

Week 1 A Catechism for God's Family

A catechism is a basic instruction in the Christian religion using questions and answers. This catechism is designed to be used for one year. Each week there are four questions to memorize with the answers. This catechism is imbedded in a daily devotional format, which can be used for a wide age range.

Included here are explanations of the truths that have been asserted in the questions and answers. For each day there is a Bible passage, the catechism question to memorize, and a basic commentary. This is followed by "Thinking Deeper," a more in depth discussion of the subject. Each week there is a Bible passage to memorize that will be the focus of that week's questions. Every Friday is review day, so all four questions of the week can be reviewed.

Week 1 (Creation)

Verse to Memorize – (Gen 1:1) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Questions for the week

Q1. Who was in the beginning?

A. God was in the beginning.

Q2. What did God do in the beginning?

A. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Q3. Was God created?

A. No. God was before all things and He created all things.

Q4. Was anything made without God?

A. No. God made all things.

Week 1 Monday (Creation)

Memory Verse: (Gen 1:1) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Bible Reading: Psalm 102:24-27

Q1. Who was in the beginning?

A. God was in the beginning.

God was in the beginning. We read in the Bible that “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. “(Psa 90:2 KJV) We can’t really understand it, but God had no beginning and no ending. You were once a little baby. There was a time before you were born that you did not exist. But God always was. He never had a beginning.

A young boy and his friends were exploring on a college campus. They walked to the basement of a large building. The floor was made of old bricks. “This floor is a hundred years old,” said one of the older boys who had studied about the building. “Wow,” thought the boy, “I’m standing on something *a hundred years old!*” He thought about that for a long time. A hundred years *is* a long time. But the world was created thousands of years ago. Yet, before that, God was there. He always was and He always will be.

Thinking Deeper

Christians begin with the eternal God. On the other hand, atheists begin with eternal matter. If matter is eternal, then there is no creator of matter. That means we have no God to whom we are accountable. God is not necessary, nor real. Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin were materialists who promoted communism. They saw religion as their great enemy, because it placed material things beneath God. For them the only thing that mattered was materialism. So they killed people who believed in God. Why not? Since there is no God and only material things, then it is not wrong to kill people who get in the way. Who would they answer to? Not God, since God is a Spirit and they only believed in material things. According to those who have studied communism’s effect on mankind, more than 100 million people were killed by communists in the Twentieth Century. Contrast that with the accomplishments of Christians who believe God tells them to love people. They have built hospitals and schools in nations around the world, dug wells for people in drought, helped with food, clothing and shelter in natural disasters, and were involved in other efforts to alleviate pain and suffering in the world. What we believe is extremely important.

Week 1 Tuesday (Creation)

Memory Verse: (Gen 1:1) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Bible Reading: Isaiah 42:5-11

Q2. What did God do in the beginning?

A. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

When did it all begin? Some people believe that what makes up the world has always existed, but that is not true. There was a beginning. There was a time when all things started. Back then, whenever that was, God created the heavens and the earth. That was the beginning. Everything we see, hear, or touch came from the time that the Bible calls the beginning. God had no beginning and will have no ending. But the heavens and the earth were created in the beginning. God is the One who created it all. “Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.” (Neh 9:6 KJV)

Thinking Deeper

There are people who believe that matter evolved from nothing. Somehow a radiant energy field began vibrating, and *bang!* the energy transformed itself into matter. The matter then organized itself into complex arrangements of protons and neutrons and electrons which in turn organized themselves into molecules and then into all the complex arrangements of the elements that make up matter as we know it. All this was guided by the evolutionary principle of increasing complexity and organization. At the beginning of all this was supposedly a vibrating energy field. But where did that come from, and what was the guiding mechanism that organized all the complexity? There is no answer. We are to take by faith their assumptions that it all happened by a great accident of empty space. (Who created the space?) The Bible declares that in the beginning was God, who out of nothing (*ex nihilo*) created the universe according to His laws and ordered everything according to His decrees. Believers have their faith in the eternal God, instead of having faith in nothing.

Week 1 Wednesday (Creation)

Memory Verse: (Gen 1:1) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Bible Reading: Job 38:1-7

Q3. Was God created?

A. No. God was before all things and He created all things.

God has always been. He existed before anything was ever created. There is no one who came before God. No one could have created God, because there was nothing before Him. God had no mother or father. He is the first that ever was, and He was always there.

If you went to the moon, you wouldn't find any roads or sidewalks or paths or trails (except on a tiny spot on the moon, where you may still be able to see some footprints). Years ago astronauts landed there and walked around. But they didn't find any footprints, because no one had ever been there before. Except God, because He created it in the beginning when he created everything. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." (Psa 90:2 KJV)

Thinking Deeper

Before He created anything, was God lonely? We know from the Bible that God is One God in three Persons. There is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – Three in One. From eternity past God has existed in perfection, part of which is His perfection in love. God is love. The Trinity, One God in three Persons, has always existed in perfect love. Francis Schaeffer in *The God Who is There* said, "within the Trinity, before the creation of anything, there was real love." Although God is greater than we can imagine, yet we can identify with this aspect of God. We can experience love. That helps us understand that although God is Creator, He is also Person. He is not merely a *Star Wars* type "force." He is not merely the totality of all things, as pantheists claim. He is a divine person who loves. We can know Him and experience His love.

Week 1 Thursday (Creation)

Memory Verse: (Gen 1:1) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Bible Reading: John 1:1-3

Q4. Was anything made without God?

A. No. God made all things.

Who made the sky? Who made the sun, or the stars, or the moon? Who made the earth and the trees and the grass and the flowers? Who made the oceans and the lakes and the streams? God made it all. God is the Creator. He made everything. A preacher named Jonah said, “the God of heaven...hath made the sea and the dry land.” There is nothing anywhere that God didn’t make.

What about a cake? Did God make that? When a boy’s mother bakes a cake, she takes flour that came from wheat that God made. Then she takes sugar that grew in sugar cane that God made. She takes other things that God made and stirs them together and then puts it in a pan and bakes it in the oven. The mother made the cake, but she did it using things God had already created. So it is really true that God made everything.

Thinking Deeper

Materialists believe that matter is what matters. They see the universe as self-existing. Yet, they have no adequate explanation for the existence of matter. What mechanism sustains it? Evolutionists explain things on the basis of natural processes, but they have no explanation for the existence of those processes.

A teacher in Cuba was making fun of the existence of God. She told the students that they would have a test. They were to close their eyes and ask God for ice cream. When they opened their eyes, there was no ice cream. “See,” she said, “God didn’t answer your prayers. Now close your eyes and ask Castro for ice cream.” While their eyes were closed, the teacher had some helpers place small cartons of ice cream on each student’s desk. When they opened their eyes, there was ice cream on their desks. “See, Castro answered your prayers, but God didn’t.” One student in the class objected. “I want to thank Castro for bringing the ice cream to class, but I also want to thank God for making the grass for the cow to eat so it could give Castro milk to make the ice cream from.” Nothing was made without God.

Week 1 Friday (Creation)

Memory Verse: (Gen 1:1) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Bible Reading: Colossians 1:12-17

Review the questions for the week

Q1. Who was in the beginning?

A. God was in the beginning.

Q2. What did God do in the beginning?

A. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Q3. Was God created?

A. No. God was before all things and He created all things.

Q4. Was anything made without God?

A. No. God made all things.

Have you ever been afraid? A little boy named David was home alone in a thunderstorm. He was so afraid that he crawled under a bed, waiting for the storm to end, and wishing his parents would come home. Finally, the storm ended and he crawled out from under the bed. It's not wrong to be afraid of things like thunder and lightning, tornados, or hurricanes. But it is always good to remember that God is bigger than any of those things and He can help us. He made everything and He knows how to protect us. The Bible says that "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms..."(Deu 33:27 KJV) A refuge is a safe place. God is our safe place, when we trust Him. The shepherd boy David wrote, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." (Ps. 56:3) Next time you are afraid, remember to trust in the Lord.

Thinking Deeper

The Mormon belief system says that God has evolved into what He is from being like we are. They state it like this: "As we are, God once was. As God is, we can become." But the Bible says that God was in the beginning, and at that time created the world, as well as the stars, planets and galaxies. The eternal, unchangeable God did not evolve from man. And no man is going to be another God over his own universe. God has made it clear that from the beginning He created all things, and that nothing has ever been created that He didn't create. There never has been another God, and there never will be another. God created all things apart from Himself. He is not in the flowers or rocks or trees, but He made them all. We live in a special place, created by God, and we are responsible to Him as we live in His world.

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