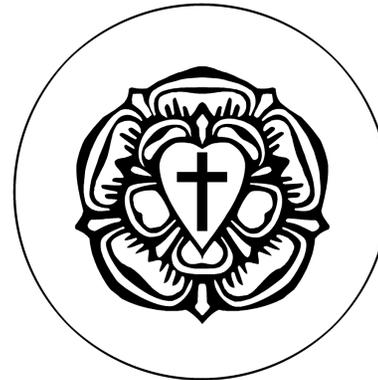


Lutheran Catechism Memorization

Unit 1: The Ten Commandments



Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You! (Psalm 119:11, NKJV)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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Directions

Break up the items each week, so that you memorize some *every day*.

1. Memorize (word for word) the parts of each answer in **bold print**.
2. Be able to retell the complete thought of the answers in plain print.
3. Recite/retell the entire section due each Monday to your catechism teacher.
4. All sections are required to complete Youth Catechesis class.

Week 1

1. What are the books of the Bible?

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John, Jude, Revelation

2. What is God's will toward all people?

1 Timothy 2:4 says, "[God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

3. Where does God reveal His will?

2 Timothy 3:15–16 says, "...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

4. How do we use the Word of God in the right way?

We should receive it, believe it, and live according to it. Luke 11:28 says, "blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

5. What is the moral law?

It expresses our duty toward God and our neighbor. Luke 10:27 says, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"

6. What is the essence or summary of the moral law?

Love to God and our neighbor. Romans 13:10 says, "...love is the fulfillment of the law."

7. How much does God demand of us in His moral law?

Perfection. Matthew 5:48 says, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

8. What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is that Word of God which reveals the salvation Christ has won for all people.

Memory Verification _____

Suggestions for Memorization

Every student is different from every other student in experience and gifts relating to memorization. Here are some recommended techniques to try. These techniques may make the work easier, but the student and parents should remember that like all learning, memorization *always* requires work. Some students will need to work more, some less. Some students will have greater self-discipline, some less.

The Disappearing Word Technique This works best with a white board or something similar that can be erased with *no trace* of the words that were erased. Paper and chalk are not ideal.

1. The entire text to be memorized is written out.
2. The student reads the text aloud.
3. As long as words remain, the student erases one or more words, but not punctuation.
4. Go back to step 2.

A simple web page on our school web site helps with this. The user types or pastes the text, then the page converts it into clickable words. The words disappear when clicked, but may be all brought back if the student gets lost.

Diagramming Real sentence diagramming requires some knowledge of grammar, but for memorization it doesn't necessarily have to be a correct or standard diagram. The main idea is simply to write and connect phrases to picture the meaning of the text. It may even help to draw some pictures.

Focused Repetition Without distractions, repeat small parts of the text from memory. When one part has been memorized, move to other small parts. When ready, add them together and repeat until they can be said from memory. In this way, the student can slowly build the memorized text. This is best done in several focused sessions of about 10-15 minutes with breaks.

Getting Help Someone else can help a lot with prompts, encouragement, and ensuring that there are no distractions during study time.

Week 2

1. **You shall have no other gods.** *What does this mean?*

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

2. **You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.** *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, practice witchcraft, lie or deceive by His name, but call upon Him in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

3. Who is the one true God?

He is the Triune God, who reveals Himself in His Word as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19 says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. . ." (*name* is singular)

4. Of what do people make false gods or idols?

People make idols of themselves, other persons, or other created things. Romans 1:25 says, "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator."

5. What is cursing by God's name?

Cursing is speaking evil of God or calling down evil from God upon oneself or another person, or any creature or thing. Romans 12:14 says, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."

6. What kind of oaths does God permit us to swear?

Those which honor Him, are for the good of our neighbor, or are required by law. Deuteronomy 6:13 says, "You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name."

7. What is practicing witchcraft by God's name?

Witchcraft includes any effort to do supernatural things such as consulting witches, psychics, speaking to the dead, practicing astrology, or other works of Satan. Deuteronomy 18:10 states, "There shall not be found among you anyone who . . . practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer . . . For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD. . ."

8. Why is God's name precious?

It reveals our salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ who kept the law for us and provided forgiveness. Matthew 1:21 says, "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

Week 3

1. **You shall keep the day of rest holy.** *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

2. **Honor your father and your mother, that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.** *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love and esteem them.

3. How do we despise God's Word and preaching?

By not rightly using the Bible and Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), or by neglecting divine worship for reasons like laziness, amusements and unnecessary work. Luke 10:16 says, "He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me ..."

4. How do we gladly hear and learn God's Word?

By reading and hearing it thoughtfully and regularly, keeping it in our hearts, living according to it, and proclaiming it to others. Luke 11:28 says, "... blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

5. Is Sunday the same day as the Old Testament Sabbath?

God's people in the Old Testament had to rest and hear His Word on Saturday, but we freely gather around God's Word on Sunday to remember the resurrection of Christ. Colossians 2:16–17 says, "Let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ."

6. Why has God placed parents and superiors over us?

For our bodily and spiritual welfare. Ephesians 6:4 says, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

7. What is our duty to our country?

To love it, obey its laws, assist its officials in keeping law and order, fulfill our duties as citizens in good faith, and promote its general welfare. Matthew 22:21 says, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

8. What if parents or superiors command what is wrong?

Acts 5:29 says, "We ought to obey God rather than men." 1 Peter 2:19 says, "For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully."

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4. What is "Original Sin?"

The total corruption of our whole human nature, inherited from our first parents, which makes us inclined only to evil, unable and unwilling to do what is good. It prevents us from keeping God's commandments, and spawns all kinds of unrighteousness. Romans 7:18 says, "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells."

5. What use is the Law, since nobody can be saved by it?

God uses it (1) as a **curb** toward maintaining an outward order in the world; (2) as a **mirror** that shows us our sinful condition; and (3) as a **guide** to show believers how to live as God's children. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."

6. Since the Law cannot save us, how can we be saved?

Through faith in Jesus Christ alone, who fulfilled the Law for us with His perfect life, and died to pay the penalty of our guilt. This saving truth is called the Gospel. Romans 10:4 says, "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

Memory Verification _____

4. Since God forbids coveting our neighbor's inheritance or home, what does this teach us about their significance?

An inheritance or home is provided ultimately by God as a gift of grace to a certain person. Though an earthly inheritance or home will perish with the rest of the world, we each have an eternal inheritance and home through Christ.

5. What evil does God forbid in the Tenth Commandment?

Every desire or effort to interfere with the proper service our neighbor receives from others.

6. How does Jesus regard the service which we provide for others?

As being done to Himself. Matthew 25:40 says, "... inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

7. How should we guard against the sin of coveting?

By learning from God's Word that, while earthly things we are tempted to covet will pass away, we by faith in Christ already possess the riches that will never pass away. Luke 12:15 says, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Memory Verification _____

Week 7

1. *What does God say about these commandments?*

I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, and showing mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments. What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear His wrath and do nothing against these commandments. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should also love and trust in Him and willingly do according to His commandments.

2. What is sin?

Everything contrary to the commandments of God. James 4:17 says, "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

3. How did sin come into the world?

It came through Adam and Eve when they yielded to Satan's temptation in the Garden of Eden. Romans 5:12 says, "... through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned ..."

Week 4

1. **You shall not kill.** *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God, so that we do no bodily harm to our neighbor, but help and befriend him in every need.

2. **You shall not commit adultery.** *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God, so that we lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, and that husband and wife each love and honor the other.

3. Do only those who commit murder break the Fifth Commandment?

No. When God forbids killing, He prohibits every injury to our human neighbor, no matter the person's age, or even whether he is born. God forbids us from injuring ourselves through foolishness, laziness, neglect or worry. He also forbids hatred of persons, since that leads to injury and murder. Psalm 139:13 says, "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb."

4. Will a person who commits suicide be saved?

In most cases, it is impossible for the person to repent and be saved. Acts 16:28 says, "Do yourself no harm ..."

5. Is it wrong for a soldier or law officer to kill?

When a soldier or officer kills in fulfillment of his duty, he acts as an agent of the governing authority, which has a limited authority to kill. Romans 13:4 says, "For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil."

6. What is marriage?

The life-long union of one man and one woman into one flesh, entered into by mutual consent and promise. Matthew 19:5-6 says, "'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh' ... So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

7. What relationship has God established between husband and wife?

The husband is to be the loving head of the wife, and the wife his companion and helper. Genesis 2:18 says, "And the LORD God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.'" Ephesians 5:25 says, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her."

8. What is included in the Sixth Commandment as adultery?

The actual breaking of the marriage vow (adultery), a sexual union between those who are not married to each other (fornication), a sexual union between those of the same sex (homosexuality), and every impure desire, word, or deed in matters of sex (lewdness or in chastity). Ephesians 5:3 says, “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you . . .”

9. Why should we hold marriage in such high esteem?

It was created by God as a special blessing, and God shows His own high regard by comparing marriage to Christ’s love for His Church. (See Eph. 5:25 above.)

Memory Verification _____

Week 5

1. **You shall not steal.** *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God, so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or goods, nor get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his goods and means of making a living.

2. **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.** *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God, so that we do not lie about, betray or slander our neighbor, but excuse him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

3. How does God give us money and goods?

God gives them to individual people through honest labor, gifts, or inheritance. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 says, “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”

4. How must we use our money and goods?

As faithful stewards or managers accountable to God, we must use them to His glory, and for the benefit of our neighbors.

5. Does this commandment only prohibit stealing in secret?

No, God forbids robbery (by violence), theft (by cleverness), burglary (by stealth), cheating, taking unfair advantage, bribing, overcharging, using a false measure, filing false tax returns, and the like.

6. What should be our attitude toward money and goods?

We should be content with what we have and remember that God provides what we need because of His love for us in Christ. Proverbs 30:8—9 says, “Give me neither poverty nor riches — Feed me with the food allotted to

me; Lest I be full and deny You, And say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.”

7. What is false witness?

Every untrue or unkind statement about our neighbor in court or daily life.

8. Should we ever speak about our neighbor’s sin?

When concern or the truth and for our fellowmen requires it, we should speak to our neighbor or to the proper authorities about his sin. Matthew 18:15 says, “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.”

9. What does it mean to excuse our neighbor, or to put the best construction on what we hear about him?

Even when we must disapprove of sin, we should be understanding toward our neighbor’s circumstances and weaknesses, recognizing that we have such problems of our own. When there is more than one possible explanation for what we hear, we hope and assume that the best possible explanation is the correct one. 1 Corinthians 13:6 says, “Love . . . does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth.”

Memory Verification _____

Week 6

1. **You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.** *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God, so that we do not craftily seek to gain our neighbor’s inheritance or home, nor get it by a show of right, but help and serve him in keeping it.

2. **You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.** *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God, so that we do not tempt, force or coax away from our neighbor his wife or his workers, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

3. Why does God forbid us from coveting?

To covet is to desire something that God has provided to your neighbor in such a way that you are tempted to obtain it wrongly. God teaches us that even the desire itself counts as a sin against Him. James 1:15 says, “Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”