

## YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

### LESSON 1: BIBLE AND CATECHISM

#### What Is the Most Important Book?

There have been lots of important books written. Maybe you can even name some of them. But the Bible is the most important book. Why do you think it is the most important?

#### Martin Luther and the Catechism

\_\_\_\_\_ originally wrote the *Small Catechism* in German. It has been translated into English so that we can read it. It was first published in 1529. In your books, the part Luther wrote is found on pages 5-20. The rest of the book helps you to understand and learn even more from Luther's catechism by supplying additional Bible passages and explanations.

- What do you know about the life and work of Martin Luther?

1483 Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany

1517 Nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg

1521 Refused to take back his writings against the Catholic Church

1529 Published the Small and Large Catechisms

1546 Death of Luther

He is called the Reformer of the church because he brought it back to the pure Word of God. The Roman Catholic Church had begun to teach many things that did not agree with the teachings of the Bible. He showed from the Bible where the church had gone astray. He once said: "We invent nothing new, but hold and remain true to the ancient word of God, as the ancient church had it. Therefore we are, together with the ancient church, the one true church, which teaches and believes the one word of God" (LW 41 196).



A short biography of Luther's life can be found on pp. 21-25 of your catechism. We will learn more about Luther and his work when we study the Lutheran Reformation later in October.

## The Purpose Of the Catechism

Martin Luther wrote the *Small Catechism* \_\_\_\_\_ .

He said in his introduction to the Small Catechism: "The deplorable, miserable condition which I discovered lately when I, too, was a visitor, has forced and urged me to prepare this Catechism. . . . The common people, especially in the villages, have no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine, and alas! many pastors are altogether incapable and incompetent to teach. . . . All maintain that they are Christians. . . . Yet they cannot recite either the Lord's Prayer, or the Creed, or the Ten Commandments; they live like dumb brutes and irrational hogs" (CT 533).

The Catechism is a tool to help us learn about the main teachings of the Bible.  
Why do you think it is important to learn what the Bible teaches?

Read Ephesians 6:4 and Deuteronomy 6:6-7. From these passages we can learn that the word of God is to be \_\_\_\_\_ to each generation of people.

## The Parts Of the Catechism

There are six main sections and two minor sections that make up our catechism.

**1. Major:**

**2. Major:**

**3. Major:**

**4. Major:**

**5. Major:**

**6. Major:**

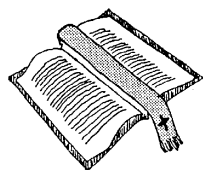
7.

8.

This year we will mainly be studying \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

Where do the teachings in the *Small Catechism* come from? How do you know?

# The Bible



Sometimes the Bible is also called:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The two main parts of the Bible are the:

A. \_\_\_\_\_ which contains \_\_\_\_\_ books

B. \_\_\_\_\_ which contains \_\_\_\_\_ books

What are some of the differences between these two parts?

Time: (OT) \_\_\_\_\_ (NT) \_\_\_\_\_

Language: (OT) \_\_\_\_\_ (NT) \_\_\_\_\_

Writers: (OT) \_\_\_\_\_ (NT) \_\_\_\_\_

Because God did not have the words of the Bible written down in English, it is necessary for us to read a *translation* of the Bible. A translation puts the original words of Scripture into a language that we can understand. The Bible has been translated more often and into more languages than any other book in the history of the world. Currently, the New International Version (NIV) is the best-selling English Bible in the world. Other popular translations are the King James Version (KJV), the New King James Version (NKJV), and the New American Standard Bible (NASB). Worldwide, the Bible (or parts of it) has been translated into over 2,000 different languages and dialects.

Here are some interesting statistics about the Bible (a book of books!):

The Old Testament contains 929 chapters

The Old Testament contains 23,214 verses

The New Testament contains 260 chapters

The New Testament contains 7,956 verses

For a total in the Bible of: 66 books; 1,189 chapters; 31,170 verses

The Longest Verse: Esther 8:9

The Longest Chapter: Psalm 119

The Longest Book: Psalms

The Shortest Verse: John 11:35

The Shortest Chapter: Psalm 117

The Shortest Book: 2 John

- Look at the books of the Bible on p. 31 of your Catechism.

## Verbal Inspiration

What can we say about the writers of the Bible?

2 Peter 1:21 (13)

2 Timothy 3:16 (16)

1 Corinthians 2:13 (15)

What then is meant by *verbal inspiration*?

- Some translations of the Bible also contain a section called the *Apocrypha*. These books are not part of the inspired Scriptures.

## The Importance Of the Bible

What makes the Bible different from every other book in the world?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Timothy 3:16 (16)

The Brief Statement of 1932: "Since the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God, it goes without saying that they contain no errors or contradictions, but that they are in all their parts and words the infallible truth, also in those parts which treat of historical, geographical, and other secular matters."

B. \_\_\_\_\_ John 20:31 (10)

For what purpose has God given us the Bible?

John 17:3 (1)

John 20:31 (10)

So how are we to use the Bible (Q 11, p. 34)?

## Assignment

- Practice pronouncing the names of the books of the Bible on p. 31 of the Catechism.