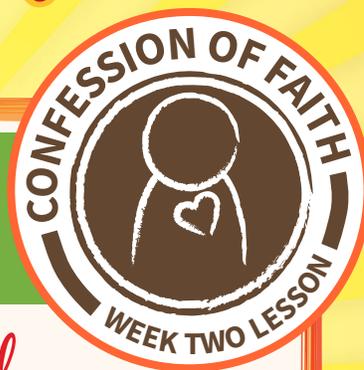


# Teach Me to Worship

## THIS MONTH We Will...



### Learn

**Week One**—His Story: The Apostles' Creed

**Week Two**—In Our Youth: Heidelberg Catechism

**Week Three**—God or Man: The Nicene Creed

**Week Four**—Back to the Beginning: Westminster Confession of Faith

### Read

- Acts 13:14-39
- Ecclesiastes 12:1
- John 8:48-59
- Genesis 1:1, 26-27

### Sing

- "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord"

### Memorize

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

— The Apostles' Creed



# In Our Youth: Heidelberg Catechism

## SUPPLIES Needed



### TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)\*

### TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs\*  
(Optional: guitar or music to sing along with)
- Basket for offering\*
- Hearing the Word activity sheet and crayons/markers  
(Draw sample pictures before class.)

### OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheet  
(1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons\*  
(Found in the introduction section.)

\*These items will be needed every week.

## Note this...

One week you may want to ask a pastor to come into the class and teach on some of the phrases in The Apostles' Creed—"descended into hell," "holy catholic church."

## LEADER'S Review

*When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. — 1 Corinthians 13:11*

All the children we teach will one day grow up—as amazing as that seems! Our goal is that they will have a firm foundation of the things of God and of His Word when they do. Today, we are encouraging that development of foundational truths into their lives.

In Ecclesiastes, we find the wise man pouring out his heart about all he has seen in his life. We read about his pursuits of earthly success from intellectual pursuits to working too much to trying to plan life out as he thinks it should happen. In the midst of it all, he has only one thing to say, "It is all meaningless." There wasn't a single thing he had attempted to do that brought him hope, pleasure, or joy.

Finally, he realized that only knowing God can bring satisfaction and fulfillment. We know God sent His Son Jesus as the only way to have a relationship with Him. It is hope in Christ that will carry us through the ups and downs of life, and we want to share that hope with our children so they will have the satisfaction found only in a relationship with God.

*Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

— "How Firm a Foundation"







## Reading of the Word

*Read Scripture. (1 minute)*

Ecclesiastes 12:1

<sup>1</sup> Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them.”



## Prayer

*Have a prayer of thanksgiving that God teaches us throughout our lives about His goodness and mercy. (2-3 minutes)*

Thank You, Lord, for constantly teaching us about You and showing Your grace and mercy to us each and every day of our lives. Please let the things we learn about You today stay in our hearts to give us peace throughout the rest of our lives. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.



## Hearing the Word

*Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (5-8 minutes for lesson; 7-15 minutes for activity)*

This month we are learning about things that help us know our faith. Last week we began learning the Apostles’ Creed. Let’s see what you remember

### Review Questions:

- Who is God? *Maker of heaven and earth*
- Who is Jesus? *God’s Son*
- He was conceived by Whom? *The Holy Spirit*
- And born of whom? *The virgin Mary*
- Jesus suffered under whom? *Pontius Pilate*

Do you remember something you learned when you were little? **(Wait for answers.)** Is it something you use now in your life? What about something you might have done when you were small, but you can do it better now that you are big? **(Wait for answers.)** Is it easier or harder to do now that you are older? Can you think of something you can do now you couldn’t do when you were younger? *(Possible Answers: walking, talking, making your bed, tying your shoes, drinking from a glass without a lid, climbing steps, riding a bike, helping your mom ...)*

Things we learn as children are often easier for us to remember when we are older. God



*(Hearing the Word—Continued)*

made our minds that way. So, learning and memorizing Bible verses and catechism questions now will help you when you need to remember things about God when you get older. A catechism is written as a series of questions and answers to help teach about our faith. We've already learned some questions and answers this year from the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, which is a catechism.

This week, we are going to look at another tool written long ago to help us remember important parts about the Christian faith. This tool is called the *Heidelberg Catechism*. This document was written in Heidelberg, Germany in 1563—almost 500 years ago! It was specifically written to help the young men and women know about God. Today we're going to look at the first question and answer from *The Heidelberg Catechism*.

First, let's pray: "Dear God, thank You for writing the Bible with us in mind. Help us learn what You want us to know now as children so we can know You better and continue to follow You as adults. In Jesus's name, amen."

Even though we don't want to admit it, we all get scared. What scares you? **(Wait for answers.)** When that happens, what makes you feel better? **(Wait for answers.)** When you are worried or afraid, what do you need to have with you to feel comfort? **(Wait for answers.)** The writers of *The Heidelberg Catechism* knew about people being afraid. They knew that as humans, we all have something that makes us worried and frightened. Because of that, the very first question and answer they wrote was about our comfort. Listen carefully while I read it.

**Question: What is your only comfort in life and in death?**

**Answer:** *That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.*

What is the real source of comfort for us? *(We belong to Jesus.)* Think of one thing which belongs to you that you take special care of. What do you do with things that "belong" to you? *(Take care, protect, put in a special place)* How do we belong to Jesus? *(He paid for our sins and set us free from the devil. He watches over us and knows even when a hair falls from our head).*

The Bible tells us everything that happens in our life works together for our good. Listen to the last part of the catechism again. It says: "all things work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit, [God] assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him." When we trust in Jesus and belong to Him, His Spirit protects us and helps us follow Him. So, when we are afraid and aren't sure about

*(Hearing the Word—Continued)*

what will happen, what can give us comfort? *(Knowing we are Jesus's people)*

Aren't you glad you belong to Someone? What if you were "your own" for everything, even for your salvation? Could you really take care of salvation for yourself, or do you need Jesus? *(Jesus)* Our salvation is not the only thing Jesus cares about. He cares about every detail of our lives and uses everything for our good, even what we may think is bad. What comfort that brings us!

The verse we read from Ecclesiastes today goes along with our learning the creeds and catechisms. It talks directly to young people like you and says: **Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth.** A very wise person wrote this book in the Bible, because he wanted to show young people like you how to live for God and that having a relationship with God is the only way to be satisfied in life. When we follow God and realize how much He has done for us, we find comfort, joy, hope, and peace.

**ACTIVITY:** Your lives now, as children, can have a great impact on your adult lives. I know that seems a long way off, but you start learning things while you're young to remember them when you are older. *(Give an example of something you learned when young and now use when older. Then hand out the activity sheet and instruct the children what to draw in each box.)* Now can you think of something you learned when you were younger and draw it in the first box on the sheet?

Another way we can use what we learned when we were little is to teach to those who are younger. Just as *The Heidelberg Catechism* and the Book of Ecclesiastes were written for young men and women, you can help those who are younger than you learn about God. Draw something you know about God that you can teach to someone younger than you.

In Ecclesiastes we find knowing and following God give us great comfort and happiness. In the third box draw a picture of how God has comforted you during a time of fear. Another thing that this great book of the Bible tells us is if we follow God, we will learn more and more about Him as we grow older. Draw something about God you hope to understand when you are older.

*(Before class draw simple pictures of your own in the Activity Sheet. Show the children your own examples as you tell them some of your personal God story.)*

God is so big and so great, we can never stop learning about Him, can we? And as the catechism we learned today reminds us, our only source of comfort in life and in death is in knowing we are not our own, but we belong to Jesus. We have been bought with His blood, and everything in our lives is part of His plan. Now we can share this good news with our friends and family and be prepared for the lives ahead of us.



## Benediction

*Recite the following verse. (1 minute)*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit (Phil. 4:23).

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