



# TEACHER TRACK

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CATECHISM

Unit 1: Lesson 1

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### Video Preparation - Introduction

**Video:** [Confirmation Class Unit One Overview](#)

Watch Pastor Aaron Fenker's video as he gives an overview of the First Chief Part of Luther's *Small Catechism*.

While you are watching, reflect on these points:

- The three uses of the Law: curb, guide, and mirror
- The two tables of the Law: faith in God and love for your neighbor
- The purpose of each specific commandment

**Video:** [Catechism: Introduction](#)

Watch the Video: Catechism Introduction with Pastor Mark Buetow and answer the questions in the video description.

## TEACHER GUIDE

### Target Question

What is a Christian?

### Presentation slides

Confirmation Year 1 (Pptx. version available in download folder)

### Opening

Sing together "[These Are the Holy Ten Commands](#)."

LSB 581

### Memory Work

Recite the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism.

### Video

Each week, students will have a short 3-5 minute video to watch at home in preparation for the next lesson. These videos will address the target question of the lesson. The video will pause throughout to allow each question presented to be answered before continuing. Review this week's video to prepare the students for what to do at home.

**Video:** [Pastor Simek's weekly video](#)

Discuss the video



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### Brain Break Time!

#### Ear-Nose Switcheroo

This is a quick and easy challenge to reset the brain. Instruct the students to touch their left ears with their right hands and at the same time touch their noses with their left hands. Then have them switch their hands and touch their right ears with their left hands and their noses with their right hands. Switch back and forth a few times. Then have them close their eyes, take a deep breath, and exhale.

### Instruction/Discussion

#### What is confirmation?

Confirmation isn't graduation from Sunday School. It's an opportunity to formally confirm that the faith into which you were baptized is the faith that you now confess. And in order to confess that faith from an informed basis, we take the time to teach it over the next year (or two or three!).

As Lutherans, we have three main resources that not only teach the content of our Christian faith, but also reinforce and support that faith for the rest of our lives. Can you guess what those resources are?

1. Bible
2. Catechism
3. Hymnal

#### What is the Catechism?

On confirmation day, you will be asked, "Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the *Small Catechism* to be faithful and true?" (LSB 273)

You probably don't know much about the *Small Catechism* yet, but if you've been attending church regularly, you probably know more of it than you realize; like the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed, and maybe a few of the Ten Commandments! The *Small Catechism* is a book that contains many additional questions and answers that we'll use in class, but the main parts are listed on your Guided Notes worksheet.



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Generally, we divide the six parts of the *Small Catechism* into two categories: the Word and the Sacraments. We will study the categories in more detail as we learn about each chief part. Initially we will review:

- The Word: These sections are all right from the Bible.
- The Gifts/Sacraments: The way we receive gifts from God. Did you realize that was going on during Communion and Baptism?

**Why would the Apostles' Creed be considered part of the Word? Is it inspired like Scripture?**

### What is a Christian?

Does "being a good person" or following the rules make you a Christian? Does loving God make you a Christian?

Read

- John 14:6
- Mark 16:16
- Titus 3:5-8

A Christian is one who has faith and trusts in his salvation through Baptism and Christ's crucifixion on the Cross. (Grace by faith)

### How do good works make a Christian?

God commands Christians to do good works, not to earn their salvation, but out of love for their neighbor.

### Who is God?

Read

- Matthew 3:13-17
- the Apostles' Creed

God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father is the Creator (Maker of heaven and earth), the Son suffered, died, and rose again to forgive our sins and the Holy Spirit brings us to faith.

### How do we know who God is?

Read

- John 20:30-31

After rising from the dead, the Son shows the disciples the wounds in His side and hands. He tells them to go and tell others what they have witnessed.



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### Who wrote the Bible?

Read

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 2 Peter 1:21

God wrote the Bible, using men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

### How can we trust this?

Read

- Ephesians 2:1-10

We trust by grace through faith.

### Where does human reason fit into learning about and understanding Scripture?

Read

- 1 Corinthians 2:12-14
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- Isaiah 1:16-18

Human reason has limits, therefore we cannot reason through these things on our own: We need faith first. With faith, we can reason through “the Spirit who is from God” and not through “the spirit of the world.”

We understand the two uses of reason to be:

1. Magisterial use - letting human reason rule or be the deciding argument in all matters. Similar to a magistrate or judge sitting or ruling over a courtroom.
2. Ministerial use - letting reason serve, or minister, the Scripture. This reason sits below and submits to the Scripture. This is the proper use of reason when wrestling with Scripture.

### What are the two great teachings of the Bible?

Read

- Romans 3:20-28
1. Law - shows us our sin
  2. Gospel - shows us our Savior



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What are the chief parts of the Christian faith and life? (Hint: Look at the Chief Parts of the Catechism covered at the beginning of the lesson.)

- Ten Commandments
- Apostles' Creed
- Lord's Prayer
- Baptism
- Confession and Absolution
- Sacrament of the Altar

### Closing

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

### Homework

Remind students to watch the [preview video](#) before the next meeting to prepare them for that lesson!

The parent track has discussion questions for families to work through before next week's lesson. Students will work through these as well.

### Supplemental Activities

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

- Catechism Scavenger Hunt included in this package!