

Lesson 7: Close of the Commandments

TEACHER PREPARATION

Watch Pastor Buetow's Video Catechism and answer the questions in the comments.

[Video Catechism: The Close of the Commandments](#)

TEACHER GUIDE

Target Question:

What does 'keep' mean?

Link to presentation slides:

Confirmation Year 1: [Lesson 7 Slides](#) (Pptx. version available in download folder)

Opening:

Sing together [These Are the Holy Ten Commands](#)
LSB 581

Memory Work

Recite the entire 6 chief parts of the Catechism

Brain Break Time!

Suggestion:

Stretch it out!

Get rid of the stress! Take a few minutes to stretch your arms, legs and body. Just get the blood flowing again!

Instruction/Discussion

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments," (Exodus 20:5-6)

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

What does repent mean?

Read the following verses to find symptoms of repentance:

Mark 1:15

Luke 24:47

Matthew 3:8 and Luke 15:20

Symptoms of repentance include: believing in the gospel, forgiveness, and love.

With this in mind, is repentance just being sorry? Compare and contrast Peter and Judas during holy week.

Matthew 26:75 for Peter

Matthew 27:3-5 for Judas

When Peter realized he betrayed Christ, he wept bitterly. He knew he had sinned, but he had faith and turned to Christ in his sin. Judas did not have belief that he could still be saved and he hung himself. Judas was sorry for his sins - so sorry he took his own life. Peter was sorry for his sin as well but his sorrow turned him from his sin back to Christ, who took the punishment for all of our sins.

Discuss why this biblical repentance is more comforting than the idea that repentance is a good work of "being sorry enough for God to forgive you."

Christ has already taken the punishment we deserve. Because of our sinful nature, we will never be sorry enough to replace what Christ has done for us and earn our forgiveness and salvation. There is comfort in knowing that our emotions cannot save us, only Christ can and has.

We sin because we are sinners.

We are sinners because we sin.

Which one of these statements is true?

Read Psalm 51:5

Read Romans 3:23

Read Romans 7:18

We sin because we are sinners. We are born sinful from conception, nothing good dwells within us.

Respond to the following:

These prompts are a great chance to get into some good discussion with your students. There are some guidelines included to keep discussion on track.

- **God really doesn't care about what I do. He has more important things to worry about. As long as I'm a nice person, I'm all right.**

Does your father care about you? Yes, he wants you to be nice, but does he want more than that for you? How much more does your Father in Heaven want these things for you?

- **If God really loves me, He wants me to be happy. If I follow my heart and do what feels right, I'm not doing anything wrong.**

Part of being a parent is not just to raise happy children, but raising children to be aware of the needs of others. God gives us 10 specific commands to follow that show us what is right and what is wrong.

- **Why are Christians so judgmental? The God you believe in is mean because he doesn't want anyone to be themselves or think for themselves about what is right.**

God wants all of his children to be taken care of and doesn't want to lose a single sheep. Yes, His truth is the real truth, not necessarily what we believe or want to be true. As Christians, it is not our place to punish, but we can look out for our neighbor in love when we see wrong happening.

What is the only way I can deal with the law honestly?

Read Romans 3:23-24

We cannot deal with the law on our own. Jesus Christ and His redemption is the only way we can deal with the law honestly.

What is the difference between sin and unbelief?

Read Matthew 10:28

We are all sinners - we all mess up and do things imperfectly. Unbelief is when we do not trust that God will take care of our body and soul.

What does it mean to 'keep' the commandments?

To keep the commandments means to guard, protect and treasure the commandments.

Test

It is time for the Unit 1 test. You may either test your students at the end of this lesson or you may choose to do it at a different time, possibly even with your pastor present. Remember, we are assessing the students' knowledge of the information presented in this unit, not their writing skills. Therefore, it is recommended that unit tests be given orally.

Closing

Sing together [Water, Blood and Spirit Crying](#)
LSB 597

Homework

Watch Pastor Simek's weekly video
Discussion questions with parents

Supplemental Activities

If you have extra time, try some of these activities to continue your learning!

- Have your students share what they talked about with their parents this week when working through the discussion questions
- Close of Commandments T/F game
- Review 10 Commandments before test