

## Week 3 Fall of Man

Memorize Ecclesiastes 7:29

Tips for using this catechism and devotional:

1. Read all the questions and answers on Monday, so that the scope of the week's concepts will be introduced.
2. Each day begin with the memory verse for the week. Read it, and take a moment to work on memorizing it. By the end of the week, you should have it memorized with a little effort.
3. Read the Scripture reading for the day.
4. Ask the Question for the day, and read the answer. Memorize the answer, so that when the question is asked, the answer comes automatically.
5. Read the commentary. If you have young children, you may need to either explain the "Thinking Deeper" section, or skip it and come back to it when the children get older.
6. Each day review the catechism questions that have been learned from the previous days of the week. On Friday, review all of the questions.
7. Close with prayer.

Q9 What was all of creation like when God made it?

A. All of creation was very good, including man. Job 38:4-7

Q10 What rule did God make for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?

A. They were not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Gen. 2:15-17

Q11 What did God say would happen if they ate the forbidden fruit? Romans 6:23

A. They would die the same day.

Q12 Who tempted Eve to doubt God's word?

A. The serpent tempted Eve to doubt God's word. Genesis 3:1-5

### **Week 3 Monday (the fall of man)**

*Ecclesiastes 7:29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.*

Bible Reading: Job 38:4-7

Q9 What was all of creation like when God made it?

A. All of creation was very good, including man.

Alex drew a picture on a piece of paper. While he was drawing, he made a hole in the paper with his pencil. His picture was ruined. He threw it away. Sometimes he threw several pictures away because he ruined them. He kept trying, though, until he drew one he thought was pretty good. He saved that one and his mother put it on the refrigerator. The waste basket was half full of crumpled papers that Alex had ruined. He took it out to the trash can. Part of his chores was to take out the trash.

When God created things, He didn't have to take out the trash. In the Bible we read, "Good and upright is the Lord." (Ps. 25:8) Because God is good, everything He made was good. He made a good world. He made good trees and good flowers and good animals. After He made man, He looked at everything He made and "saw that it was very good." Nothing that God made was bad. He didn't have a trash can for things that He ruined. Everything was just right the first time God made it.

Thinking Deeper

One of the chief objections to Christianity is that there is pain and suffering in the world. If God is good, how can He allow such misery? How could a good God create a world that is so full of violence and suffering? On its face, this seems like a reasonable argument. But it misses something important. It assumes that the world that now is reflects the world as God originally created it. Those who argue this assume "uniformitarianism," that is, that the world's processes now in place have always been this way. As the inspired Peter wrote, they presume that "all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." But that is not true. Things now are not as they were. God created everything in such a way that when He finished, He concluded that it was very good. What is now is different than what was then. Major changes have happened. It is a misrepresentation of reality to conclude that God created a world full of pain, suffering and death. Those were absent from God's perfect creation. Someone else must take the blame for evil in the world. What God made was very good.

### **Week 3 Tuesday (the fall of man)**

*Ecclesiastes 7:29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.*

Bible Reading: Gen. 2:15-17

Q10 What rule did God make for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?

A. They were not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

A seven year old boy was praying at the altar. He wanted to be right with God, but as he prayed he remembered some raspberries he had eaten. It's not wrong to eat raspberries. But it is wrong to take what doesn't belong to you. He had eaten them in his neighbor's garden without permission. That was wrong. So as he prayed, he realized that he needed forgiveness. He also needed to make restitution by going and offering to pay for the raspberries. When he did, he felt a great burden leave him.

When Adam and Eve were in the garden, they were free to eat whatever was there – except for the fruit of that one tree. That didn't belong to them. It belonged to God, and He told them not to eat it. Since God created all things, He could decide what to give to man. He gave man all the fruit except from that one tree. God was very good to man to give him so much.

Thinking Deeper

Couldn't God have created man in an environment where man had no opportunity to disobey? Yes. But think about it. If there were no opportunity to obey, there would be no concept of obedience. If there were no obedience there would be no concept of Lordship. Man with no laws at all would not have the ability to obey God. When Jesus said to his disciples, "if ye love me, keep my commandments," he was connecting love and obedience. God is love, and God wanted man to love Him. In the Garden of Eden there was one place where man could very clearly show love for God. He could be obedient about the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He had the opportunity to obey God's command and in doing so he had the opportunity to show his love for God. God's command was in place to encourage man to love Him.

Man was created on a distinctly different level than the animals. God never gave the animals such a prohibition as He gave man. Animals were not capable of an obedient, willful love to God in the same way that man was. In fact, after creation, animals were to relate to man. They came before Adam who gave them names.

### **Week 3 Wednesday (the fall of man)**

*Ecclesiastes 7:29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.*

Bible Reading: Romans 6:23

Q11 What did God say would happen if they ate the forbidden fruit?

A. They would die the same day.

Joey's father told him not to let their dog, Sport, out of his pen. "He could get run over if he runs to the road." But Joey wanted to play fetch with the dog, so when his father wasn't looking, he opened the gate. The dog seemed happy to run after the ball and bring it back. Joey threw the ball high. It bounced out on the road. "Stop!" yelled Joey. But Sport was too excited to listen. He ran onto the road, right in front of a car. The driver tried to stop, but couldn't. The car ran over Sport. He was dead. Joey was frightened. He ran to his room, crying. How sad he was that his dog died. He wished he had listened to his father.

When God placed man in the Garden of Eden, He didn't make many rules. The only rule we know about was that God told man not to eat of the fruit from one tree. That was only one rule. But God told Adam that if he broke that rule he would die. God gave the rule to Adam to spare him from the trouble and sadness that sin brings. God wanted Adam and Eve to be happy in the Garden of Eden, so he gave them instructions not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God didn't want man to die.

#### Thinking Deeper

Why did God give rules? Did He do it to make man miserable? Is God a killjoy who doesn't want man to have any fun? That is what many people think about God's laws. He makes restrictions so that man can only live an austere life. But think about what God did. He placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden. He gave them everything they needed. There were many, many kinds of plants and trees. The Garden of Eden was full of wonderful colors, delightful odors, and a whole array of delicious fruit to enjoy. They were in paradise. There was only one restriction: don't eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The rule was made for man's benefit. God's law was to protect man from that which was harmful. There was pleasure in eating the forbidden fruit, but it would only last for a moment. The knowledge of good and evil would bring death. God gave the law to protect man. God gives rules for our benefit. "O that there were **such an heart** in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!" (Deuteronomy 5:29) It is out of love for us that God gives laws to protect us from that which is harmful.

### **Week 3 Thursday (the fall of man)**

*Ecclesiastes 7:29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.*

Bible Reading: Genesis 3:1-5

Q12 Who tempted Eve to doubt God's word?

A. The serpent tempted Eve to doubt God's word.

Nicholas was a good ice skater and a great help to his hockey team. He got into some trouble at home, and his father told him he could not play hockey for several weeks. But just that week his team was to play against another team that was really good. One of his friends persuaded Nicholas to play. "You can come over to my house and use my skates. Tell your dad that you're coming over to study. He'll never find out." Nicholas listened to his friend and played the game. However, his father sensed something was not right and went to the hockey rink during the game. He saw his son playing. When Nicholas got home, his father was waiting for him. He didn't get away with his disobedience.

Eve was in the Garden of Eden when the serpent came to her and tempted her to disobey God's word. In fact, the serpent contradicted God's word. "Ye shall not surely die." Eve listened to Satan's lies instead of God's truth. She ate it and then gave it to Adam. They both disobeyed God. But they didn't get away with their disobedience. God knew what they did. Nobody can ever hide what they do from God.

#### Thinking Deeper

Aldous Huxley was an atheist who believed in naturalism. He believed that all phenomenon have natural causes and there is nothing supernatural. He admitted that his belief system of meaninglessness liberated him from any restraints. His was a philosophy of lawlessness. No one had any right or standing to tell him anything was wrong. If you erase God from your thinking, you end up like Huxley with no restraints. Except death. Satan's lie that there is no death as a result of sin does not change the fact of death. Huxley died. He suffered the result of sin, even though he didn't believe in it. Satan's lies are no refuge from the truth of God.

Satan came to Eve in the form of a serpent. He can also assume other forms in his efforts to cause us to doubt God's word. He can come "as a roaring lion," or "as an angel of light." Or he can come as a whisper in our ear, or through the words of a friend who asks us to compromise God's ways, or through an author of a book that questions God's word. He may ride to your thinking on the words of a teacher that questions the Bible, or through a program that promotes evolution, or through philosophies that tell us that only natural processes can explain creation and existence. When God's word is questioned, you can look behind the question and somewhere find Satan's influence.

## **Week 3 Friday (the fall of man)**

*Ecclesiastes 7:29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.*

Bible Reading:

Review the questions for the week.

Q9 What was all of creation like when God made it?

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Jacob was happily playing with one of his Christmas presents when he saw an advertisement for a new game for his Play Station. "Mom," he begged, "I need that new game!" She thought a moment, then said, "You have plenty of games already and you don't have time to play all of them. I don't think you need a new one." Now Jacob was not happy. He wanted that game. Other kids had it. Why couldn't he have it? Jacob was grumpy all day because he kept thinking about the game he couldn't have.

Eve was in a perfect garden with more than enough fruit of all kinds. Yet when she was tempted by the forbidden fruit, she gave in to the temptation. Satan tempted her by making her think she didn't have everything that she needed. When we forget how good God is and how He gives us everything we really need, we can become unhappy. Then Satan has a great chance to tempt us to do wrong. We should be thankful for the things we have. That will help us avoid Satan's lies.

Thinking Deeper

One of the great methods in advertising is to create discontent and then promise that the product will fill that void and bring contentment. Analyze the ads you see or hear and note how many of them use this technique. They start by pointing out something in which you are supposedly deficient. You're not as handsome or beautiful as you could be. You don't have as good a car as you could have. You have the wrong credit card. Your complexion is in need of some help. Your razor is wrong. You have the wrong cologne. You don't go to the right places for vacation. Your job is less than it could be. You don't make nearly enough money. You use the wrong paper towels. Your kitchen floor is not as clean as it should be. The answer to all these flaws is to buy their product. Instantly, you will be beautiful and have just what you've always wanted. Eden is only a purchase away. That is until you see the next ad. Proverbs says that "the eyes of man are never satisfied" (Pr. 27:20). Satan used that technique on Eve and it worked.

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