

The Heidelberg Catechism for Families

Lord's Day 11

1. Parents, please gather your family together at least once this week to go over this material as a follow-up on this past Lord's Day's catechism class.

2. Read the following by dividing up these verses among the family members and having each member take a turn reading:

Old Testament: Isaiah 43:1–11

New Testament: Matthew 1:18–23

3. Everyone recite Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 29–30:

29. Why is the Son of God called "Jesus," that is, Savior?

Because He saves us from all our sins, and because salvation is not to be sought or found in any other.

30. Do those also believe in the only Savior Jesus, who seek their salvation and welfare from "saints," themselves, or anywhere else?

No; although they make their boast of Him, yet in their deeds they deny the only Savior Jesus; for either Jesus is not a complete Savior, or they who by true faith receive this Savior, must have in Him all that is necessary to their salvation.

4. Have the father read the following to the family:

Summary

It's all about Jesus! What is? The Bible, the Christian faith, our Church, our lives; everything we do, think, and say as Christians is because of Jesus. He alone is our Savior from all our sins. Every one of our sinful thoughts, words, and deeds from the past, in the present, and in the future he is able to forgive. He's that powerful. He's that amazing! He's that kind of Savior.

The Catechism questions and answers before us now move from teaching us about God the Father and creation to God the Son and our

redemption. And in these two questions and answers we learn why God's Son was named "Jesus."

Theological Lessons

First, we learn the following theological lessons:

1. Because Jesus is the Savior this means that he is God. All throughout the Old Testament we learn that the Lord God alone could save his people from their sins. No other "gods," no amount of obedience to the law, or no amount of animal sacrifices could save. This is why the prophet Isaiah proclaimed to Israel towards the end of the Old Testament period: "I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior."

2. Salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone. Because the saints are mere men and because we are insufficiently holy and full of sin, salvation must be found outside of us in Jesus, who is God and man.

3. Finally, the salvation that Jesus Christ offers to the world is a complete, sufficient salvation. There is nothing to add to it. There is nothing lacking in it. As the angel told Mary, "He *will* save his people from their sins." And as the writer to the Hebrews wrote, "He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through him" (Heb. 7:25).

Practical Lessons

Second, our Scripture and Catechism readings teach us the following practical lessons:

1. Peace. Since Jesus is a complete Savior I do not have to do anything to earn his love and grace. This brings great peace of conscience and peace in our souls. As Paul says, "Therefore, having been justified by faith we have peace with God" (Rom. 5:1). And now we can sing from our hearts the words of the hymn that says,

Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe,

Sin has left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.

2. Contentment. Since Jesus is my perfect Savior from all my sins and there is salvation in no one else, I need to learn to be content with him. If I was saved by grace I will continue to be saved by grace and I will be finally saved by grace; period; end of story. When I get restless I cannot start to try and earn more of God's favor. When I sin I cannot start thinking that there is something I have not done that will make God change his mind about me. No, I need to be content in the amazing grace of Jesus Christ towards me.

3. Concern. If Jesus is the only Savior and everyone who trusts in someone or something besides him is lost for eternity, then I need to be concerned for the lost souls of my neighbors. This means that I need to pray that they would come to be convicted of their sins and to know Jesus Christ. This means that I need to live a holy and godly life before them so they can see what a changed life looks like and that they may begin to ask me questions. This means that I need to be prepared to give an answer when my neighbor asks me about my faith (1 Peter 3:15). To do this I must read the Word daily, I must learn the truths of Scripture summarized in the Catechism, I must be diligent to attend catechism classes and public worship, and that I must seek answers to serious questions from my pastor.

5. Everyone recite Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 29–30, again:

6. Have the father pray:

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us your Son to be our Savior from all our sins and the sufficient object of all our faith, hope, and love. Grant us to be content to seek your grace in him alone, and not in saints, ourselves, or any other; grant us to boast in him not only in words but also in deeds; grant us peace of conscience and soul for in him is all that is necessary

for our salvation, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever,
one God in three Persons. Amen.