

Week 4 (Fall of Man)

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
Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Q13 What did Adam do when Eve offered him the fruit?

A. Adam disobeyed God when he ate the fruit. Genesis 3:6, 1 Timothy 2:14

Q14 Why did Adam and Eve hide from God?

A. They hid from God because they had sinned. Gen. 3:6-11

Q15 What hope did God give to Adam and Eve even though they sinned?

A. God promised that one day the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head. Genesis 3:12-15

Q16 What did God do because Adam disobeyed Him?

A. God brought a curse on the world because Adam disobeyed Him. Gen. 3:16-19

Week 4 Monday (Fall of Man)

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Q 13 What did Adam do when he ate the fruit Eve offered him?

A. Adam disobeyed God when he ate the fruit.

Bible Reading: Genesis 3:6, 1Timothy 2:14

God intended Adam and Eve to have a wonderful life in the Garden of Eden. But Eve was tricked by the serpent. Satan, who was actually speaking through the serpent, told Eve that she would become wise if she ate the fruit God told them not to eat. So Eve ignored God's word and ate the fruit. Adam was not tricked. He knew it was wrong but ate it anyway.

A story is told about a bear and a fox who went fishing. When they came to the pond, they read a sign which said "No Trespassing!" While they were thinking about what to do, an osprey called to them from the pond telling them that the fish were really biting. But the bear and fox decided to obey the sign. They went over the hill to fish in a stream where it was okay to fish. While they were fishing, Mr. Crow came flying overhead with some news. He had seen the sheriff arrest the osprey for trespassing. The end of the story has the bear and the fox eating fish, while the osprey is sitting in jail. Adam and Eve could have continued living in paradise if only they had obeyed God. Instead, they disobeyed and brought great trouble upon the world.

Thinking Deeper

Why is it that a woman is prohibited in the church from taking an authoritative position over the man? According to Paul's inspired first letter to Timothy, the reason has to do with what happened in the Garden of Eden. Although Eve ate the forbidden fruit first, Adam carries the blame for bringing sin on the world. Eve was deceived by the serpent when she ate the fruit. We can only speculate about what would have happened had Adam refused to follow her lead. But he accepted her offer. Adam was not deceived by the smooth talking serpent. He knew what he was doing was wrong. But he did it anyway. The onus of sin being brought into the world rests on him. When Paul wrote that a woman is not to take authority over a man, he refers to Eve's predilection to deception. It has nothing to do with ability or intelligence. Adam, as the head of the human race (the first Adam), bore a great responsibility as the authoritative leader of the home. Although he tragically failed that test, the position of leadership has not been taken from him. Adam bore a great responsibility of leadership, and fathers and husbands bear that same responsibility. It is God-given.

Week 4 Tuesday (Fall of Man)

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Q14 Why did Adam and Eve hide from God?

A. They hid from God because they had sinned.

Bible Reading: Gen. 3:6-11

Why do we wear clothes? Have you ever thought about it? Whose idea was it for people to need to cover up? All over the world, whether it is hot or cold, people sense the need to cover themselves up. This all started in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Suddenly they felt ashamed. They needed clothes. But they didn't have any. Before they sinned they didn't need clothes. Some people think they were covered in a holy light. Even though they didn't have clothes at first, they didn't feel shame. But after they sinned they knew they were naked and they were ashamed. So they tried to cover up with leaves. When God found them hiding, He saw their shame and provided clothes for them. "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them" (Gen. 3:21).

Thinking Deeper

Having a sense of modesty is natural. As children develop, the awareness of their need to cover their bodies also develops. In Christian homes that sense is to be encouraged. The Bible has quite a bit to say about modesty as a guide to how Christians dress themselves (The priests who ascended stairs in O.T. worship were to cover themselves for decency purposes; men and women were directed to wear clothing that distinguished the sexes; 1 Timothy requires "modest apparel.") Every day most people in the world rise and get dressed. In more affluent societies many people spend significant time deciding on what outfit to wear for what occasion. It is a part of life that we take for granted. It is also a part of life that does not go unnoticed by the tempter. The same liar that told Eve she wouldn't die if she ate the forbidden fruit, now tells her descendents that it is not shameful to uncover their bodies. Adam and Eve both knew they should cover themselves, lest they be ashamed. When people lose their natural shame, they are accepting the falsehood that the innocence of Eden can be recovered by pretending. This present world accepts immodesty because of the deception of Satan. This is in spite of the natural awareness, which has been part of the human experience since Eden, that modest clothes are necessary. Immodesty is not only uncouth. It is also un-Christian.

Week 4 Wednesday (Fall of Man)

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Q15 What hope did God give to Adam and Eve even though they sinned?

A. God promised that one day the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head.

Bible Reading: Genesis 3:12-15

A big part of feeling guilty after doing wrong is wondering if anyone will still like you after what you did. Adam and Eve hid from God because they were guilty. They had disobeyed. When God spoke to them, He didn't ignore their sin. A lot of bad was coming because of what they had done. It was quite clear that Satan used trickery and deception to start the process that led to all the evil. He had lied. The Bible calls him the "father of all liars." But in with the bad, God told them that something good was going to come. Somehow through "the seed of the woman" the head of the serpent would be bruised. God was planning to destroy Satan's power. He was giving hope for mankind.

Thinking Deeper

The belief system referred to as Deism states a belief in God as Creator, but doesn't believe that God intervenes in the world He created. It contends that God put all the physical laws in place and since then has essentially abandoned the world. That is certainly not the description of God that we find in the Bible. God came to walk with man in the cool of the day. God was involved in bringing man to account for eating the forbidden fruit. God changed the arrangements of the world from its beginning state of paradise in the Garden, to its present condition of being under the curse. And along the way God made prophecies that He was intimately involved in fulfilling. This first recorded prophecy is one of hope in the midst of the curse. Here is the beginning revelation of the plan that God had to redeem humanity. If God used the "seed of the woman" to bruise the serpent's head, then Deism must be rejected. When Jesus died on the cross and cried, "It is finished," he fulfilled this prophecy. He destroyed the power of Satan. The serpent's head was bruised. Hope for man is accomplished. The vilest sinner can be delivered from sin and the power of Satan because God through Jesus intervened on our behalf. Thank the Lord!

Week 4 Thursday (Fall of Man)

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Q16 What did God do because Adam disobeyed Him?

A. God brought a curse on the world because Adam disobeyed Him.

Bible Reading: Gen. 3:16-19

There's an old story about a king who brought a farmer and his wife into his palace for a night. He gave them a wonderful room with a magnificent bed, fine chairs and fruit to eat. On a stand was a pot with a lid on it. The king told the couple to enjoy the room and make themselves comfortable. "Just don't open the lid of that pot." They did enjoy the room, but kept looking at the pot. After a time, the farmer's wife became very curious. "I wonder what is in that pot," she said. "We're not to look in it," said her husband. But her curiosity overcame her. Finally, she persuaded her husband to help her lift the lid and peek into the pot. When they did, two mice jumped out and ran out of the room. When the king returned, he saw that the mice were no longer in the pot. "You must return to your farm," said the king. He had intended to give them great gifts, but their disobedience instead caused the king to send them home in disgrace. They lost an opportunity to enjoy great blessings.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they lost their place in the Garden of Eden. Their sin caused a curse to be brought on the world.

Thinking Deeper

Atheists denounce the existence of God because they say a loving God would not have made a world filled with imperfection and suffering. They miss the point that the world that God made was a perfect environment without suffering but was marred because of man's sin. Instead of blaming man for his responsibility for the trouble in the world, skeptics blame God for making an imperfect world, and then deny that there is a God because the world is not perfect. The fact is that the earth was cursed as a direct consequence of man's disobedience. God didn't create an imperfect world. It became imperfect because when man sinned he brought the curse upon himself and all of creation. Therefore, "the whole creation **groaneth** and travaileth in pain together until now." (Rom. 8:22) Paul's inspired writing reveals that the suffering in the world can be traced back to the sin of the first Adam. "In Adam all die" (1 Cor. 15:23). But because of the "second Adam," the Lord Jesus Christ, all things will one day be restored.

Week 4 Friday (Fall of Man)

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Review Questions for Week 4.

Q13 What did Adam do when Eve offered him the fruit?

A. Adam disobeyed God when he ate the fruit.

Q14 Why did Adam and Eve hide from God?

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Q15 What hope did God give to Adam and Eve even though they sinned?

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Davy threw the baseball hard at the spot he had marked out as a strike zone on the cinder block wall. Crash! The ball missed the target and broke a window. He retrieved his ball and went back to the pitching spot. Surely he could do better. He wound up and let the ball fly. Double crash! He hit the frame right between two windows and broke them both. Now he was in trouble. He had broken Three windows on two pitches. He couldn't believe it. His dad would find out when he came home from work. Slowly Davy picked up the broken glass. He dreaded the thought of his dad coming home. But when he did come home, Davy had a bit of a surprise. His dad forgave him! He still had to fix the windows, but his dad showed him love.

After Adam and Eve sinned, they knew that they had done an awful thing. The beautiful life they had been given was ruined. The world would never be the same. The beauty of that perfect garden would be marred by the curse. But all was not hopeless. God showed his mercy by promising a savior.

Thinking Deeper

Someone wondered why Noah didn't squash those two mosquitoes that were on the ark. Behind that question is the question of why did God make mosquitoes and other such pests in the first place. Was it for food for bats and birds? Before the fall of man we have no record of a predator/prey dynamic. Something significant must have happened to all of the creatures following the curse. Henry Morris in *The Genesis Record* suggests that after the curse harmful mutations changed the nature of many of the created beings. And it appears that the relationship of the creatures to one another also changed for the worse. This world of stalking, killing and eating other living creatures, with the accompanying suffering and death is not God's original creation. Blame sin.

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