

THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

CITY GROUP GUIDE

52 questions & answers
for our hearts & minds



NEW CITY CATECHISM

CITY GROUP GUIDE

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PSALMS 91-95

Lead me to the rock that is
higher than I.
3 For thou hast been a refuge
for me,
A strong tower from the enemy.
4 I will dwell in thy tabernacle
for ever:
I will take refuge in the covert
of thy wings. Sē lah
5 For thou, O God, hast heard
my vows:
Thou hast given me the heri-
tage of those that fear thy
name.
6 Thou wilt prolong the king's life;
His years shall be as many
generations.
7 He shall abide before God for
ever:
Oh prepare lovinkindness and
truth, that they may preserve
him.
8 So will I sing praise unto thy
name for ever,
That I may daily perform my
vows.
9 God alone a Refuge from Treachery and

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About This Resource

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This resource is designed to be used alongside the New City Catechism App (available for free download) or New City Catechism Devotional (available upon request from Providence Church.) Each question includes a question, answer, verse(s), commentary and prayer. We suggest using these as a resource in both your small and large group discussions.

EACH WEEK WILL INCLUDE:

- Reading the Question(s)
- Reading the Answer(s)
- Reading the Commentary(s)
- Small Group Discussion
 - Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer
- Large Group Discussion
 - Share the passages of scripture you found
 - Discuss any additional questions/thoughts
- Missional Question(s)
 - Be intentional to ask someone the question(s) and engage in a spiritual conversation
- Prayer

NEW CITY CATECHISM

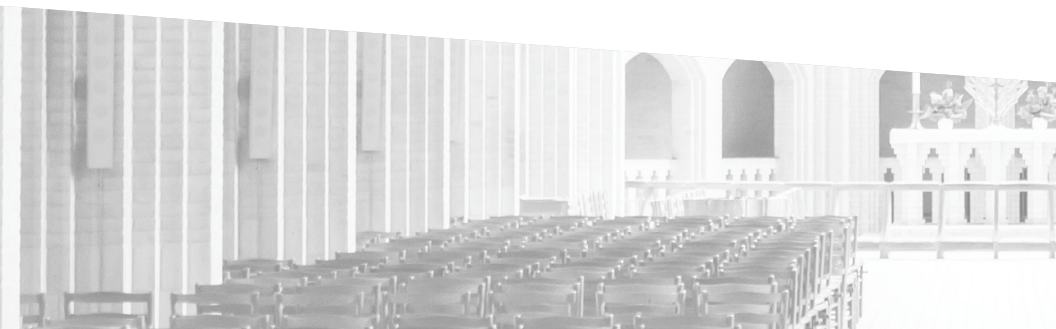
CITY GROUP GUIDE

Introduction

For many in the church today, the idea of a catechism may be foreign. For others who have heard the idea of a catechism before, it may seem boring. For the few that grew up with catechisms, it may even be repelling. And yet, for the historic church, catechisms have been a staple for most communities.

For the church, a catechism is simply a systematic way to communicate the truths of God and his gospel. While there is far more than can be explained, the core goal of a catechism is simply to instruct the church on what we are to believe. The church for centuries has not merely focused on best spiritual practices of the day or new strategies for the church to grow (both in depth or width, so to speak). Instead a primary focus of the church was developing a people who believed deeply the truths that God has revealed.

And yet, this practice for many churches in our day, has gone by the wayside. And we can see the consequences of this reality. Less Christians (not people in general, but Christians) know basic theological truths. There is far less Biblical-literacy than in generations past. And in part, our issue with “living out” our faith, is that we struggle to know the faith that we profess.



One potential answer to this issue, is to retrieve the historic practice of catechesis, or use Christian catechisms to train and instruct the church. These are not mere lines to memorize, they are truths from Scripture that we must hold. They are not for the purpose of intellect alone, but for the purpose of knowing the God we worship. They are not merely to puff up ourselves, they are truths that equip us to communicate with a lost world. Catechisms just might be the very thing the church needs for life, godliness, and mission today.

At Providence, we encourage using the New City Catechism. It is a modern day catechism giving answers to core questions about our faith. This catechism can help you know God, be spurred on in your faith, and equip you to better communicate the Christian faith with others.

-Andrew Rutten, Providence Co-Lead Pastor



WEEK 1: QUESTION 1

WHAT IS OUR ONLY HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH?

ANSWER

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

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catachism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

Where do you go for hope?

PRAYER

Christ Our Hope, in life and in death, we cast ourselves on your merciful, fatherly care. You love us because we are your own. We have no good apart from you, and we could ask for no greater gift than to belong to you. Amen.

WEEK 2: QUESTIONS 2-3

WHAT IS GOD? HOW MANY PERSONS ARE THERE IN GOD?

ANSWERS

“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.”

“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.”

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

Who do you believe God is?

PRAYER

Our Creator and Sustainer, everything holds together in you. The smallest creature is known to you, and the mightiest army is at your command. You rule with justice. Help us to trust your goodness in all that you will.

Father, Son, and Spirit, you are beyond our understanding. Thank you for bringing us into your

WEEK 3: QUESTIONS 4-5

HOW AND WHY DID GOD CREATE US?

WHAT ELSE DID GOD CREATE?

ANSWERS

“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.”

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

READ THE COORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

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Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTIONS

How did we get here?

What is the purpose of life?

PRAYER

Maker of All, let us not lose sight that we, and every human being you have made, are created in your image. Never let us doubt this about ourselves. Never let us doubt this about any other man or woman, for to do so denies you the glory that is due to your name. Your likeness glimpsed in us testifies that we belong to you, body and soul.

Lord Who Spoke the World into Existence, we marvel at your creation, even though it has been corrupted. Your beauty is revealed in the splendor of the stars. Your might is shown forth in the strength of a hurricane. Your order is displayed in the laws of mathematics. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord for the works of his hands! Amen.

WEEK 4: QUESTION 6

HOW CAN WE GLORIFY GOD?

ANSWER

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

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

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Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTIONS

What do you live for?

Does that fulfill you? How do you know?

PRAYER

Gracious Lord, we want to fully know and enjoy you. Open our eyes to see you as you are that we might trust you and long with all we are to keep your commands. Whether through small kindnesses or great courage, may each act of obedience bring you glory. Amen.

WEEK 5: QUESTIONS 7-12

WHAT DOES THE LAW OF GOD REQUIRE?

WHAT IS THE LAW OF GOD STATED IN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE IN THE FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD COMMANDMENTS?

WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE IN THE FOURTH AND FIFTH COMMANDMENTS?

WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE IN THE SIX, SEVENTH, AND EIGHTH COMMANDMENTS?

WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE IN THE NINTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS?

ANSWERS

“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.”

“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.”

“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.”

“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.”

“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.”

“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.”

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

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MISSIONAL QUESTION

How do you decide what’s right vs. wrong?

PRAYER

Great Law-Giver, you have spoken a perfect law, and you deserve perfect obedience. Let us not merely think that your law requires outward submission; it demands the full assent of our minds and our hearts. Who is equal to such a task? We confess that we fall far short of keeping your law.

Holy God, you showed your love to your people by giving them your commands. May we always give thanks for your law. You have not left us ignorant of how to walk in the way of righteousness. Help us to glorify you by obeying your Ten Commandments.

One and Only God, your name is above all names, and we come before you in reverence and fear. Keep us true to your commandments. Reveal to us any false gods in our lives. Let us worship you alone in spirit and truth.

Life-Giving Father, we will flourish only when we walk in your ways. You have made us, and you tell us we need rest. Keep us from justifying ourselves through ceaseless work. Give us humility to honor our parents. May we always live by your commands rather than by our own instincts.

Faithful Shepherd of Our Souls, you created us to live in love and fellowship on the earth, but we fail in that again and again. May your love rule every relationship so that we walk in purity, putting away lust, covetousness, and greed, for your name’s sake.

Lord of All Truth, help us to reflect your goodness in word and deed. You know all things. Nothing is hidden from you. You give good gifts and withhold no good thing from your children. May your truth be on our lips and contentment be in our hearts. Lord of All Truth, help us to reflect your goodness in word and deed. You know all things. Nothing is hidden from you. You give good gifts and withhold no good thing from your children. May your truth be on our lips and contentment be in our hearts. Amen.

WEEK 6: QUESTIONS 13-15

CAN ANYONE KEEP THE LAW OF GOD PERFECTLY?

DID GOD CREATE US UNABLE TO KEEP HIS LAW?

SINCE NO ONE CAN KEEP THE LAW, WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

ANSWER

“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.”

“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.”

“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.”

READ THE COORESPONDING COMMENTARY

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

On a scale of 1-10 in general how good are people?

PRAYER

Holy God, left to our own devices, we transgress your law at every turn. We have no defense, but must plead guilty before your throne of judgment. Your law condemns us and cuts through our pretensions to righteousness, convincing us that we desperately need a Savior.

Merciful Lord, we are corrupt in our very natures. We are sons and daughters of the first Adam who desire what you forbid. Give us a new nature through new birth in Christ, the second Adam, that we might be able to keep your law in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Giver of All Good Gifts, your law reveals to us what is just. Though it condemns us, through it we know how great is your holiness and how perfect is your Son. Though we fall short, may we always give you thanks and praise for your law and rejoice that we have a Savior. Amen.

WEEK 7: QUESTION 16

WHAT IS SIN?

ANSWER

“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.”

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTIONS

What do you think about “sin”?

Is it old/archaic or do people still sin?

PRAYER

Lord of the Universe, all your ways are good. We pursue the way of death when we go our own way. Help us to see sin as the poison it is. Let your law, rather than the spirit of lawlessness, shape our minds and our lives. Amen.

WEEK 8: QUESTION 17

WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

ANSWER

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

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to "prove" the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.
Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

What is the most important thing in your life?

PRAYER

Creator God, forgive us for worshiping the things you have made. No person or thing should be our hope or our trust. You alone are self-existent and all sufficient. May you be our all in all. Amen.

WEEK 9: QUESTIONS 18-19

WILL GOD ALLOW OUR DISOBEDIENCE AND IDOLATRY TO GO UNPUNISHED?

IS THERE ANY WAY TO ESCAPE PUNISHMENT AND BE BROUGHT BACK INTO GOD'S FAVOR?

ANSWER

"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.."

"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."

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to "prove" the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTIONS

What happens when we die?

How do you know?

PRAYER

Righteous Lord, if we think that we are good, we deceive ourselves. We deserve your wrath. We have broken your commands, and we have not loved you with our whole hearts, minds, and strength. We can only plead the righteousness of Christ and ask you to let our punishment fall on him.

O Reconciling One, thank you for making a way for us. You have been perfect, both in justice and in mercy. We accept the salvation we do not deserve. We come before you in the name of Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, trusting in his merits rather than our own. Amen.

WEEK 10/11: QUESTIONS 20-24

WHO IS THE REDEEMER?

WHAT SORT OF REDEEMER IS NEEDED TO BRING US BACK TO GOD?

WHY MUST THE REDEEMER BE TRULY HUMAN?

WHY MUST THE REDEEMER BE TRULY GOD?

WHY WAS IT NECESSARY FOR CHRIST, THE REDEEMER, TO DIE?

ANSWER

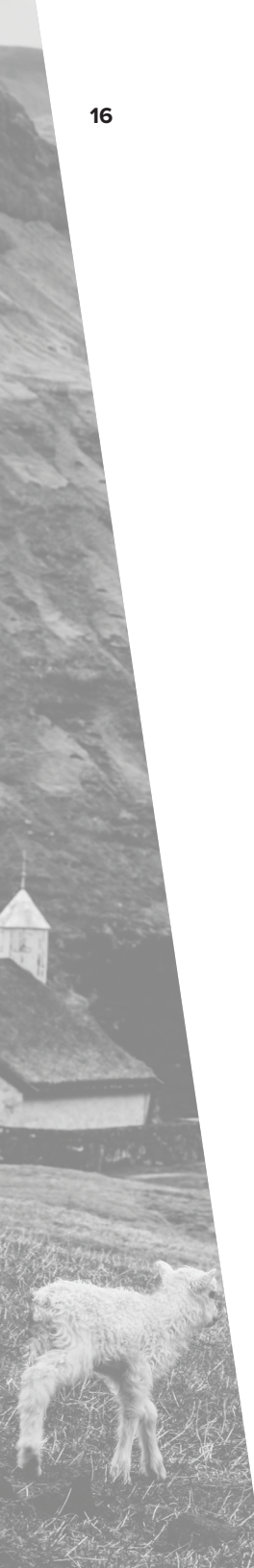
“The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, in whom God became man and bore the penalty for sin himself.”

“One who is truly human and also truly God.”

“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.”

“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.”

“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.”



READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

Who do you think Jesus is?

PRAYER

Precious Redeemer, before the world began, you loved us. You gave up your glory to bear our shame. You glorified your Father by obeying him all the way to the cross. You deserve our praise, thanks, and worship. We have no hope but in you.

Son of God and Son of Man, for generations you were prophesied. Only One who is both divine and human could live in perfect obedience and be a fitting sacrifice on our behalf. There is no other way to God but by you.

Faithful High Priest, you were tempted in every way as we are, yet you remained perfect in your obedience. Thank you that you know our weakness. Keep us from excusing or denying our sinfulness. We joyfully accept your exchange.

God the Son, because of our sin, we could never bear the wrath of God or overcome death. Only you, the Holy One, could suffer the just punishment for sin and defeat death. Thank you for making a way for us to God, to enjoy him eternally.

Atoning Savior, thank you that you didn't turn back, but endured all the way to death on the cross, and beyond. Because of your death, we can live eternally. With this knowledge, help us face our own deaths with courage, faith, and hope. Amen.

WEEK 12: QUESTIONS 25-26

DOES CHRIST'S DEATH MEAN ALL OUR SINS CAN BE FORGIVEN? WHAT ELSE DOES CHRIST'S DEATH REDEEM?

ANSWER

"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."

"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."

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to "prove" the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.
Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

What do you think Jesus's life and death meant?

PRAYER

Forgiving Father, when we are covered in the righteousness of Christ, you remember our sins no more. You have put them as far as the east is from the west. Help us not to doubt your forgiveness, your mercy, or your love, but come to you boldly as your beloved children.

Creation's Redeemer, the world will not always be as it is now, fallen and groaning for the fullness of your kingdom. Thank you that, ultimately, you will make all things new. We rejoice that your redemption extends to the world you have made. Amen.

WEEK 13: QUESTION 27

ARE ALL PEOPLE, JUST AS THEY WERE LOST THROUGH ADAM, SAVED THROUGH CHRIST?

ANSWER

“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.”

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

How do you know who goes to heaven?

PRAYER

Sovereign Savior, there is salvation in no one but you, and you save everyone who calls upon your name. We would never have called upon you if you had not brought us from death to life. We do not fully understand your electing love, but we confess that neither we nor anyone else deserves it. Amen.

WEEK 14: QUESTION 28

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH TO THOSE NOT UNITED TO CHRIST BY FAITH?

ANSWER

“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.”

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.
Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

What do you think happens when you die?

PRAYER

Judge of All the Earth, we tremble to think of the judgment that awaits all outside your covenant. Before it is too late, may those we love be reconciled to you so that they do not suffer the punishment that is theirs, and would have been ours, apart from you. Amen.

WEEK 15: QUESTION 29

HOW CAN WE BE SAVED?

ANSWER

“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.”

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.
Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

On a scale of 1-10 how sure are you that you’ll go to heaven?

PRAYER

Merciful One, we renounce our pride and all pretensions of self-righteousness, and we come to you in repentance and faith. We trust your death to give us life. We praise you for the gift of salvation. Amen.

WEEK 16: QUESTION 30

WHAT IS FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST?

ANSWER

“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.”

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

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Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

What’s the difference between faith & knowledge?

PRAYER

Author of Our Faith, we believe that you are who you say you are. Your Word is truth, and it reveals you as our only hope of salvation. We believe your promises, walking by faith, not by sight. Amen.

WEEK 17/18: QUESTION 31

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE BY TRUE FAITH?

ANSWER

“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.”

**holy catholic church meaning the body of t church

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Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

What do you think Christians believe?

PRAYER

Maker of Heaven and Earth, make the startling claims of our faith come alive to us. Let us not divorce theological truth from the history of your salvation, which occurred in time and space. Let us not waver in unbelief, but rest our lives upon the truth that you raise the dead. Amen.

WEEK 19: QUESTION 32

WHAT DO JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION MEAN?

ANSWER

“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.”

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

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MISSIONAL QUESTION

When you stand before God one day, and he asks “Why should I let you into heaven?” How will you answer?

PRAYER

Our Savior and Lord, you have completed the work of our justification. You have begun the work of our sanctification, and we trust that you will carry us through to its completion. Transform us day by day into your likeness, conforming us to your ways. Amen.

WEEK 20: QUESTIONS 33-34

SHOULD THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST SEEK THEIR SALVATION THROUGH THEIR OWN WORKS, OR ANYWHERE ELSE?

SINCE WE ARE REDEEMED BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH CHRIST ALONE, MUST WE WILL DO GOOD WORKS AND OBEY GOD'S WORD?

ANSWER

"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."

"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."

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

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MISSIONAL QUESTION

Why should we try to be "good people"?

PRAYER

One and Only God, keep us from trusting in good works or living in such a way that we imply they are the grounds of our salvation. Let us glorify your grace by leaning our whole weight upon it, staking our lives on the promise that you are the beginning and the end of our salvation.

Heavenly Father, you have saved us from sin. Let us not continue in it as if we were still enslaved to it. You have given us commands that are the path of life. Let us treasure those commands. May all who know us see our good works and glorify you because of them. Amen.

WEEK 21: QUESTION 35

SINCE WE ARE REDEEMED BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH ALONE, WHERE DOES FAITH SOME FROM?

ANSWER

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

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.
Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

Everyone places their faith in something. What would you say your faith is in?

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, you sought us when we could not seek you because we were dead in our trespasses and sins. You are the giver of our faith; none of us would believe apart from your regenerating grace, by which you make hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. Let us put aside all boasting in light of your undeserved mercy. Amen.

WEEK 22: QUESTION 36

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

ANSWER

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

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.
Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

Do you believe in any kind of greater power?

PRAYER

God Our Help, we thank you for sending your Spirit to live in us. Thank you that he chastens and disciplines, strengthens and comforts us. Let us live the life of faith in his power, not our own. Let us walk the path of obedience, filled with his joy. Amen.

WEEK 23: QUESTION 37

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP US?

ANSWER

“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.”

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

What makes Christians different?

PRAYER

God the Spirit, have your way in us. Shine your light on the secret sins of our hearts. Equip us for tasks that are too large for us. Make us glad in what delights you. Intercede for us and open our eyes to rightly understand the Word of truth. Amen.

WEEK 24: QUESTIONS 38-41

WHAT IS PRAYER?

WITH WHAT ATTITUDE SHOULD WE PRAY?

WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY?

WHAT IS THE LORD'S PRAYER?

ANSWER

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

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

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

"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."

READ THE COORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to "prove" the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

WEEK 24: CONTINUED

MISSIONAL QUESTIONS

What is prayer?

Do you pray?

How?

PRAYER

Our Great Refuge, thank you for calling us to prayer. You are not far away; you are near, and you hear us when we pray. Let us pour out our hearts to you without ceasing. Let us pray without guile, bringing our true selves before your throne of grace.

Loving Father, we come to you in the name of your beloved Son. Give us perseverance in prayer, even when we do not immediately see answers. Let us believe that you will not keep back any good thing from us, and trust that you will withhold those things we seek that would harm us. Your ways are higher than our ways, and we entrust our requests to your sovereign kindness.

God Who Hears, let your living Word shape our desires and our prayers. May it challenge us to pray for things that don't seem possible. May it inform our view of you as we approach you as beloved sons and daughters. May it drive us to our knees as we recognize our need of you.

Our Father in Heaven, when we pray the prayer that you taught us, keep us from reciting empty words. Let these petitions be the cries of our hearts. Bring your kingdom on earth to us and through us for your great name's sake. Amen

WEEK 25: QUESTION 42

HOW IS THE WORD OF GOD TO BE READ AND HEARD?

ANSWER

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

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTIONS

What is the Bible about?

Do you think it’s true?

Have you ever read it?

PRAYER

Giver of the Word, help us to treasure your Scriptures as our most precious possession. May it be in our minds and on our lips. Let it transform our thinking and reform our living. Make us attentive students and devoted servants of your perfect Word. Amen.



WEEK 26: QUESTION 43³²-45

WHAT ARE THE SACRAMENTS OR ORDINANCES?

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

IS BAPTISM WITH WATER THE WASHING AWAY OF SIN ITSELF?

ANSWER

“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.”

“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.”

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

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

WEEK 26: CONTINUED

MISSIONAL QUESTION

Why do Christians get baptized?

PRAYER

Giver of the Gospel, you have given us signs of your grace that can be seen, felt, and tasted. Help us to observe them according to your commands. May they turn our eyes away from ourselves and onto your saving work. Keep us from exalting the signs in any way that distracts us from the Savior to which they point.

Cleansing One, we cannot purify our own hearts, but must come to you to wash away our sin. Thank you for water baptism, which does not save us but portrays our salvation and unites us as one people, your adopted sons and daughters.

Lamb of God, our baptism is a sign that we are saved not by our own righteousness, but because we have been given the righteousness of Christ. Let us not make baptism the object of our trust, but look instead to the cleansing work of Jesus, beautifully depicted in baptism. Amen.

WEEK 27: QUESTIONS 46-47

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

DOES THE LORD'S SUPPER ADD ANYTHING TO CHRIST'S ATONING WORK?

ANSWER

"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."

"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."

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to "prove" the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.

Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTIONS

What is communion?

Why do Christians take communion?

PRAYER

Bread of Life, we take the Lord's Supper in reverent obedience. We do not want to receive it unworthily, so we come in repentance and faith. Help us to forgive the sins of those who have sinned against us, especially the believers with whom we share the bread and the cup. May our partaking of this meal proclaim your saving death and our desperate need of it.

Conqueror of Death, we celebrate your finished work when we take the Lord's Supper. May our eating be a confession of faith, that though we are unworthy, we have been joined together with the worthiness of Christ. May we come to your table with repentant hearts, putting away pride and self-sufficiency, enjoying the free grace you offer to us. Amen.

WEEK 28: QUESTION 48

35

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

ANSWER

“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.”

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

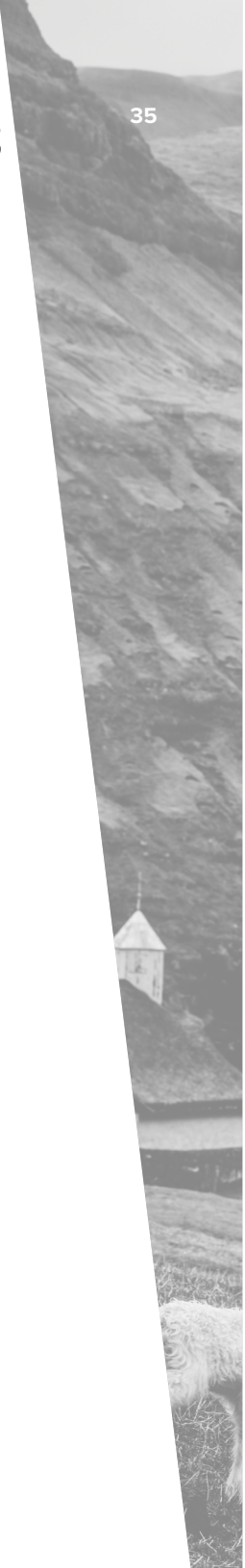
Share what you found in your small groups.
Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTIONS

What’s your church background?
Are you connected with a church anywhere?

PRAYER

King Over All, you have brought us together as the family of God. Keep us faithful to worship together, to love one another, and to provide for each other’s needs. Let our fellowship be genuine, and help us to spur one another on in the faith. Amen.



WEEK 29: QUESTIONS 49-51

**WHERE IS CHRIST NOW?
WHAT DOES CHRIST'S
RESURRECTION MEAN FOR US?
OF WHAT ADVANTAGE TO US IS
CHRIST'S ASCENSION?**

ANSWER

“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.”

“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.”

“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.”

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

Refer to the New City Catechism App or Devotional.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into groups of 3-4 people and find passages of scripture to “prove” the answer.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.
Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTION

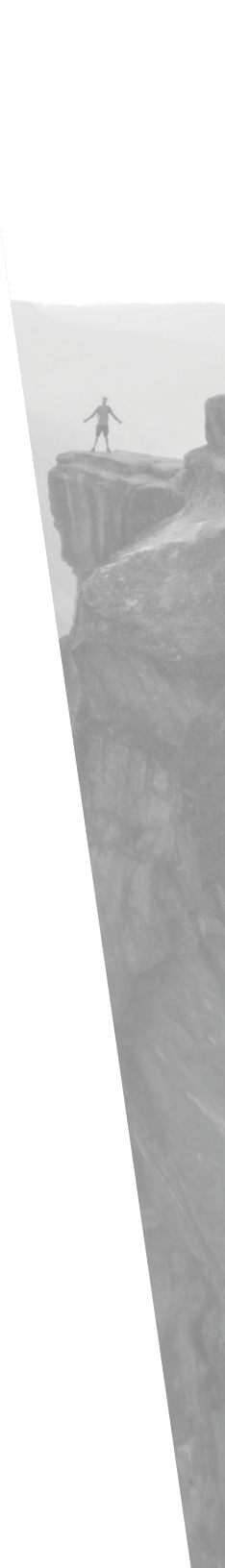
Where is Jesus Christ now?

PRAYER

Risen and Ascended Lord, though you no longer walk this earth, you rule over us from your throne. All authority and power are in you. Your name is above all names. Raise us up at the last day to live with you in your kingdom.

Resurrecting God, make us mindful that death is not the end for us. Save us from the judgment we deserve, and make us faithful to implore others to flee from the wrath to come. We look in hope to the joy that will be ours when, saved from that wrath through the merits of Christ, we will be clothed with resurrected bodies to reign on a renewed earth.

Interceding Savior, you have not stopped showing compassion for your people. You were tempted in every way as we are, and you now intercede for us when we are tempted. Plead for us to your Father, for you are our advocate before the judge of all the earth. Amen.



WEEK 30: QUESTION 52

WHAT HOPE DOES EVERLASTING LIFE HOLD FOR US?

ANSWER

"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."

READ THE CORESPONDING COMMENTARY

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Share what you found in your small groups.
Discuss any additional questions/thoughts.

MISSIONAL QUESTIONS

What is your hope?
Where does it come from?

PRAYER

Eternal God, we eagerly await the fullness of your kingdom. We long for every tear to be dried. We groan for the day when we no longer struggle against the flesh. Let the sure hope of everlasting life give us courage to face the trials of this life. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

CITY GROUP GUIDE

Conclusion

The New City Catechism has given answers to core questions about the Christian faith.

We hope you know God more deeply, are spurred on in your faith, and have been equipped to better communicate the Christian faith to others.

Go now with confidence to share the essential truths of the Christian faith!

Providence Church

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