



Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Evening Prayer

Level III
&
Level IV

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Bible Passages

Primary

Where morning dawns and evening fades You call forth songs of joy. -Psalm 65:8b

Junior

May my prayer be set before You like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. -Psalm 141:2

Level I

By day the LORD directs His love, at night His song is with me— a prayer to the God of my life. -Psalm 42:8

Level II

It is good to praise the LORD and make music to Your name, O Most High, to proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night. -Psalm 92:1-2

Family Devotion

Evening Prayer

Devotion

Every good beginning deserves a good ending. Our day begins with a remembrance of our baptism and thanksgiving to God for preserving us in that grace of our baptism. Our day now ends the same, and recognizes that we are sinful, that we “daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.” (Meaning of the 5th Petition of the Lord’s Prayer) But God continues to shower upon us that grace of our baptism, that forgiveness that is ours in Christ. And by being reminded in this prayer of that grace, we pray God to give us that peace that only He can give, that our sleep might be peaceful. We pray also, again, that God’s messenger, our guardian angel, would keep watch over us during that time when we cannot keep watch, so that we may be kept in safety from all the wicked and evil plans of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

Having prayed, and in asking God to do what He has done and continues to do, we ourselves are reminded of the great mercy and love of our God, so that we may, as Luther included in his instructions for the evening devotion and praying of this prayer, “go to sleep at once and in good cheer.” How could we not be in good cheer? Our God has forgiven us and given us His peace. He has ended our day in the same grace He began our day. Salvation is ours! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer

Pray together the words of this 8th century hymn, translated by John Neale. (LW#489)

Before the ending of the day, Creator of the world, we pray!
Your grace and peace to us allow And be our guard and keeper now.
From evil dreams defend our sight, From all the terrors of the night,
From all deluding thoughts that creep On heedless minds disarmed by sleep.
O Father, this we ask be done Through Jesus Christ, Your only Son,
Who with the Holy Ghost and You Shall live and reign all ages through.

Amen.

Additional Reading

To learn more about this week’s topic, try reading the following:
The Lord Will Answer - pp. 447-448

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Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

The Table of Duties:

To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers

Level III
&
Level IV

Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. -1 Timothy 3:2-4

Primary
&
Junior

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. -1 Timothy 3:6

Level I
&
Level II

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. -Titus 1:9

Family Devotion

The Table of Duties:

To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers

Devotion

There have always been requirements for a job. Some jobs list physical skills, mental skills, people skills and certain levels of training. These levels of training may include previous experience or years in college, which may represent a degree or two.

God also has requirements for His servants in the Office of the Holy Ministry. Each one must be a man of respect and honor, a man who has the interest of God and His people before his own needs. One of these interests of God is his ability to manage his family well. This isn't only having the ability to train his children in the way of the Lord, but could also mean spending time with his family being father and husband. It could also mean spending the necessary time with his "new family", the flock to which Christ has made him overseer. Much is expected of a man of the cloth and from the man of the cloth. Because his calling to serve the Lord can be difficult and strenuous, depending upon the situation and requirements of the parish, please keep the servant of the Lord in your daily prayers. He needs them.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, You have called men into service as Your undershepherds, please provide for their physical and spiritual needs. May they serve You and the flocks which they now have charge to the best of their abilities. Please hinder and frustrate Satan's attempts to ruin and destroy the work of Your servants, the men of the cloth. Bless the work of the Pastor and fill the parishes with men of honor and respect. In Your Name we ask this. Amen.

Additional Reading

To learn more about this week's topic, try reading the following:
The Lord Will Answer - p. 454

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Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Table of Duties:

What Hearers Owe Their Pastors

Primary

In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. -1 Cor. 9:14

Junior

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

-Gal. 6:6-7

Level I

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." -1 Tim. 5:17-8

Level II

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

-1 Thess. 5:12-13

Level III
&
Level IV

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. -Heb. 13:17

Family Devotion

Table of Duties:

What Hearers Owe Their Pastors Devotion

Jesus Christ has placed a man into the Office of Holy Ministry to proclaim His Word of love and forgiveness. This is a precious gift Christ has given a congregation! That man, who has been sent to the congregation, deserves honor and respect, not because of who he is or what he has done, but because Jesus sent him. He brings the Word of Christ to the congregation gathered around Word and Sacrament each week. How can those who hear the Word of God from their pastor not respond to that Word by providing for him? How can those who hear the Word of God not return honor and respect to that man of the cloth? How can those who hear the Word of God not make sure the Pastor is taken care of, especially if he has a family?

What a privilege Christ has given the congregation to provide for the needs of their pastor, who proclaims God's Word to them, visits them in the hospital and the nursing home, comforts those who have lost loved ones and cares for their spiritual life. Why would the hearers of the Gospel not want to say thank you by providing for the Pastor's needs?

Prayer

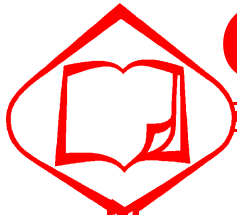
Dear Holy Spirit, You have placed men in the ministry to proclaim God's Word. Bless and guide the congregations to which they have been placed to return their love to You: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, by providing for their pastors' physical lives. Empower congregations to see the great gift You have given them in their pastors and respond accordingly by providing decent salaries and adequate housing. May their life among Your people be a blessing to all involved. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.

Additional Reading

To learn more about this week's topic, try reading the following:

The Lord Will Answer - pp. 455-6

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Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Level III
&
Level IV

Primary
Junior
Level I
Level II

Table of Duties: Of Civil Government

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. -Rom. 13:1-4

No assignment this week.

Family Devotion

Table of Duties: Of Civil Government Devotion

God has ordained each governing authority in the land. Therefore each government is accountable to God, just like each citizen of that country is accountable to the governing authority. Whatever decisions are made by those who have the authority, they will answer to the Lord for what they have done. So also the citizen of the land will answer to the governing authority if he or she breaks the law.

Because the Lord has placed authority figures over us, He would like us to listen, serve and obey them. As a child listens, serves and obeys a parent, so also each citizen needs to do the same. When we follow the laws of our governing authority, we are doing what is pleasing in the sight of the Lord. As we obey the governing authority, we are obeying the Lord, who established the government over us. When we stop following our authority figures, we have sinned against God. Only when the governing authority demands of us things which are contrary to God's Word, can we ignore and refuse to heed the laws of the land. If this were to happen, we are to obey God rather than man. (Act 5:29)

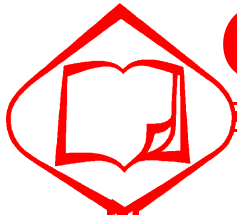
Prayer

Thank You heavenly Father for the good gift of Government. Continue to bless our nation and those in authority that the laws enacted would be in accordance with Your will and the people of this nation kept safe from harm and danger. In Jesus' name. Amen

Additional Reading

To learn more about this week's topic, try reading the following:
The Lord Will Answer - p. 457

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Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Table of Duties: Of Citizens

Primary	Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. —Matt. 22:21
Junior	Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good. —Titus 3:1
Level I	Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. —1 Peter 2:13-14
Level II	I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior. —1 Tim. 2:1-3
Level III & Level IV	Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. —Rom. 13:5-7

Family Devotion

Table of Duties: Of Citizens Devotion

In the 4th Commandment, God asks us to serve and obey our parents or those in authority over us. Children heed the wisdom and words of their parents, because they have been placed in positions of authority over the children. For citizens of a country, God asks us to serve and obey those whom God has placed over us. God has established our government for our good. Therefore He asks us to follow the laws and not act contrary to them.

For the person who refuses to heed the laws of the land, he should fear because the governing authority has been given the power to enact and bring to justice those who disobey. The governing authority can mete out punishment for crimes committed. We can see this in our justice system of law making, law enforcement and the department of corrections. For those caught breaking the law, they will be punished according to the crime. Some crimes carry the death penalty. As we serve and obey our governing authority, we know we are doing something pleasing in God's sight. We are obeying Him indirectly and isn't that the most important point!

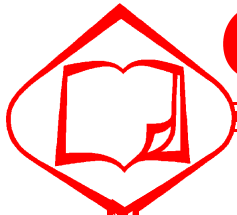
Prayer

Lord God, continue to bless our government and those in authority. Help the citizens of this great land to serve and obey the laws enacted and enforced. Bless those who serve this land in law enforcement and law making. In Jesus' name. Amen

Additional Reading

To learn more about this week's topic, try reading the following:
The Lord Will Answer - p. 458

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Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Table of Duties: To Husbands

- Primary Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. -Col. 3:19
- Level I & Level III Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. -1 Peter 3:7

To Wives

- Junior Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. -Eph. 5:22
- Level II & Level IV For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. -1 Peter 3:5-6

Family Devotion

Table of Duties:

To Husbands, To Wives Devotion

Many times marriages fall apart because this very important aspect of how husband and wife relate to each other is misunderstood. On the one hand there is the domineering husband who treats his wife like property and on the other hand the wife who manipulates her husband, trying to get whatever she wants. These are the extreme cases, but very probable, nonetheless.

God has established an order between husband and wife. God said the husband is the head of the household and the wife is his helper. This is seen in the order of creation. The husband is to love his wife like Christ loved the church. Christ died for the church. Each husband is asked to do the same. Because the wife knows her husband loves her more than himself, she will want to serve and support him as the head of the household. The husband wants to do what is best for his wife and she will respond by doing the same for him. In this, both are following what God intended them to be. Both people work together having been joined as one flesh in marriage.

Prayer

Gracious Heavenly Father, You instituted marriage and blessed our first parents. Please provide for the marriages today, so that husband and wife may love each other and serve each other as Christ would have them. Instill love and honor as each partner lives now as one flesh in marriage. In Jesus' name. Amen

Additional Reading

To learn more about this week's topic, try reading the following:
The Lord Will Answer - pp. 459-460

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Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Table of Duties:

To Parents

Level I
&
Level II

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. -Eph. 6:4

To Children

Level III
&
Level IV

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." -Eph. 6:1-3

Primary
&
Junior

No assignment this week. Review previous memory work.

Family Devotion

Table of Duties:

To Parents, To Children Devotion

The Lord instructs the parents to train their children in the way of the Lord. Each father, or head of the household, has the responsibility of teaching his children the Good News of Jesus Christ. While he is showing, demonstrating and teaching the Christian life, he must not exasperate, that is, to teach in a manner which only annoys or angers his children. He must not belittle his children as they mature in age and in their faith. His life should be an example of what it means to be a child of God. What a blessing to live as one teaches!

On the other hand, God requires the children to listen and obey their parents. They are the ones God has entrusted these children to, to train and teach them of salvation in Christ Jesus. To help the parents teach, the children are instructed to listen and follow their parents' instructions because their parents want only the best for them. Attached to this is a promise of a long life on earth. A long life is seen, not in many years lived, but a life free from heartache and pain, due to years of turmoil in the family between parent and child. Deliver us from this dear Father.

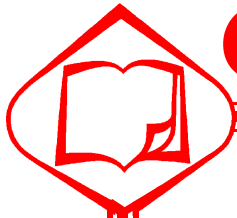
Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, please instill in the parents the desire to teach and live a life worthy of the calling as a Christian. Bless the children as they obey their parents so that joy and peace may reside in the household. Provide for each child's increase in knowledge and faith. In Your Name. Amen

Additional Reading

To learn more about this week's topic, try reading the following:
The Lord Will Answer - pp. 461-462

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Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Table of Duties:

To Workers of All Kinds

Level I
&
Level II

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

—Eph. 6:5-8

To Employers and Supervisors

Level III
&
Level IV

And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him. —Eph. 6:9

Primary
&
Junior

No assignment this week. Review previous memory work.

Family Devotion

Table of Duties:

To Workers, To Employers Devotion

The lap of luxury, so to speak, is the ability to not have to work, but have others work for you. All of us would love to have servants working for us, yet we know this is very rarely possible. Paul reminds his readers what kind of attitude we should have as a worker or as an employer.

If we are serving someone else as a worker, Paul tells us to work as if working for Jesus Christ, not working to impress the boss when he or she is watching. Serve each and every day as if Jesus Christ were your boss, watching every move you make. In fact, Jesus is watching every move we make. When we serve one another, we are really serving Him.

For the supervisor, treat the workers as you would be treated. Treat them as if Jesus Christ were working for you. Paul reminds us that Jesus is both the Master of the employee and the Master of the employer. Since Jesus does not show favoritism to the employer or employee, neither should we.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to serve one another knowing we are serving You as either a worker or a boss. May we treat each other with respect, knowing that You regard our service as service to You. Help us not to have favoritism toward anyone, whatever our position in life. In Your Name. Amen

Additional Reading

To learn more about this week's topic, try reading the following:
The Lord Will Answer - pp. 463-464

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Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Table of Duties:

To Youth

Level III
&
Level IV

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. -1 Peter 5:5-6

To Widows

Level I

The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. -1 Tim. 5:5-6

To Everyone

Level II

The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." -Rom. 13:9

Junior

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone... -1 Tim. 2:1

Primary

No assignment this week. Review previous memory work.

Family Devotion

Table of Duties:

To Youth, To Widows, To Everyone Devotion

A little knowledge can be dangerous, so goes the saying. For young people, this can be especially true. Youth has its advantages, faster reaction times, vim and vigor. However, when it come to worldly wisdom and experience, this is where youth has its greatest disadvantage. Paul comments to the young men of the congregation to be submissive to the older men. Because they have seen more life, "been there, done that", the young should learn from the older men's experiences. Listening to the stories of what to do and what not to do is a great way to begin to gain worldly experience without having to go through the pain and trouble.

If the young men should sit and listen to the older men, so also the young ladies should quietly listen to the stories and experiences of the older women for the same reason. The older women, having seen what life brings, can be a great resource for the young women. How wonderful it is to have a resource person in an older man or woman of the congregation. Use the mature members of the congregation to learn new things and gain new insight in life. It sure is easier to listen to wisdom then to endure the problem and learn from one's mistakes.

Prayer

Dear Lord, help me to listen to those older than me, so that I may learn from their mistakes and experiences. You have given them to me as a resource, may I inquire of them regularly so to gain wisdom and knowledge. In Jesus' name. Amen

Additional Reading

To learn more about this week's topic, try reading the following:
The Lord Will Answer - pp. 465-467

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Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Level III
&
Level IV

The First Article of the Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

Bible Passages

Primary

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

—Genesis 1:1

Junior

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us?

—Malachi 2:10

Level I

I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. —Psalm 139:14

Level II

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. —Genesis 2:15

Family Devotion

The First Article of the Nicene Creed

Devotion

One cannot help but marvel at the intricacies of our universe. How amazing that the nine planets rotate around the sun and one can follow them by mathematical calculations! By faith we know that the universe was put together by God. What is very amazing is that God did not start with something. Our Triune God created this universe from nothing (creatio ex nihilo). No one really understands what was present with God before He began His creative work. All we know is that God is responsible for everything we see and do not see.

We confess that God created the visible things. We can see the trees, the birds, the mountains, oceans and the people of creation. However, the invisible things are impossible for us to see. We do not see gravity, although we know its present, nor do we see the smallest of molecules or atoms. We cannot see the air, yet we know what that air can do in the form of wind as a tornado, hurricane or thunderstorm gusts. We are also not able to see faith, the gift of God in Christ Jesus, yet we recognize its existence in the life of the Christian. Some aspects of creation we must take on faith, believing that what God has said in Scripture is truly real. The visible creation is important to us in this life but more important is the invisible gift of faith in Jesus Christ, Who gives us eternal life.

Prayer

Dear Lord God, You have created the universe by speaking Your Word. The visible and invisible elements of creation are Your handiwork. Thank You for a beautiful creation to live in, but most importantly, thank You for the invisible gift of faith which holds on to Your promises in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. In His Name. Amen



Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Level III
&
Level IV

(save for
next week)

The Second Article of the Nicene Creed

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; *who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary And was made man; and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom will have no end.*

Bible Passages

Primary

Thomas said to [Jesus], "My Lord and my God!" –John 20:28

Junior

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me." –Matthew 28:18

Level I

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. –John 1:1-2

Level II

Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. –John 1:3

Family Devotion

The Second Article of the Nicene Creed

Devotion

Did you ever think the Son was involved with creation? We usually give the credit to the Father, but we confess in this Creed that Jesus was just as involved as the Father. Jesus was begotten from the Father before the world was created. The Son was with the Father before the words of creation were ever spoken. Because Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, whenever God spoke in the first two chapters of Genesis, Jesus was the active force in accomplishing that which the Father had spoken.

Jesus is true God, similar in every way as the Father, except Jesus is the only person of the Trinity to have a body like you and me. Jesus is not a creation of the Father, as some false teachers have proposed, but God of God and Light of Light. Light was the first act of creation. Numerous places in Scripture He is given divine names, accomplishing divine things and receiving divine glory. The Father even audibly praised the Son twice, first at His baptism and second at His transfiguration. Jesus shows His eternity when He was questioned by the Pharisees as to His authority to perform miracles. The Jewish leaders claimed He was demon-possessed. Jesus responded to their criticism by saying: "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." By using the present tense of the verb to be: He indicated that He has always been and will always be. Jesus is God, equal to the Father in everything.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for being fully God. If You were not, You could not defeat sin on our behalf nor could You have defeated the devil. You could not have kept the Law perfectly in our place, nor could You have redeemed us by Your precious blood. Thank You God for securing our salvation in the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord. In His name we pray. Amen



Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Level III
&
Level IV

The Second Article of the Nicene Creed

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary And was made man; and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom will have no end.

Bible Passages

Primary

There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. -1 Timothy 2:5

Junior

In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. -Colossians 2:9

Level I

The One whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. -Acts 13:37

Level II

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. -2 Corinthians 5:21

Family Devotion

The Second Article of the Nicene Creed

Devotion

We already know that Jesus is true God, begotten of the Father before all eternity. "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."(Gal. 4:4-5) According to God's perfect time, Jesus the Son of God, entered our world as a human being, born to a virgin named Mary. In that moment of conception, Jesus took human flesh into His divinity in order to redeem the sinful world. Jesus, therefore is true God and true man in one Being. He is fully God, equal with the Father and fully man, equal to each human being, except He was without sin.

In His divinity, Jesus is equal to the Father in every way. In His humanity however, Jesus is subordinate to the Father. His human nature is subordinate to His divine nature. His human nature is a matter of creation. His divinity is His original nature. Through the submission to the Father's will, Jesus, the God-man, has been given all authority in heaven and on earth. He has earned the power and authority to be the judge of the world, because He rescued it with His own blood. God said there is no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood. Jesus must be human in order to shed His perfect blood to bring forgiveness of sins. On judgment day, each person will stand before Jesus Christ and give account to his or her life, whether faith is present or not. This being the case, is it not rather wise to trust in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Of course it is!

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, You had to be truly human to bleed and die upon the cross for the sins of the world. You willingly gave up Your life on behalf of the world, rescuing it from sin, death and the power of the devil. Help us dear Jesus to die to sin each day in contrition and repentance and in faith, look to Your sacrificial death on our behalf for our only means of salvation. Amen



Catechesis

Basic Bible Knowledge for the Family

Level III
&
Level IV

The Third Article of the Nicene Creed

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Bible Passages

Primary

I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.

—Luke 23:43

Junior

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? —1 Cor. 3:16

Level I

These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. —Rev. 7:14

Level II

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! —Job 19:25-27

Family Devotion

The Third Article of the Nicene Creed Devotion

The Third Person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from both the Father and the Son. He is neither created, nor begotten, but proceeds and is equally God just like the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the giver of Life, not only physical life, but spiritual life as well. At creation, God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life. The Hebrew word for spirit, wind and breath is the same word. God breathed the Spirit of God, the breath of God into man. Therefore man became a living being. He was alive physically, but also alive spiritually in the Garden of Eden. It wasn't until Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit that they lost their spiritual life given at creation. God had to re-establish that life through the promise of a Savior.

Following Christ's ascension into heaven, the promised Comforter, the Holy Spirit, fell upon the disciples on Pentecost. These men began to communicate the crucified and risen Christ to everyone there. This miracle of speech that day erased the curse initiated at the Tower of Babel. The disciples' words concerning the crucified and risen Christ were words of hope and forgiveness. Each person who receives these words in faith receives what these words bring; hope for eternity. The person brought to faith trusts in the promises of God, not only in the Savior of the world but also the physical means of grace He left to strengthen our faith. We found these means of grace in the Christian Church, gathered around the Word of God and the Holy Sacraments. We receive what they promise by faith in Jesus Christ, Who instituted them for us.

Therefore, by faith, we trust in the work of baptism, the forgiveness of sins earned for us on the cross, await the resurrection of the dead and the life that will come when Christ returns. By faith all of these are given to us in the wounds of Jesus Christ. Without the Holy Spirit bringing life to each of us, we would still be trapped in our sinful nature, spiritually dead, spiritually blind and an enemy of God. Once the Spirit of God brought life to us, we were introduced to our Savior in the pages of Sacred Scripture, which the Holy Spirit penned. Without the Holy Spirit, we would neither have known where this forgiveness came from nor would we have known the Savior of the world.

Prayer

Dear Holy Spirit, You are responsible for creating life, both physical and spiritual in us. Thank You for bringing us to life, but most important, thank You for creating faith within us to believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. You have made Him known to us and have kept us in the one true faith. Continue to show us the Savior so that we may believe in Him and receive eternal life. In Jesus' name. Amen