



STUDENT TRACK

INTRODUCTION TO THE CATECHISM

Unit 1: Lesson 1

Guided Notes: Answer Key

1. 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 it and support that faith for the rest of our lives. **Can you guess what those resources are?**

1. Bible	2. Catechism	3. Hymnal
-----------------	---------------------	------------------

2. 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 a lot of additional questions and answers that we'll use in class, but the main parts of it are listed below.



STUDENT TRACK

INTRODUCTION TO THE CATECHISM

Unit 1: Lesson 1

SIX CHIEF PARTS OF THE <i>SMALL CATECHISM</i>		
1. The Ten Commandments	The Word	LAW
2. The Apostles' Creed		GOSPEL
3. The Lord's Prayer		PRAYER
4. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism	The Gifts/Sacraments/ Means of Grace	THE GIFTS/ SACRAMENTS/ MEANS OF GRACE
5. Confession		
6. The Sacrament of the Altar		

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

The Gifts/Sacraments: These are how we receive gifts from God. Did you realize that was going on during Communion and Baptism?

3. What is a Christian?

A Christian has **faith** and **trusts** in his salvation through Baptism and Christ's crucifixion on the Cross. This is also known as **grace** by **faith**.

4. Who is God?

Father - Creator	Son - forgives sins	Holy Spirit - brings faith
-------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------



STUDENT TRACK

INTRODUCTION TO THE CATECHISM

Unit 1: Lesson 1

5. Who wrote the Bible?

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

6. Where does human reason fit when understanding Scripture?

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**.”

What are the two uses of reason?

Magisterial - letting human reason rule, or be the deciding argument in all matters. Similar to a magistrate or judge sitting or ruling over a courtroom.	Ministerial - 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.
--	---

7. What are the two great teachings of the Bible?

Law - shows us our sin	Gospel - shows us our Savior
--------------------------------------	--