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FIRST CATECHISM

Teaching Children Bible Truths

*Based on the
Catechism for Young Children:
An Introduction to the
Shorter Catechism*



Note to Parents and Teachers

The format of *First Catechism* has been designed to appeal to children. Larger page size, open layout, line drawings (for optional coloring) and ID page encourage them to “own” and use their personal copy of the catechism. Record recitation by using stickers and/or coloring the Q/A numbers. You may also use the section “Record of Achievement” at the back of this booklet.

Great Commission Publications offers preschool and elementary curriculum based on *First Catechism*. To find out more, call GCP at 800-695-3387 or visit www.gcp.org/kidsquest.

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Scripture quotations from Proverbs 8:17, Psalm 7:11, Exodus 20:3–17, Matthew 6:9–13 and Matthew 19:14.

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PREFACE

First Catechism is a primer on the Christian faith in general and the Reformed faith in particular. It is intended to be used with children, beginning at the earliest age feasible.

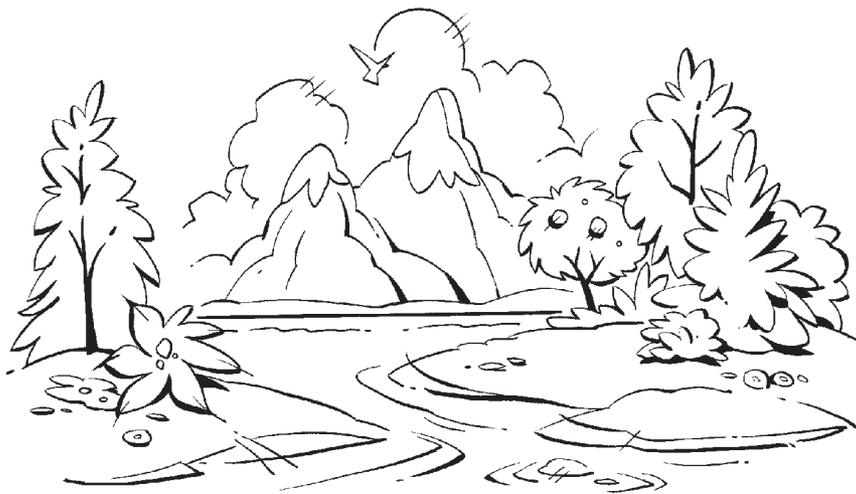
The structure and content are drawn from the *Catechism for Young Children*, originally published in 1840 by Joseph P. Engels. His work was an effort to introduce and simplify the concepts of the Shorter Catechism—one part of the Westminster Standards, which serve as the doctrinal foundation of Presbyterians worldwide.

In this adaptation, we have incorporated changes in vocabulary, grammar and the sequence of questions to make the catechism clearer and more accessible to young children. Where possible, the more personal first- or second-person pronouns are used.

Catechizing—systematic instruction using simple questions and answers—is a tried and effective tool for spiritual nurture. In the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition, this has been a common form for expressing and memorizing key elements of the Bible and our system of doctrine. The objective of *First Catechism* is to make that process work better and with greater dynamic impact in the lives of the learners.

Ideally, covenant children should begin learning the answers from *First Catechism* as they begin to talk. By so doing, they will add to their vocabulary the words that reflect biblical truth and especially the doctrines of grace. This will prepare them to take on a God-ward perspective toward themselves, God and his creation. It should be regarded as a steppingstone for young people to later study the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

First Catechism teaches children to know, love and serve God. Our prayer is that the fruit will be a desire in them to fulfill man’s chief end—“to glorify God and enjoy him forever.”



God made all things.

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- 1 **Q. Who made you?**
A. God.
- 2 **Q. What else did God make?**
A. God made all things.
- 3 **Q. Why did God make you and all things?**
A. For his own glory.
- 4 **Q. How can you glorify God?**
A. By loving him and doing what he commands.
- 5 **Q. Why are you to glorify God?**
A. Because he made me and takes care of me.
- 6 **Q. Is there more than one true God?**
A. No. There is only one true God.
- 7 **Q. In how many Persons does this one God exist?**
A. In three Persons.

8 Q. **Name these three Persons.**

A. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

9 Q. **What is God?**

A. God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.

10 Q. **Where is God?**

A. God is everywhere.

11 Q. **Can you see God?**

A. No. I cannot see God, but he always sees me.

12 Q. **Does God know all things?**

A. Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.

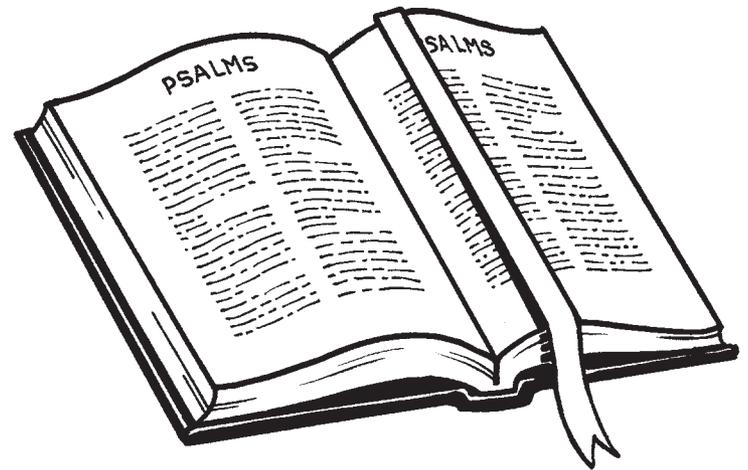
13 Q. **Can God do all things?**

A. Yes. God can do all his holy will.

14 Q. **Where do you learn how to love and obey God?**

A. In the Bible alone.

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We learn how to love and obey God in the Bible alone.