

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.

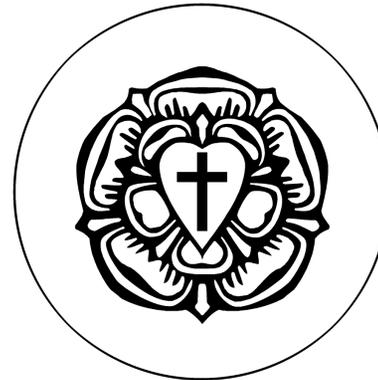
Diagramming Real sentence diagramming requires some knowledge of grammar, but for memorization it doesn't necessarily have to be a correct or standard diagram. The main idea is simply to write and connect phrases to picture the meaning of the text. It may even help to draw some pictures.

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.

Lutheran Catechism Memorization

Unit 3: The Lord's Prayer



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

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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 16

1. Our Father, Who art in Heaven *What does this mean?*

God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him with all boldness and confidence, as children ask their dear father.

2. What is Prayer?

Prayer is **an act of worship** in which we **speak to God** from the heart, asking something of Him or thanking Him for His mercies. Phillipians 4:6 says, **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;”**

3. Why do we pray?

- God **commands** us to pray.
- God **promises** to hear us.
- We constantly need His help, and
- We want to *thank* Him for His blessings.

Psalms 50:15 says, “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”

4. To whom do we pray?

To the Triune God, not to angels, the saints, or the dead. Jesus said in Matthew 4:10, “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.”

5. Should we always expect to receive what we ask?

When praying for what is necessary for salvation, we should ask boldly and unconditionally; when praying for other gifts, we should ask that God grant them if it is His will. Matthew 8:2 says, “And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, ‘Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.’”

6. When and where should we pray?

Our heart should be directed toward God at all times, and we should also have regular times set just for prayer. We may pray anywhere: alone, with family, or in public worship with fellow believers. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, **“...pray without ceasing...”**

7. With whom may we pray?

We may pray with those who hold to and confess the truth, but not with those who teach and live contrary to the Word of God. Proverbs 28:9 says, **“One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.”**

Memory Verification _____

So sing we, Alleluia!

Jesus Christ, be Thou our Stay; ...

Holy Ghost, be Thou our Stay; ...

Triune God, be Thou our Stay; ...

Memory Verification _____

- turns the evil we experience into a blessing,
- comforts us in affliction, and
- by a blessed death brings us out of all trouble and sorrow into His glory.

Psalm 121:7–8 says, “The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.”

4. What does the Lord impress upon us in our model prayer?

That our spiritual needs should be our first concern and that He will also provide the things we need for this life.

Memory Verification _____

Week 21

Day 1 **John 1:1-3**, “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.**”

Day 2 **John 1:14**, “**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**”

Day 3 **1 Timothy 1:15**, “**This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.**”

Day 4 **Psalm 51:5**, “**Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.**”

Day 5 **God the Father, be our Stay;
O let us perish never!
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray,
And grant us live forever.
Keep us from the evil one.
Uphold our faith most holy;
Grant us to trust Thee solely
With humble hearts and lowly.
Let us put God’s armor on,
With all true Christians running
Our heav’nly race and shunning
The devil’s wiles and cunning.
Amen, amen! This be done;**

Week 17

1. **Hallowed be Thy name.**

What does this mean? **God’s name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be holy among us also.**

How is God’s name hallowed? **God’s name is hallowed when His Word is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God live holy lives according to it. This grant us, dear Father in heaven! But he who teaches and lives otherwise than the Word of God teaches dishonors God’s name among us. From this preserve us, heavenly Father!**

2. **Thy Kingdom come.**

What does this mean? **The kingdom of God certainly comes of itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.**

How does God’s kingdom come? **The kingdom of God comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.**

3. Who alone can truly call God their Father?

Only those who have become His children by faith in Jesus. Galatians 3:26 says, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

4. Why does Jesus teach us to say, “Who art in heaven?”

To remind us that our dear Father is the almighty God, who is not only willing, but also able to help us. Ephesians 3:20 says that God “is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think. . .”

5. What is the kingdom of God spoken of in the Second Petition?

It is the kingdom of **grace** and **glory**. (Not the kingdom of power.) Colossians 1:13-14 says, “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Memory Verification _____

Week 18

1. **Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

What does this mean? **The good and gracious will of God is certainly done without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done also among us.**

How is God’s will done? **God’s will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will, which would not let us hallow His name nor**

let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world and our own flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith until our end. This is His good and gracious will.

2. Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all the wicked; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to acknowledge this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything needed for this life, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, cattle, money, goods, God-fearing spouse and children, faithful servants and rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, order, honor, true friends, good neighbors, and the like.

3. Are the troubles we experience a part of God's will?

God often permits troubles to come to us, but instead of letting them harm us, He turns them into blessing for us. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

4. For what purpose does God give us our daily bread?

God gives us our daily bread not only to preserve our lives, but also to give us the means and strength to serve Him. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

5. What is meant by *stewardship*?

Stewardship is being entrusted with things belonging to someone else. Christians are stewards of God's gifts. In Luke 19:17, Jesus teaches in a parable, "And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'"

Memory Verification _____

Week 19

1. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor on their account deny our prayer; for we are not worthy of anything we ask, neither have we deserved it. But we pray that He would give us everything by grace, for we daily sin much and deserve nothing but punishment; and we on our part will heartily forgive and readily do good to those who sin against us.

2. And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God certainly tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world and our own flesh may not deceive us nor lead us into misbelief, despair and other shameful sin and vice; and though we be thus tempted, that we may still in the end overcome and retain the victory.

3. What are the trespasses spoken of in the Fifth Petition?

They are the debts we owe to God because of our sins. In Matthew 6:12, Jesus teaches part of the Lord's Prayer by saying, "And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors."

4. How should we act toward those who sin against us?

As sinners who have received God's forgiveness, we should forgive those who sin against us. Mark 11:26 says, "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

5. Of what other kind of temptation does the Bible speak?

Besides temptations to sin that come from the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh, the Bible speaks of temptations from God, which are really trials or tests from Him; He in His grace uses these to train His children and to strengthen their faith. Genesis 22:1 tells us, "Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham. . ."

Memory Verification _____

Week 20

1. But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition, as the sum of all, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil of body and soul, property and honor; and at last, when the hour of death shall come, grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

2. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

What does "Amen" mean? Amen means that we should be sure that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and are heard by Him; for He himself has commanded us so to pray and has promised to hear us. Amen, Amen: that is, Yes, Yes, it shall be so.

3. What does God do in answer to the Seventh Petition?

- He turns away many evils, or