

## Helpful things to know for Catechesis Questioning

### Memory

- Know the 10 Commandments by heart and by number
- Know the entire Apostle's Creed by heart and be able to recite it word for word
- Know the entire Lord's Prayer by heart and be able to pray it
- Know the words used over the water to make it a Baptism
- Know the words of institution for the Lord's Supper

### Bible (Know about...)

- **... The inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible.** *Answer: The Bible is God's Word. The words are given by Divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit. There are no errors in the Bible anywhere.*
- **...Law and Gospel.** *Answer: The Law is the 10 Commandments. It shows us our sins and the Holy Spirit uses it to bring us to repent of our sins. The Gospel is the good news of Jesus' salvation for us, by His death for our sins. The Gospel shows us our salvation in Christ (so faith can believe it).*

### 10 Commandments (know about...)

- **...The first and the second tables of the Law are.** *Answer: 1<sup>st</sup> Table = 1-3 Commandments, all dealing with how a person is to serve God. 2<sup>nd</sup> Table = 4-10 Commandments, all dealing with how a person is to serve "the neighbor" (other people).*
- **...Original sin (or the sinful nature).** *Answer: The corrupted nature all people, even babies, inherited from Adam and Eve after the Fall into sin (in Gen. 3). By nature, people are spiritually blind, dead and enemies of God.*
- **...Can we be saved by doing the works of the Law?** *Answer: Only if we can do the works 100% perfectly in thought, word and deed. But no one can.*
- **...Any of the commandments (in greater detail)**

### Apostle's Creed (know about...)

- **...The Trinity.** *Answer: The only true God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Three persons in one undivided essence.*
- **...The false teaching of evolution and the way God created.** *Answer: Evolution takes billions of years, and death is a natural part of the process. God created life in 6 days by speaking, and death only came about when mankind fell into sin.*
- **...Jesus as true God and true Man.** *Answer: Jesus has a human nature, meaning that He is true man and like us (except without sin). He also has a divine nature, meaning that He is true God. The two natures are united together in one person (like red-hot iron has properties of both iron and fire)*
- **...What Jesus did for us and our salvation.** *Answer: Jesus lived perfectly in our place, died for our sins and rose again, and now defends us against the devil.*

- **...The Holy Spirit's job of creating faith by the Word.** *Answer: The Holy Spirit creates faith without our help, simply by working through the Word of the Gospel (Jesus' salvation for us).*
- **...The means of grace.** *Answer: This term means the ways that God brings His gracious favor to us. The means of grace are: preaching of the Gospel, Baptism, Absolution (spoken forgiveness) and Lord's Supper.*
- **...The visible and invisible church.** *Answer: The visible church is made of both believers and hypocrites who come to church and are members of a congregation. The invisible church is made up only of believers in Jesus Christ – but we can't see who is all in it because we can't see faith.*
- **...Justification by grace through faith in Christ.** *Answer: By God's gracious favor due to Jesus' death for me, God charges me innocent from my sins. Now through faith in Christ's salvation, I'm "just-(as)-if-I'd" never been a sinner.*
- **...Can you be certain you will go to heaven?** *Answer: YES! Because Jesus has done everything needed for me to go to heaven, and I believe His Word and promise for me.*

#### **Lord's Prayer (know about...)**

- **...What prayer is.** *Answer: Prayer is when God's children talk to God, bringing Him our worries, fears, needs, thanks, and we also pray for other people and what they need.*
- **...Why we can be confident God hears and answers our prayers.** *Answer: God commands us to pray, which means He wants us to do it. And He also promises to hear and answer us when we pray in faith in Christ.*
- **...Any part of the Lord's Prayer (in greater detail)**

#### **Baptism (know about...)**

- **...Sacraments in general.** *Answer: A sacrament is a means of grace Jesus instituted, that gives forgiveness of sins and is attached to a visible object. (There are 2 main Sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper; Absolution is sometimes considered a sacrament but there is no visible object).*
- **...What Baptism does.** *Answer: It brings forgiveness, rescues from death and the devil, gives eternal salvation. Also it makes me a member of God's family!*
- **...What causes Baptism to do this.** *Answer: The Word spoken over the water causes Baptism to do this.*
- **...Infant baptism, and why it's ok according to Scripture.** *Answer: Babies have original sin and need forgiveness. Jesus said, "Baptize all nations..." and babies are included in "all nations." Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me" and baptism is the normal way this happens.*

#### **Confession / Absolution (know about...)**

- **...Repentance** *Answer: Being sorry from your sins and "turning" from them, being "turned" to Christ.*
- **...Forgiveness** *Answer: Not counting sins against someone. Not punishing someone for their sins.*
- **...Pastors** *Answer: God's called and ordained servants, who Jesus calls to preach, administer the Sacraments, and serve God's people by God's Word.*

- **...The Office of the Keys** *Answer: The power given to the Church to forgive sins or retain sins. Those who repent, are to be forgiven. Those who do not repent, are to have their sins retained.*
- **...Church discipline and excommunication** *Answer: Church discipline is when an unrepentant person is warned to repent, because the Gospel doesn't apply to him as long as he does not repent. Excommunication is when an unrepentant person is publicly removed from communion fellowship by the church.*

### **Lord's Supper (know about...)**

- **...Words of institution (what they do, and word for word)** *Answer: The Words of institution are: "Take, eat, this is My body. Take, drink, this is My blood." These words, spoken by the pastor, cause Jesus' body to be in and with the bread, and His blood to be in and with the wine.*
- **...Jesus' true body and blood in and under the bread and wine** *Answer: This is called the "real presence".*
- **...Why faith is needed for the Lord's Supper** *Answer: Without faith in Christ and His Words of institution, a person receives the Lord's Supper to his harm, unworthily. It is still Jesus' body and blood, but it doesn't help him. It hurts him.*
- **...What benefits the Lord's Supper gives** *Answer: By this body and blood that is eaten and drank, Jesus promises to give us forgiveness, life and salvation.*
- **...Closed communion (and church fellowship)** *Answer: We only take communion with those churches we are in full doctrinal fellowship with. That means LCMS members should only take communion at LCMS churches that are faithful according to the Word. And only confirmed LCMS visitors can take communion at our LCMS church. When visiting an LCMS church, talk to the pastor first if they are having communion, so he knows who you are.*