:2)



These sheep are resting quietly because their shepherd has brought them to a place where they can eat and drink. It feels good to be full! Sheep can't take care of themselves and need someone to lead them to pastures for food and they will only drink water that is still like in a pond. Their shepherd meets all their needs. Jesus is our good shepherd who knows us and cares for us. You can rest at night without worry or fear because your good shepherd will care for you. Our catechism question reminds us that God is everywhere and we can confidently trust him.

Q 9 Where is God?

A. God is everywhere

If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it. (John 14:14)

These are some of our brave soldiers who are bringing freedom to the land of Iraq. It is a hard and dangerous job. They know that the battle is not won by guns and tanks but by the help of God. War is an awful thing. Many of these men are fathers of small children and they would much rather be home than living in such a dangerous place. But they know that even in Iraq God can hear their prayers and help them. These are big strong men but they are humbly kneeling down and praying. You and I don't have to wait until we get in a battle before we learn to pray. Our catechism question reminds us that even a little child can pray and God will answer those prayers. God is the one who invites us to pray.



Q 105. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is asking God for the things which he promised.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Why did Jesus have to die? That is an important question that every child of the covenant should understand. Jesus did not have to die for his own sin for he was the perfect and sinless Son of God.



Jesus died for the sins of his elect people; those who have trusted him as their savior and love him. This is called the atonement. It comes from the words “At one ment.” Sin breaks our fellowship with God but Jesus by his death makes us “at one with God.” We could never become one with God by our own good works or by our selves. Thank God tonight that Jesus died on the cross for your sin and receive him as your savior.

Q 48. What is meant by the Atonement?

A. Christ’s satisfying divine justice by his death, in the place of sinners.

Keepest thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Psalm 34:13

The tongue can be used either to bring blessing or evil. This missionary has chosen to use his tongue for blessing. He is telling these children the good news that Jesus died on the cross to save them from their sins. He is using his tongue to serve God. What better way to use your tongue than to share God's love with others! The tongue can also be used to speak evil and bring pain and hurt to others. It is in our tongue that we learn that we are sinners and have broken God's law. Will you choose to use your tongue to speak blessing or evil?



Q 28. What is sin?

A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

L

ook unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth for I am God, and there is none else. Isaiah 45:22



Only God can save you. You cannot save yourself by being a good person. Reading your Bible or going to Church and Sunday school or doing any other religious act can't save. Because of original sin we are all sinners and don't meet God's standard of absolute perfection. Our hearts must be changed. If you have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your savior that means that your heart has been changed. You cannot go to heaven without trusting Christ. If you were baptized as an infant your baptism reminds you are a sinner and in need to be saved and trust Christ as your

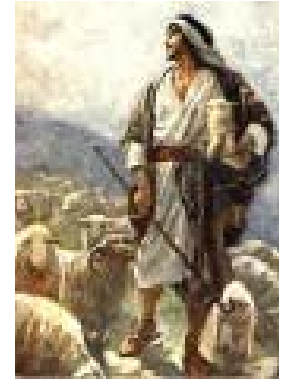
savior. Baptism does not save you but is a symbol of the Holy Spirit's work of washing us from our sin.

Q 130. Why should infants be baptized?

A. Because they have a sinful nature and need a Savior?

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27

Children are important to God and are included in the Covenant if their parents are Christians. We baptize infants or children because God included them in His promise. This is a very special relationship. The Apostle Peter reminded the people on the day of Pentecost, “The promise is to you and your children.” You are given a place of special privilege in the Church. This also means that you have a special responsibility. Martin Luther said that we must improve our baptism by following Jesus. He is your good shepherd and now you must make it your goal to please him.



Q132. To what does your baptism bind you?
To be a true follower of Christ.

Now is Christ risen from the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:20



When the two ladies visited the tomb of Jesus on the first Easter morning they were afraid. They didn't know who would roll the stone away and they didn't know if the Roman soldiers would let them near the grave. They loved Jesus and wanted to prepare his body for burial. When they arrived, the Roman soldiers were trembling and could not speak and the tomb was empty. Standing right there were two angels who told them that Jesus was not there. They ran to tell the other disciples the good news that Jesus was alive! He had risen from the dead. A living savior means that you and I will one day live. Death has been conquered and cannot hold us captive.

Q137. Did Christ remain in the tomb after His crucifixion?

A. No; He rose from the tomb on the third day after his death.

O

give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth forever. Psalm 118:1



These people are doing the most important work in the whole world. They are worshipping God. They are not lawyers, doctors, policemen or firemen but they are praising God. They were learning some songs for the closing program of Bible School. One of their daily activities was learning to praise God. Worship is not a mindless activity but something we do first of all because of the greatness of God. He has been merciful to us and not punished us, as our sins deserve but laid

them on the Lord Jesus Christ. God is so good and gracious. Why don't you worship God and thank him for his goodness and mercy right now? Many of the psalms were used in worship and are where many of our hymns originate. Worship is so important that God gave us a special day that should be spent in praise and worship. Make Sunday a special day by spending time in prayer and praise to God. Read Psalm 33, 34, 46, 50, 89, 92, 95 and 100 and they will direct you to give thanks to God.

Q 90. How should the Sabbath be spent?

A. In prayer and praise, in hearing and reading God's Word, and in doing good to our fellow men.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
Ephesians 6:11

Soldiers wore armor for protection. The metal protected their bodies front and back from the attacks of their enemy. They also had weapons, swords and spears to fight the enemy. We are involved in a spiritual battle and need God's help and protection. Our great enemy the Devil tempted Adam to eat the forbidden fruit and he will also tempt us to disobey God's Law. Like Joshua who led the people into the Promised Land and fought against the enemies of God, we must use God's resources. We cannot win the battle in our own strength but need God's help through the Holy Spirit. God's resources are available through the Bible and prayer.



Q 59. How can you get the help of the Holy Spirit?

A. God has told us that we must pray to him for the Holy Spirit.

Q

uench not the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:19



The Holy Spirit is a person. He is not a “thing” or “it” but the third person of the Trinity. He is equal in power, glory and authority with the Father and the Son. We need the Holy Spirit’s power every day to resist sin and to do what pleases the Father. These children are honoring the Spirit because they are listening and learning about Jesus in his word. To quench the Spirit means to put out his fire. We do this by hardening our hearts, and refusing to listen like the Israelites did in the wilderness. (See Psalm 95) When you are in Sunday School or Church or at home, this is a

good time to listen to God by paying attention to his word, or your teachers, or parents. The Holy Spirit will help you.

Q58. Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?

No; I can do nothing good without the help of God’s Holy Spirit.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Ecclesiastes 12:1

God created this child. He gave this special gift to his parents to care for and bring up in the way of the Lord. This baby is a child of the covenant. His parents are Christians and members of the Church so their child is receiving the mark of the covenant. God is claiming this child. Baptism is a symbol of God's covenant promise. These parents will read the Bible and teach the catechism to their child at home, and take him to Sunday School and Church and other services. They hope that one day their child will trust Christ as savior and serve God. They won't wait until the child is a teen ager or older to tell him about Jesus because they want him to grow up knowing God. The time to learn about God is today.



Q 2 What else did God make?
A. All things.

Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. Psalm 96:2



Jesus loves to hear children sing, and so do most adults. There is nothing so sweet and sincere as the voices of little ones giving glory to God. One time when Jesus was going to the temple church some of the leaders got upset with Jesus because the children were praising and singing “Hosanna, Hosanna to the Son of David,” and they were indignant. The leaders of the temple church did not know that Jesus was the Son of God and died as the Savior and so they could not sing to him. They were still sinners and needed to have their hearts changed by the Holy Spirit. This is called regeneration and makes a person want to sing to Jesus and praise him not just on Sunday but everyday. Has Jesus changed your heart? Pray and trust Christ as your Savior and then sing to the Lord and bless his name. We really do have something to sing about.

Q. 39 What is this change of heart called?

A. Regeneration

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. Proverbs 3:5



Soon you will be going to school or learning at home the ABC's. These are the "First things" of your education. Sometimes they are called "reading, writing and arithmetic." Following Jesus is much like going to school. With Jesus one of the most important things is learning to trust God. Trust begins with knowing who God is. Where will you learn about God? The Bible is where we learn about who God is and how dependable he is. God made a covenant with Abraham and included his children. As a child of the covenant you can learn to trust God from your earliest years. My prayer is that you will know Jesus from your infancy.

Q. 14. Where do you learn how to love and obey God?

A. In the Bible alone.

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious. 1 Peter 2:7

There is a story about a goose that laid golden eggs. The person who owned the goose would always be a rich person. It wasn't really true but people have always dreamed about having all the gold in the world. Gold has always been valuable. Even in Bible times people knew the value of glittering gold. Gold is very expensive and valuable today. It cost much money to buy a solid gold necklace or ring. For the Christian the Lord Jesus is more precious than the most expensive gold. He died on the cross and shed his precious blood to save us from our sin. He has redeemed us not with silver or gold but with his blood which was shed before the world was created. We could never repay him or buy or salvation but we can trust him as our savior, give him praise, read his word, love, obey and glorify him. We love and glorify God because he is precious.



Q 5 Why ought you to glorify God?

A. Because he made me and takes care of me.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. John 6:47



These people are having fun in the sun. This was a Church youth outing that took place at a nearby lake. We really enjoy the water and having fun. It was a warm day and the water was cool and the scenery beautiful. I can't wait to get back there. I often joke and say that heaven is a lake. Heaven will be better than a lake. It will be beautiful and happy. You don't have to wait until you get to heaven to enjoy everlasting life. It begins the moment you trust Jesus as your savior. You pass from death to live, immediately.

Q 145. What is heaven?

A. A glorious and happy place, where the righteous shall live forever with the Lord.

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8



These people are worshipping at Bonclarken, where ARP's come together at the yearly meeting of our Church called Synod. They were not always good Christians who loved praising and serving God. Before they professed faith in Christ they were sinners born in a state of sin and misery. It was awful. They were God's enemies and rejected his word and his Son the Lord Jesus. But God loved them first. Even when they were sinners God loved them and sent his Son to die on the cross. He loved them before the world was created, and before they were even born. God didn't love us because of our goodness but because of his covenant. He is a great and gracious God who loves us even when we are not perfect.

Q 35 What effect had the sin of Adam on all mankind?

A. All mankind are born in a state of sin and misery.

Xcept a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3

A baby is given birth by a mother. I have three children and was present for all three of their births. It was a miracle to watch those three precious little lives begin, two boys and a girl. All three were special. But they had nothing to do with their birth. None of them remembers that they came out kicking and screaming. Their life was a gift of God. Spiritual life is also a work of the Spirit and does not begin with you. We want you to know from the beginning that the miracle of new life begins with the giver of life, The Holy Spirit. If you do not know Jesus as your Savior, pray and ask him to give you new life and trust Christ as your savior...

**YOU MUST BE
BORN
AGAIN**

Q 40. Who can change a sinner's heart?

A. The Holy Spirit alone.

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. (John 15:14)



This is my wife's family in Indiana. We have been getting together in in the summer for almost 30 years. Every year we would drive hundreds of miles up to Indiana so we could be with them. We didn't drive those many miles and often at night because we had to, but because we love them and wanted to be with them. God loves us and is pleased when we obey Him. He calls us his friends. What greater compliment than to be called the friends of God. We love him and serve Him out of gratitude for his great love.

Q 78. Is God pleased with those who love and obey Him?

A. Yes; He says, "I love them that love me.

Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O LORD. (Psa 97:8)

How can you tell that this building is a Church? You can tell by the steeple and cross. If you could see the inside you could see the pews, pulpit, communion table and baptismal font. The Church is distinguished or different from other places. The Church is where God's people worship and is special to God. Zion is the Old Testament name for the Church. The Church has always been special to God. He gave us the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper to distinguish his people Zion from the rest of the world. The Church is different in a good way. I am glad to be a part of God's special people so that I may praise Him not just on Sunday but everyday.



Q125. Q. Why did Christ appoint these sacraments?

A. To distinguish his disciples from the world, and to comfort and strengthen them.