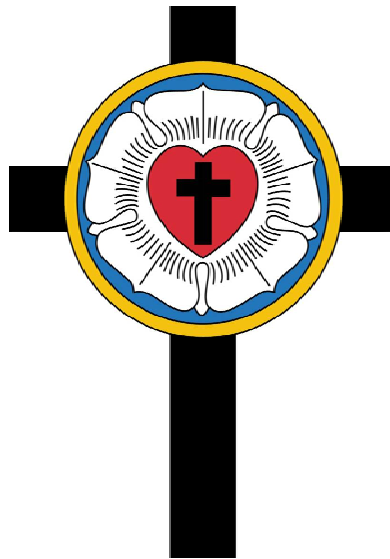


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Luther's *Small Catechism:* ***Series I***

SAMPLE ONLY

**The Bible, The Creeds, The Ten Commandments,
And The Sacraments**



For Youth And Adults

By

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TFF August 2009

PREFACE

One of the time-honored legacies of the Lutheran Reformation is Bible-based catechesis based on Luther's *Small Catechism*.

Www.SmallCatechism.org honors the historic and doctrinal roots of Lutheran Catechesis. Written from a Confessional perspective, *SmallCatechism.org* presents the *Small Catechism* and its key components in a simple, easy-to-present way.

Pastors and Catechists will recognize and appreciate *www.SmallCatechism.org's* foundations in Biblical inerrancy, Law and Gospel, the Creeds and the clear exposition of the Sacraments.

Students will benefit from materials which are not driven by "How do you feel about...?" questions. Instead, the foundation of truth presented in the outlines provides the "meat" of each respective doctrine.

Each class outline makes it easy for teachers to discuss each topic, while providing a great deal of flexibility. Students will appreciate the direction provided by the outlines. Students will also grow in their learning through "Reflection" experiences and Study Guide/Quizzes at the end of each lesson.

Series I can be used alone or in conjunction with other resources including *www.SmallCatechism.org's* online catechetical curriculum. These short lessons, also available in printed format, feature short summaries of each major topic in the *Small Catechism*. Online quizzes (soon available) will help students reflect and reinforce their catechetical experience.

May God bless your use of *www.SmallCatechism.org*. I invite you to consider other fine resources at *www.SmallCatechism.org* to supplement your basic curriculum. If you have any questions or suggestions to improve this catechetical ministry, please feel to call, write or email info@SmallCatechism.org.

May God bless your growth in Jesus Christ! To God be the glory!

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Dedicated to the glory of God in memory of my sainted grandfather,
Rev. Frederick O. Fischer (d. 1992) and sainted father, Rev. Ralph F. Fischer, D.D..(d. 1998),
Both life-long Confessional Lutheran pastors.

Intro: How To Pray

Prayer is a simple but important way Christians live out their faith. As we begin confirmation, one of the important goals is to teach confirmands how to pray in a simple, effective way.

Four Types Of Prayer

Prayer is simply a way of talking with God. In some ways, prayer is just like talking with a family member, a friend, or anyone else in our life. One of the most important thing about prayer is that what we pray reflects our needs, our wants and the relationship we have with the one to whom we pray.

What kind of things do you say to others in your conversations with them? List some of the things you can say to your friends below. Can you talk with God the same way?

Things You Say To Your Friends	Can You Also Say This To God?
1. Thanks!	Yes!
2. You're Great!	Yes!
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

A.C.T.S. Prayer

One of the simple tools to help us pray is the "A.C.T.S." method of prayer. Each letter of "A.C.T.S." represents a kind of prayer. Once we learn how to pray, each time we get together students will lead the class in prayer at each confirmation session.

A – “Adoration”

1. What does “*Adoration*” mean?
2. What are some other words (“synonyms”) that mean the same as “*Adoration*”?
3. The Book of Psalms is the Prayer Book of the Old Testament. In it we can find all kinds of prayers. Read Psalm 103. What are some things for which we can praise God?
4. In the space below, write three short prayers of **A**doration to God.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

C – “Confession”

1. What does “*Confession*” mean?
2. What are some other words (“synonyms”) that mean the same as “*Confession*”?
3. Read Psalm 51. What things do we pray for when we make confession?
4. In the space below, write three short prayers of **C**onfession to God.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

T – “Thanksgiving”

1. What does “*Thanksgiving*” mean?
2. What are some other words (“synonyms”) that mean the same as “*Thanksgiving*”
3. Read Psalm 107. List below three things the Psalmist is thankful for.
4. In the space below, write three short prayers of **T**hanksgiving to God.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

S – “Supplication”

1. What does “*Supplication*” mean?

*The word “Supplication” is based on the word “Supply.”
“Supplication” (or “supply-cation”) is simply asking God to supply
what we need according to His good and gracious will.*

2. What are some other words (“synonyms”) that mean the same as “*Supplication*”
3. Read Psalm 27. List below three things the Psalmist asks God for in this Psalm.
4. In the space below, write three statements of **S**upplication to God.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

#1: The Bible

I About The Bible

A. The Bible has _____ books

1. There are _____ books in the Old Testament
2. There are _____ books in the New Testament

B. The Message of the Bible.

1. Old Testament: The Savior _____ come (lwil)
2. New Testament: The Savior _____ come (sah)

C. The Bible has just _____ Author. (neo)

II The Bible: By “Two’s”

A. The Bible Has Two *Parts*:

1. _____ Testament (ldo)
2. _____ Testament (ewn)

B. The Bible Was Written By Two *Types Of People*

1. *Old Testament*: God gave the Old Testament through _____-phets (rop)

The word “*prophet*” means _____

2. *New Testament*: God gave the New Testament through _____-stles (opa)

The word "*apostle*" means _____

C. The Bible Has Two *Messages*

1. Old Testament: *The Savior* _____ *come* (sah)

2. New Testament: *The Savior* _____ *come* (illw)

D. The Bible Has Two *Main Teachings*:

1. Law: *Shows Our* _____ (inss)

2. Gospel: *Shows Our* _____ (aviors)

-
-
-

III The Bible Is Inspired

A. The word "*inspired*" means "God- _____" (reathedb)

B. "Inspiration" means that....

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. "

II Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

C. The Bible is not merely _____-ional. (nspirati)

D. The Bible does not merely _____ some of God's Word.
(ontainc)

E. _____ word of the Bible *is* God's Word! (verye)

F. The Bible is the *only* place we can find God's _____ of salvation through Jesus Christ. (lanp)

IV More About The Bible

A. The Two *Purposes* of the Bible are to...

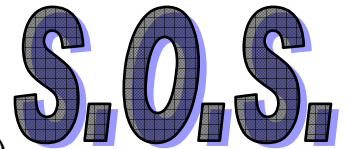
1. Show us how to be _____ (vedsa)
"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)

2. Show us how to _____ (ivel)
Exodus 20:1ff.; Colossians 2:6-7; Matthew 28:18-20; et al.

B. The Two Main *Teachings* of the Bible are _____ (wla)
and _____-pel (osg)

1. The Law: *Shows Our* _____ (inss)

2. The Gospel: *Shows Our* _____ (vasior)



C. The Two Main *Messages* Of The Bible are...

1. **Old** Testament: *The Savior* _____ *come* (illw)
Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; et al.

2. **New** Testament: *The Savior* _____ *come* (sah)
Luke 2:10-11; et al.

For Reflection:

1. Why did God gave *us* the Bible?

2. Why did God give us the Bible *through* human beings?

3. Why do you believe God used *so many kinds* of people to write the Bible?

4. Why is it so important that we know that God inspired *every word* of the Bible?

Review Quiz: "The Bible"

True Or False. *The Bible*. Place a "T" (True) or "F" (False) before each question below.

- ___ 1. The word "*Bible*" means "*Book*"
- ___ 2. The Bible began to be written in about 1500 B.C.
- ___ 3. The earliest books of the Bible were written by David.
- ___ 4. The message of the New Testament is that Jesus will come, but not yet.
- ___ 5. The Gospels are letters directed to various Old Testament churches.
- ___ 6. The two parts of the Bible are the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- ___ 7. The two main teachings of the Bible are Christmas and Easter.
- ___ 8. Because the Bible is inspired, it doesn't matter if it's true. All that matters is that I feel inspired when I read it.
- ___ 9. The last book of the Bible is the book of Malachi.
- ___ 10. God didn't need to write the Bible. After all, we can learn how to be saved from sources outside the Bible.

Answers: 1: T; 2:T; 3: F (Moses); 4: F; 5: F; 6: T; 7: Law & Gospel; 8: F; 9: F; 10: F

#2: Martin Luther—*Supplement*

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Germany. His parents were very strict Roman Catholics and baptized Luther on the day after he was born. This day is called “St. Martin’s Day.”

Though his father was a coal miner, he urged his young son to become a lawyer. However, God led Luther to follow another path. Luther became a priest. There is an interesting story that Luther chose to become a priest during a severe thunderstorm. As lightning crashed close to him, Luther supposedly cried out, “Save me, Lord, and I’ll become a monk.”

When he entered the Augustian order, his father was angry. But Luther and his father did not know God’s plan for Martin Luther. God’s plan was that Luther would change the world.

The Reformation: A Time Of Change

During Luther’s time the world was changing, and changing rapidly. In fact, the what people believed about the world changed almost completely during Luther’s lifetime.

These changes came because of a remarkable number of famous people. These people made remarkable discoveries. These discoveries caused profound changes throughout Europe...and the world.

One of these people was Christopher Columbus. When Columbus discovered America in 1492, Luther was nine years old.

Just a few years later, Gutenberg invented the very first printing press. Until this time the only way to publish or print materials was by copying them by hand. Gutenberg’s invention enabled news, information and all kinds of learning to be shared throughout Europe. During the Reformation, Luther would make extensive use of Gutenberg’s invention. The *Ninety-Five Theses*, the *Large* and *Small Catechisms* were but some of many documents which Luther published using Gutenberg’s invention.

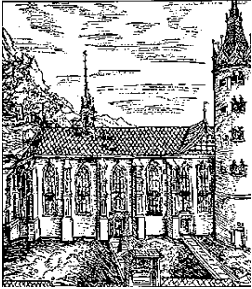
Another famous person who lived during Luther’s lifetime was Michelangelo. This famous artist gained prominence as a great artist and sculptor during Luther’s life. His paintings and views regarding art still influence much of art today.

Leonardo DaVinci, the famous artist, painter and scientist, also did his greatest works during Luther’s lifetime. Nicolas Copernicus, the famous astronomer, also lived during the time of Luther. He was the first to discover that the earth rotated around the sun.

All of these people had at least two things in common. First, they all made remarkable discoveries. Second, their discoveries radically changed the world.

Luther Changed The World

The new ideas which these men taught led to a renewal (or “Renaissance”) in Europe. Throughout Europe there were many new discoveries, ideas and inventions. Luther did not know it at the time. God’s plan for him was to join these great men who changed the world.



Castle Church at
Wittenberg, Germany

Luther’s first step to change the world occurred on October 31, 1517. On that day he nailed ninety-five statements (“theses”) stating that the Pope was wrong. He nailed these *Ninety-Five Theses* on the front door of the church in Wittenberg.

Everyone who came to church on “Hallow’s Eve” (“Halloween”) saw Luther’s theses on the door. Since Luther was a professor there, people knew who wrote these theses. News of his theses throughout Germany, to all of Europe, and to the Pope in Rome.



Wartburg
Castle at
Eisenach,
Germany