

Do This in Remembrance of Me:



COMMUNICANT'S WORKBOOK



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH
Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. Changed Community.

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INTRODUCTION:

For Parents

We at Christ Community Church love our children and desire for them to know and celebrate God's love for them by grace alone in Christ alone through their profession of faith alone. As a result of their profession of faith in Christ as savior, we want them to have access to all of the ordinary means of grace of which the Lord's Table is one. It is critical that your child be able to give a credible profession of faith before being admitted to the Lord's Table which is why the primary emphasis is on their understanding of the work of the Father, Son, and Spirit in their redemption. We are not focused on whether or not they have had a spiritual experience or prayed a particular prayer but are focused on their current understanding of the Gospel and their redemption in Christ alone through grace alone by faith alone. While we want to take the process of our children becoming full communing members of our church seriously, we also want to be careful not to make it more complex than adult membership given that they are asked the same questions. Thus, we have designed the communicant's material to focus on the 5 membership questions that they will be asked to be admitted to the Lord's Table.

This is only a part of their overall discipleship process that began with their baptism and regular instruction and catechesis at home and at church. The reason that this process is necessary to become a communicant (member admitted to the Lord's Table) comes from Paul's admonishment in **1 Corinthians 11:27-32** to examine ourselves before coming to the table so that the means of grace are a blessing to us and not a curse. Each communicant is required to take the time to examine themselves in light of Christ's finished work on their behalf and their relationship to others in light of their forgiveness. This requires a level of understanding of one's identity in Christ that must be expressed to the session before being admitted to the table. *The Book of Church Order* in Chapter 57: The Admission of Persons to Sealing Ordinances states in 57-1:

57-1. Believers' children within the Visible Church, and especially those dedicated to God in Baptism, are non-communing members under the care of the Church. They are to be taught to love God, and to obey and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. When they are able to understand the Gospel, they should be earnestly reminded that they are members of the Church by birthright, and that it is their duty and privilege personally to accept Christ, to confess Him before men, and to seek admission to the Lord's Supper.

The precise age for this process is not fixed given that cognitive abilities can vary from child to child for various reasons. *The Book of Church Order* in Chapter 57: The Admission of Persons to Sealing Ordinances states in 57-2:

57.2 The time when young persons come to understand the Gospel cannot be precisely fixed. This must be left to the prudence of the Session, whose office it is to judge, after careful examination, the qualifications of those who apply for admission to sealing ordinances

Based on our experience, the average age range is somewhere between 8 and 10 years of age. Again, the issue is not age but ability to understand and evidence a basic understanding of redemption in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone.

The process is designed to be a joint effort between you and the elders. You will walk your child through the material each week over the 5 weeks. The material is based on the membership questions and uses the *First Catechism* and *The Jesus Storybook Bible* that your child received at baptism as discipleship resources if they were baptized at CCC. Here are some suggestions as to how to use the manual:

1. Pick a consistent time daily to work through the reading and questions with your child. This should take about 20-30 minutes per day.
2. Encourage your child to either prepare before you meet or follow-up after to review the catechism questions.
3. Take time to review the previous catechism questions with the ultimate goal of understanding the membership question.
4. Give your child time to wrestle with the questions and answer them. The goal is NOT just to know the right answers but to experience how the Gospel changes their lives.
5. Use Saturday and/or Sunday if you miss a day here and there.

Once the material is completed, consider the following questions to help you determine if your child is ready to interview with the elders to partake of the Lord's Table:

1. Does your child display an understanding of their sinfulness and need for Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior to be restored to God the Father in their knowledge and actions?
2. Does your child understand the basics of what it means to be a member of this church and express a genuine interest in joining CCC?

3. Does your child basically understand the meaning of the Lord's Table and the need to examine themselves in preparation for the table?

If you feel confident that your child can answer the membership questions based on an understanding of the questions and evidence of the fruit of the Gospel in their lives, we will set up a time for 2 elders to meet with your child in whatever setting is most comfortable for your child. The elders will ask your child to share the testimony of Jesus' saving work in their life and some basic questions related to this material and the membership questions. They will decide whether the child is ready to participate in the Lord's Table. If they decide the child is ready, then a public profession of faith will need to be made before the church in the form of answering the 5 membership questions. *The Book of Church Order* in Chapter 57: The Admission of Persons to Sealing Ordinances states in 57-4:

57.4 It is recommended, as edifying and proper, that baptized persons, when admitted by the Session to the Lord's Supper, make a public profession of their faith in the presence of the congregation. But in all cases, there should be a clear recognition of their previous relation to the church as baptized members.

Thank you for being obedient to the Great Commission and Christ's desire for the children to come to Him! We look forward to how the Lord will use your child's membership and His means of grace over the life of your child to transform them further into the image of Christ. May we all be reminded of the need to partake of God's grace with the awe and wonder of a child!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Week One:

WHO IS GOD? WHO ARE YOU APART FROM GOD?

Monday: GOD THE CREATOR

Read "The Beginning: A Perfect Home" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and Genesis 1-2.

Catechism Questions:

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.

Tuesday: GOD THE TRINITY

Read Luke 3:21-22. *Who all acts and speaks in Jesus' baptism?*

Catechism Questions:

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.

Wednesday: GOD THE ALL PRESENT, ALL KNOWING, ALL POWERFUL

Read **Psalm 145**. *How does this Psalm describe the Lord?*

Catechism Questions:

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.

Thursday: MAN: THE CROWN JEWEL OF CREATION

Read **Psalm 8**. *Who is given charge over creation and is considered above all else between heaven and earth?*

Catechism Questions:

14. Q. Where do you learn how to love and obey God?
A. In the Bible alone.
17. Q. How did God create man?
A. God created man, male and female, after his own image.

22. Q. What is a covenant?

A. A relationship that God establishes with us and guarantees by his word.

Friday: MAN: LOST AND RUINED IN SIN

Read "The Terrible Lie" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and **Genesis 3**. *What did Adam and Eve do wrong?*

Catechism Questions:

28. Q. What is sin?

A. Any thought, word, or deed that breaks God's law.

31. Q. What does every sin deserve?

A. The wrath and curse of God.

36. Q. What effect did the sin of Adam have on you and all people?

A. We are all born guilty and sinful.

37. Q. How sinful are you by nature?

A. I am corrupt in every part of my being.

38. Q. Can anyone go to heaven with this sinful nature?

A. No. Our hearts must be changed before we can believe in Jesus and go to heaven.

At the end of this week, your child should be able to answer this question with understanding:

QUESTION 1: Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?

Week Two:

WHO IS JESUS? WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Monday: JESUS IS GOD

Read "Heaven Breaks Through" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and John 5:16-24. *What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Catechism Questions:

43. Q. How then can you be saved?
A. By the Lord Jesus Christ in the covenant of grace.
44. Q. Who was represented by Jesus in the covenant of grace?
A. His elect people.
45. Q. How did Jesus fulfill the covenant of grace?
A. He kept the whole law for his people, and then was punished for all of their sins.
46. Q. Did Jesus ever sin?
A. No – he lived a sinless life.

Tuesday: JESUS IS MAN

Read "Let's Go!" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and Mark 10:32-45. *Why did Jesus become a man – a human being like us?*

Catechism Questions:

47. Q. How could the Son of God suffer?
A. The Son of God became a man so that he could obey and suffer.
49. Q. What kind of life did Christ live on earth?
A. A life of poverty and suffering.

50. Q. What kind of death did Jesus die?

A. The painful and shameful death of the cross.

Wednesday: JESUS IS SAVIOR

Read "The Sun Stops Shining" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and **Romans 3:21-26** and **Hebrews 9:23-28**. *What did the death of Jesus do for His people?*

Catechism Questions:

51. Q. What is meant by the atonement?

A. Christ satisfied God's justice by his suffering and death in the place of sinners.

52. Q. What did God the Father guarantee in the covenant of grace?

A. To justify and sanctify all those for whom Christ died.

53. Q. How can God justify you?

A. By forgiving all my sins, and declaring me to be righteous.

54. Q. How can God sanctify you?

A. By making me holy in heart and conduct.

Thursday: THE GOSPEL IS OUR SALVATION BY GRACE

Read "The Friend of Little Children" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and **Ephesians 2:1-10**. *Does Jesus love us because we are worthy or because He is merciful?*

Catechism Questions:

55. Q. What must you do to be saved?

A. I must repent of my sins, believe in Christ and live a new life.

56. Q. How do you repent of your sins?

A. By being sorry enough for my sin to hate and forsake it.

57. Q. Why must you hate and forsake your sin?

A. Because it displeases God.

58. Q. What does it mean to believe in Christ?

A. To trust in him alone for my salvation.

Friday: THE GOSPEL IS OUR SALVATION THROUGH FAITH

Read "Washed with Tears" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and **Romans 4:15-25**. *What does it mean to have faith in Jesus?*

Catechism Questions:

61. Q. How long ago did Christ die?

A. About two thousand years.

62. Q. How were sinners saved before Christ came?

A. By believing in a Messiah to come.

63. Q. How did they show their faith?

A. By offering the sacrifices God required.

64. Q. What did these sacrifices represent?

A. Christ, the Lamb of God, who would come to die for sinners.

At the end of this week, your child should be able to answer this question with understanding:

QUESTION 2: Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

Week Three:

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE AS A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST?

Monday: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

Read “God Sends Help” in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and **John 16:5-15**. *Who sends the Holy Spirit? What is His mission?*

Tuesday: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO OBEY GOD

Read **John 14:15-31**. *Why does Jesus call the Holy Spirit “the Helper?” What does He help us to do?*

Wednesday: FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST LIVE NEW LIVES BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Read **Ezekiel 36:22-38**. *How does God change our hearts?*

Catechism Questions:

39. Q. What is the changing of your heart called?
A. The new birth, or regeneration.
40. Q. Who is able to change your heart?
A. The Holy Spirit alone.
59. Q. Can you repent and believe by your own power?
A. No – I cannot do anything good unless the Holy Spirit enables me.

Thursday: FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST LOVE GOD BY OBEYING HIM AND LOVING THEIR NEIGHBORS

Read “Ten Ways to be Perfect” in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and **Matthew 22:34-40**. *How do we know what God wants us to do?*

Catechism Questions:

54. Q. How can God sanctify you?
A. By making me holy in heart and conduct.
60. Q. How can you get the help of the Holy Spirit?
A. God will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.
73. Q. How many commandments did God write down on the stone tablets?
A. Ten commandments.
74. Q. What do the first four commandments teach you?
A. What it means to love and serve God.
75. Q. What do the last six commandments teach you?
A. What it means to love and serve my neighbor.
76. Q. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?
A. To love God with all my heart, and my neighbor as myself.
77. Q. Who is your neighbor?
A. Everybody is my neighbor.

Friday: FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST DEPEND UPON AND IMITATE HIS PERFECT OBEDIENCE

Read "The Good Shepherd" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and Colossians 3:1-17. *What kind of people does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, want us to be?*

Catechism Questions:

78. Q. Is God pleased if you love and obey Him?
A. Yes – He loves those who love Him.
79. Q. Is God displeased with those who refuse to love and obey Him?
A. Yes – God is angry with the wicked every day.
103. Q. Can you keep the Ten Commandments perfectly?
A. No – since the fall of Adam, the only one who has been able to do this is Jesus.

104.Q. Of what use are the Ten Commandments to you?

A. They teach me what is pleasing to God, and how much I need a Savior.

At the end of this week, your child should be able to answer this question with understanding:

QUESTION 3: Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

Week Four:

WHAT IS THE CHURCH? WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Monday: THE CHURCH IS GOD'S PEOPLE

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. *How are God's people like a human body? Is it important that they work together?*

Tuesday: GOD TEACHES US HOW TO WORSHIP

Read "How to Pray" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. *How do we know what to say to God?*

Catechism Questions:

105.Q. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is asking God for the things he has promised in the Bible – and giving thanks for what he has given.

106.Q. In whose name are we to pray?

A. In the name of Christ only.

107.Q. What did Christ give us to teach us about prayer?

A. The Lord's Prayer.

108.Q. What is the Lord's Prayer?

A. "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Wednesday: GOD IS GLORIFIED BY OUR WORSHIP

Read Psalm 100. *Why do we praise the Lord?*

Catechism Questions:

- 109.Q. How many things do we pray for in the Lord's Prayer?
A. Six
- 110.Q. What do we pray first?
A. "Hallowed be your name."
- 111.Q. What does it mean to pray, "Hallowed be your name?"
A. We are asking God to enable us and all creation to honor His name.
- 112.Q. What do we pray second?
A. "Your kingdom come."
- 113.Q. What does it mean to pray, "Your kingdom come?"
A. We are asking God to bring more and more people to believe and obey his gospel.

Thursday: WORSHIP SHOWS OUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD AND HIS GOODNESS TO US

Read "The Singer" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. Who should we depend upon to give us what we really need?

Catechism Questions:

- 114.Q. What do we pray third?
A. "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
- 115.Q. What does it mean to pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven?"
A. We are asking God to make us able and willing to serve Him as the angels do in heaven.
- 116.Q. What do we pray fourth?
A. "Give us today our daily bread."
- 117.Q. What does it mean to pray, "Give us today our daily bread?"
A. We are asking God to provide us with all that we really need.

Friday: **WORSHIP SHOWS GOD'S MERCY TOWARDS US**

Read "The Servant King" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. What kind of king is Jesus?

Catechism Questions:

118.Q. What do we pray fifth?

A. "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

119.Q. What does it mean to pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors?"

A. We are asking God to forgive our sins for Christ's sake, and to make us willing to forgive others.

120.Q. What do we pray sixth?

A. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

121.Q. What does it mean to pray, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one?"

A. We are asking God to keep us from being tempted, or to make us strong enough to resist if we are tempted.

At the end of this week, your child should be able to answer this question with understanding:

QUESTION 4: Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

Week Five:

WHAT IS CHURCH GOVERNMENT? WHAT IS THE PURITY AND PEACE OF THE CHURCH?

Monday: CHURCH GOVERNMENT IS HOW GOD LEADS AND CORRECTS US

Read 1 Peter 5. *Why is it important to have shepherds?*

Tuesday: CHURCH GOVERNMENT IS BY THE WORD OF GOD

Read 1 Timothy 4. *What does the discipline of the church help to keep us from doing?*

Wednesday: CHURCH GOVERNMENT HELPS US TO KEEP FOLLOWING JESUS

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1, 17-32. *Why is it important to think over what Jesus has done for us?*

Thursday: THE PURITY OF THE CHURCH IS ITS FAITHFULNESS TO WHAT JESUS HAS TAUGHT US

Read "Going Home" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. *What does Jesus tell us to be doing?*

Friday: THE PEACE OF THE CHURCH IS ITS LOVE FOR EACH OTHER

Read Matthew 18:15-35. *How are we to treat other Christians who have wronged us?*

At the end of this week, your child should be able to answer this question with understanding:

QUESTION 5: Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

Post Script:

WHAT'S NEXT?

Now that your child has completed the Communicant's Guide, here is what you do next:

1. Email your shepherding elder to set up a time for him and another elder to meet with you and your child to hear their profession of faith and go over the 5 questions. (If you don't know or cannot get in touch with your shepherding elder, email Bonnie at info@christcommunitycobb.org to set up a time). The elders can meet at your home or before church on Sunday.
2. Once the elders confirm that your child is ready to participate in the Lord's Table, email Cameron at cameron@christcommunitycobb.org to determine which Sunday your child will take their vows before the church.
3. Celebrate your child's first communion by helping them to prepare.
4. Continue the discipleship process with your child through a variety of ways!