

PETT – Parent Sessions:

Lesson 1 – “The Bible”

Discussion questions for parents:

1. What do you remember most about your confirmation experience?
2. What do you want your child to get out of your sessions together?
3. Of the six chief parts of the Catechism, which do you know least about and look forward to studying with your child?

Key Points to communicate:

1. Take time to read through Pages 20-25 in the Blue Catechism. Review some of the basics of Luther’s life and his purpose in writing the Catechism.
2. What is the Bible? (Review Catechism Questions 6-17)
 - a. Inspired Word of God...therefore the Bible is God’s Word
 - b. As the Word of God, the Bible is true and trust worthy
3. What is the purpose of the Bible?
 - a. Guide us to heaven (faith)
 - b. Guide us through life (life)
4. What are the two main teachings of the Bible? (See chart on page 130 of Catechism)
 - a. Law – Shows our Sin
 - b. Gospel – Shows our Savior

Key Passages:

- **VIP Romans 1:16 It is the Word that has the power to work saving faith!**
I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.
- **2 Timothy 3:16** ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- **2 Peter 1:21** ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- **John 17:17** Your word is truth.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the difference between the two statements:
 - a. The Bible is God’s Word
 - b. The Bible contains God’s Word
2. Discuss: Since humans were involved in writing the Bible, we would be naïve to say it was without errors.
3. There are many “holy books” of different religions (Koran, Book of Mormon, Vedas, etc.) Look at one of these...how is the Bible uniquely different?
4. List five reasons why it is important to spend regular time in the Bible.

Resources:

Devotion Book - “As Luther Taught the Word of Truth”
David Kuske – “Biblical Interpretation: The Only Right Way” (NPH)
Shaller, John. The Book of Books – People’s Bible Series, Northwestern Publishing House

PETT – Parent Sessions:

Lesson 2 – “God and Creation”

Key Points to communicate:

1. How God Reveals Himself in the Bible (See diagram in Catechism pg. 133)
 - a. God is Triune
 - b. Three persons & key roles of each
2. What does it mean to believe in God? (Catechism Questions 151-152 – diagram pg 137)
 - a. To know about God (aware of his existence)
 - b. To accept what he says is true (sole source of truth)
 - c. To trust in him as My God (faith)
3. Creation/Evolution (Catechism Questions 153-157, diagram pg 141)
4. Biblical world-view (“the way we look at the total world”)
 - a. Help your child understand the fundamental premises behind creation
 - i. God exists, is all powerful
 - ii. Bible is true and while doesn’t teach all science, doesn’t contradict it
 - iii. You may work through the “Working with God’s Word” on page 14 together
 - b. Help your child to see the affects of a biblical world-view on people, society, faith
 - i. People
 1. Origin – special creation (Let us make man in our image...)
 2. Purpose – glorify God and serve others
 3. Relation to creation – Crown of God’s creation, rule over them
 - ii. Society
 1. Love of neighbor
 2. Moral Standards of right and wrong
 3. High value for human life
 - iii. Faith
 1. Scripture is authority
 2. Understand origin of sin and need for a Savior
5. Evolution World-view
 - a. Help your child understand the fundamental premises behind evolution
 - i. Atheistic – remove God from the equation
 - ii. Uniformitarianism – all process are constant and consistent
 - iii. Random – Order comes from disorder if given enough time.
 - b. Help your child to see the affects of evolutionary thought on people, society, faith
 - i. People
 1. Origin – primordial slime
 2. Purpose – serve self, survive
 3. Relation to creation – just another animal
 - ii. Society
 1. “Survival of the fittest”
 2. Moral relativism
 3. Human life is not unique

iii. Faith

1. Question authority of Scripture
2. Reason/Science elevated over Scripture
3. No accountability to God

Key Passages:

- **VIP Psalm 24:1 – God is the maker and owner of all creation!**
The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
- **Matthew 28:19** Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **Romans 10:17** Faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ.
- **Psalms 56:11** In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Discussion questions:

1. A/D No one can truly believe there is no god.
2. A Jehovah's witness comes to your door and says, "The Trinity is something the church made up years ago. The word Trinity doesn't even appear in the Bible once!" How do you respond?
3. In conversation, a friend turns the topic to the origin of things. "You know," he says, "does it really matter how we got here? Whether 6 days or 6 billion years...I just don't think it's a big deal." How do you respond?

Resources:

Creation Discussions & Resources: www.answersingenesis.org

Ham, Ken. Already Gone. Master Books, Green Forest AK 2009

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Lesson 3 – “God Preserves His Fallen Creation”

Discussion questions for parents:

1. How often do you think of your job as a way God is providing for you?

Key Points to communicate:

1. God’s preservation (Catechism questions 158-165; Diagrams pg 143 & 147)
 - a. Mainly by natural means
 - b. At times still with miracles
 - c. Live with an attitude of gratitude for all God provides.
2. Sin and its consequences (Catechism questions 166-171; Diagram pg 149)
 - a. Opportunity to discuss the origin of Satan
 - b. Satan’s purpose is to lead souls away from Jesus.
3. Sin and its solution
 - a. God’s promise to send a Savior
 - b. God’s power to save as we trust in our Savior

Key Passages:

- **VIP Romans 8:28 – God will work all things for blessing of his children.**
We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
- **VIP 1 Peter 5:8 – Be alert! Satan wants to get us to sin!**
Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
- **Psalms 91:11** He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
- **Genesis 3:15** I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel.

Discussion questions:

1. A tough question that is often asked is “Why did God allow Satan to fall and Adam and Eve to sin?” What possible answers might you give?
2. Can you list 10 things you have observed or are aware of that are direct consequences of sin in the world/your own life?

Resources:

- John Schuetze. Angels and Demons NPH People’s Bible Series
- Mark Lenz. God’s Providence NPH People’s Bible Series

PETT – Parent Sessions:

Lesson 4 – “Who Is Jesus Christ?”

Discussion questions for parents:

1. A/D I am saved because Jesus died on the cross for my sins.
2. For sharing – Describe how you first learned about Jesus and how your understanding has changed over time.

Key Points to communicate:

1. Who is Jesus? (Catechism Questions 172-176; Diagram pg 154)
 - a. God (divine names, attributes, and characteristics)
 - b. Man (human names, attributes and characteristics)
2. What do we need in a Savior
 - a. A human being to live in our place and die
 - b. God to be perfect and his life and death to count for all.
3. Key roles of Jesus (Catechism Questions 177-183; Diagram 159)
 - a. High Priest (was the sacrifice and the one who offered the sacrifice, intercedes for us.)
 - b. Prophet (proclaims God’s Word to God’s people)
 - c. King (rules in our hearts with his Word; rules overall for the benefit of his people)

Key Passages:

- **VIP: Colossians 2:9 – Jesus is true God and true man**
In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,
- 1 Timothy 2:5 There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.
- Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.
- (JESUS as PRIEST) Hebrews 7:26-27 (NIV) 26 Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. 27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.
- (JESUS as PROPHET) Hebrews 1:1-2 (NIV) In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.
- (JESUS as KING) Ephesians 1:22 (NIV) 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

Discussion questions:

1. People often discount Jesus as God and say, “He was a good man and a good teacher, but wasn’t God.” How would you respond? Why can we say confidently he was God?
2. Why is it important for our salvation that Jesus be both true God and true Man?
3. In a world that seems often in chaos, what comfort is it to know Jesus rules as king?

Resources:

Book: *The Case for Christ* – Lee Strobel (A journalist’s personal investigation of the evidence for Jesus)