

Dear Parents,

January 28, 2022

First we want to express what a joy it is to teach your children. Not only is this work a joy, but it is also an expression of our vows, as members and officers of VPC, to help raise our covenant children in the knowledge and nurture of the Lord.

In his book Rediscovering Catechism, Donald Van Dyken speaks to the relationship between Scripture and our catechisms as follows:

Catechisms, properly written and used, never replace the Bible. On the contrary, they direct our attention to the Bible, excite our interest in its glories, and bring together its truths. As a catechism charts the main features and outlines the grand themes of Scripture, we are led to an orderly understanding. Thus our reading and study of the Bible are more profitable, our life is more fruitful, and our praise and thankfulness to God are more intense.

The focus of our children's classes is not perfection in recitation, but rather to model the importance of learning what the Bible teaches and committing God's truths to memory. Our prayer is that they will absorb the wondrous truths of Scripture and be able to call them to mind years down the road.

Toward that end, we would like to share our plans for this new year. A summary of the two classes is below. There is also a week-by-week schedule to help you as you discuss these truths with the younger children at home, or, if you miss a week, to know what we will be studying together when you return.

There are two classes that meet at 10 am on Sunday in the upper room: ages 3-7, and ages 8-13.

The younger class uses a combination of *Beginning Kids' Quest Catechism Club* and *Show Me Jesus*. Both are curriculum from Great Commission Publications, an educational publisher with theology based in the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*. In this class, children practice the questions and answers from *My First Catechism*, an abbreviated version of the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

The older class uses the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* for its structure and will work through questions 1-38 and the Ten Commandments. This covers God, man, and Christ - and their relationships to one another. **Our goals are to prepare these covenant children for a profession of faith, and for those who have professed their faith already, to disciple them more deeply in the things of the Lord.**

If you have any questions or concerns as we go through the year, please let us know. As the elders overseeing the instruction of our children, or the Growing Team we want to offer encouragement, clarification, and opportunities to serve our covenant children through our Sunday catechism classes.

Pastor Jason Petterson

Elder John Martinez

Elder Jack Riedinger

Elder Alex Bryer

cc: Carly Mischke
Theresa Martinez