

SEVERNA PARK BAPTIST CHURCH



SEVERNA PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
GROWING GODLY GENERATIONS

Training to Trust and Treasure Jesus A Brief Introduction

Name:

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A video playlist devotional is included with this catechism that can be accessed on our church YouTube page at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSesw_iPUN2ureqwsKv3q1llr3Pf16byn

Training Hearts To Trust and Treasure Jesus

We live in a world of ready **evaluation**. Students get evaluated on their academics with grades (A, B, C, D, F! or sometimes I for incomplete). Athletes are graded on their performance, musicians to hit the correct notes and other artists to inspire the intended audience.



Even in a more general sense we size up people with predetermined criteria (rightly or wrongly) which provides a personal and sometimes public judgment. Evaluation is all around us.

And yet, when it comes to the spiritual nature we are often adverse to evaluation. We say things like, “Don’t judge me” or “You don’t know what I think or my true motivations”.

JESUS seemed to think this was possible,

Matthew 7:5 *“first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”*

Matthew 7:16-20 *“You’ll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 So you’ll recognize them by their fruit.”*

Matthew 12:35-37 *“A good man produces good things from his storeroom of good, and an evil man produces evil things from his storeroom of evil. I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

Luke 6:43-45 *“A good tree doesn’t produce bad fruit; on the other hand, a bad tree doesn’t produce good fruit. For each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs aren’t gathered from thornbushes, or grapes picked from a bramble bush. A good man produces good out of the good storeroom of his heart. An evil man produces evil out of the evil storeroom, for his mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.”*

Luke 13:6-9 *“And He told this parable: “A man had a fig tree that was planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. He told the vineyard worker, ‘Listen, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig*

tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it even waste the soil?' "But he replied to him, 'Sir, leave it this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. Perhaps it will bear fruit next year, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

John 13:35 *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

And before Jesus there was John the baptizer who said, *"Bear fruits in keeping with repentance."* (**Luke 3:8**).

Therefore, based on the Bible, there is a form of evaluation that we must acknowledge before God. This booklet is meant to help individuals, especially parents, evaluate and train hearts to trust and love Jesus. Some might recognize this as a form of catechism (instruction) but we must not use it as a check-list. Adding a check-list to the Christian faith ignores the gospel; the fact that no one measures up in thought or deed before God. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Yet, as discussed, a catechism can help identify the target for what is good and right, along with what is error and wrong. Ultimately, we must be able to identify the Savior as well as our sins so that we can grow in the grace of the gospel.

Proverbs 21:2 *"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart."*

Catechism

A catechism is a question and answer method of instruction. This instruction method helps to form a framework of belief and behavior before God.

Catechisms have been used by early philosophers such as Socrates, as well as the early church, and also Christians of the Reformation period.

Ultimately, use of a catechism can encourage unity of faith for a family and a church body. Further, it helps children develop knowledge and skills of learning.

- Christians are to attain unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 1:13)
- Christians are to avoid immaturity and deception of every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes (Ephesians 1:14)
- Christians are to amplify and multiply the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:4; 2Timothy 2:2)

This booklet contains three categories for you to explore and apply to your relationship with God. The three categories are

- 1) Godly Convictions: Cultivating beliefs; a Christian worldview
- 2) Godly Character: Cultivating the heart response in life application
- 3) Godly Capabilities: Cultivating disciplines and life skills

There are 14 questions for a parent or leader to review with a new or potential believer. Each question could stand alone for one-time discussion or be combined with several questions to review over an extended session. Read each question and search the Bible to help you answer. You may discover additional Scriptures for your answers, but try to learn and memorize the one's that are provided. There is also a summary of the questions (page 11) to further understand the G.O.S.P.E.L.

Ultimately, Jesus is life and love. We were created to know Jesus and grow in a relationship with Him. This booklet will help you to understand who God is and how to respond in faith and following Jesus.

Godly Convictions

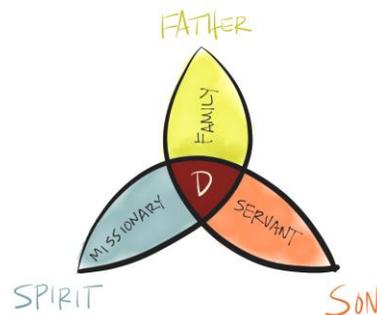
1) Who is the first and foremost being?

- **God**

Isaiah 44:6 “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.”

- **God is Trinity: Father, Son, Spirit**

Matthew 28:18-19 “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”



2) How do we know there is a God?

- **Creation tells us there is God, the Creator.**

Psalms 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”

Romans 1:20 “For his invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world., in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

- **Scripture tells us there is God**

Psalms 19:7 “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul, the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

3) What is God like?

- **God is glorious and gracious.**

Isaiah 43:3 “For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”



4) Who am I, as part of humanity?

- **I am created by God and for God’s glory.**

Isaiah 43:7 “everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, who I formed and made.”

Colossians 1:16c “ – all things were created through him and for him.”

- **I am a sinner in need of grace.**

Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”



5) How did God create humanity?

- **God created people by His word, in His image, as male and as female.**

Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."



6) What is sin?

- **Sin is disobedience of God and doubt of God's word that results in death.**

Ephesians 2:1-2 "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience"

7) What is salvation?

- **Salvation is God's rescue from death unto new life.**

Ephesians 2:4-5 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved."

- **Salvation is God's forgiveness from sin unto righteousness.**

Ephesians 1:7 "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace."

8) What is the Bible?

- **The Bible is God's Word from the Old and New Testaments.**

Hebrews 1:1-2 "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son"

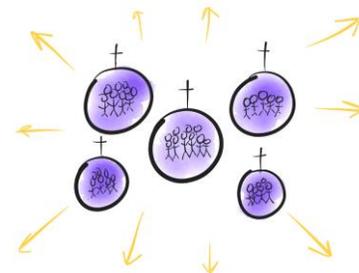
- **The Bible is the message of God's truth and love in Jesus Christ.**

2Timothy 3:15-16 "the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

9) What is the church?

- **The church is people who are saved by God and sent to tell others about God's truth and love.**

1Peter 1:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who call you out of darkness into his marvelous light."



10) What is baptism?

- Christian Baptism is the outward symbol of a person's inward faith relationship with God. It is a symbol of Jesus' perfect life, substitutionary death and resurrection for individuals who believe. Immersion into water is the symbol of being united to Jesus Christ by grace through faith.

Romans 6:4 "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

NOTE: There is more info on baptism on pages 14-17.



11) What is the Lord's Supper?

- The Lord's Supper is a memorial meal that symbolizes Jesus' death in body (bread) and in blood (cup). The meal reminds the believer of fellowship with God and with others, by grace through faith.

1Corinthians 11:26 "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

What are you learning?

What is God calling you to put into practice?

What questions do you have?

Godly Character

12) What is God's law?

- The law of God is His commandments that show His character and also reveal my sin.
- God's Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20:1-17

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying, ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ "You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ "You shall not murder. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Have no other gods: submits to God of the Bible

Make no idols: appropriate use of relationships, time and possessions

Not misusing God's name: speaks appropriately about God (in every aspect)

Remembering the Sabbath: attends church, prioritizes relationship with God

Honoring parents: obeys instruction, shows love and respect toward parents

Not murdering: loves/cares for others through words and actions

Not committing adultery: is respectful of opposite gender

Not stealing: does not take other's possessions, generous

Not lying: honest, gives specifics when asked or not

Not coveting: content with own possessions, self-control

13) How does God want me to live?

- **God desires me to know/love Him and to love others.**
Matthew 22:36-40 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. One these two commandments depend all the Law and Prophets."
- **God desires my life to show the fruit of the spirit.**
Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Love: heart for God and for others, makes friends,

Joy: enthusiastic about God, not a complainer

Peace: has balance; not an isolator nor overly assertive

Patience: understands how and when to wait

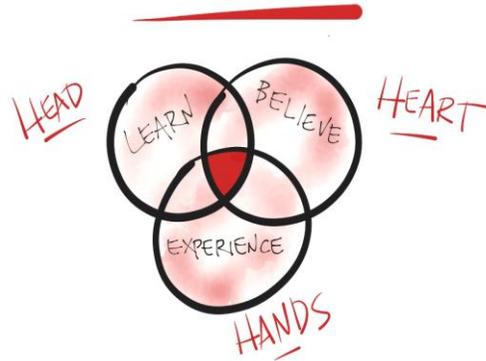
Kindness: genuine care for others, shares objects

Goodness: obedient to authority, generous

Faithfulness: consistent in commitments, behaviors, etc.

Gentleness: empathetic, considerate toward others

Self-control: disciplined, not hasty



What are you learning?



What is God calling you to put into practice?

What questions do you have?

Godly Capabilities

14) What are some ways I can grow spiritually in my faith relationship?

- **The early church is an example of faith and practice for me.**

Acts 2:42-47 "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

- Read and follow the Bible's teaching
James 1:22 "But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
- Pray regularly to God with praises and requests
Matthew 6:9-13 "Pray like this, 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.'"
- Relates with other Christian believers in fellowship
Proverbs 13:20 "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm."
- Celebrates the awe of God's work in daily life
1Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
- Shares generously with time, talents, and treasures.
Acts 20:35 "remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
- Shares God's grace and the gospel of Jesus Christ for others to believe.
2Corinthians 5:20 "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

- **God gives every follower of Jesus His Holy Spirit to help them serve the church and help others to understand God's love.**

1Corinthians 12:7 "To each [believer] is given the Spirit for the common good."

What are you learning?

What is God calling you to put into practice?

What questions do you have?

G.O.S.P.E.L. SUMMARY



GOD: God is the most important Person and priority for me.

Isaiah 44:6 “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.”

OTHERS: God created people for me to love as He loves them.

1John 4:7 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.”

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: God gives me a purpose to grow in my relationship with Him and to share His love through my time, talents, and treasures.

1Timothy 4:8 “for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

PRAYER & PRAISE: God is in control of all my life and I can trust Him by praising Him for the good and praying to Him in hardships.

Philippians 4:6 “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

EVANGELISM: God calls me to share His grace and gospel with others in word and deed.

Matthew 28:18-20 “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me [Jesus]. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

LEADING GENERATIONS: God calls me to live for His eternal joy and not worldly pleasure.

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

God hates sin. Sin is anything you do wrong like lying, cheating, stealing, disobeying, etc. These and other sins separate you from God. The fact is everyone has sinned and done something wrong.

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

Have you **Admitted** your sin and asked God to forgive you?

God punishes sin. When people do wrong things they get punished. The punishment for sin is death. Everyone who is a sinner deserves death. But, Jesus took our punishment by dying on the cross.

Romans 5:8 "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish (die) but have eternal life."

Do you **Believe** Jesus is God's Son and died for your sin?

God lives today. Jesus died on the cross but three days later he came back to life. He is alive and wants you to trust and follow him. He wants to have a relationship with you.

Romans 10:9 "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Will you **Commit** to trusting and treasuring Jesus as Lord (boss) and Savior of your life?

Share your thoughts and questions with your parent, a pastor or trusted friend to help you take the next step of faith.

Children with Salvation, Baptism & Church

One of the most rewarding opportunities is when you are able to point a child to faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus welcomes children into his presence (Matthew 19:13-15) and we should allow those children who understand the gospel to take this step of faith. Thank God for your willingness to be a part of teaching the next generation (Psalm 78:4-7).

Please remember as parents, we must walk the fine balance of encouraging faith and not enabling dependence. As any faith-oriented parent, we want our children to take steps in a faith relationship with Jesus Christ. However, we must be careful not to perform a religious act without the spiritual meaning. Baptism should not be rushed or streamlined without a sincere understanding of what it represents for that individual. Further, many churches have drifted with the presence of nominal or assumed Christians, which have weakened the witnessed of the church in a watching world. So, the issue of childhood salvation and baptism is one to consider carefully.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Allow children to use their own words.

Do not force the opportunity. A child who can use their own words shows their understanding of the gospel and readiness to receive and commit to Christ.

Ask children questions.

Sometimes children will be hesitant. Asking questions will help them communicate what God is doing in his or her life. Some examples are “Why are you coming to me?” “Who is Jesus?” “Why did Jesus die on the cross?” “Have you asked Jesus to forgive you of your sin?”

Use simple explanations.

For the most part, children are concrete thinkers and do not always understand symbolic analogies. Focus on the gospel essentials, stay simple and keep to the point. Avoid giving too much theological background or religious information than a child truly needs for simple faith.

Use Scripture.

Children need to know where to go for answers. The Bible is the book to help us know who God is, what God has done, who we are and what we are supposed to do.

Withholding at its worst

In attempt to judge faithfulness of an individual’s testimony by the fruits of a person’s life (Matthew 7:16; 1John 4:1 ff; James 2), the church places more emphasis on “good works” as the measure of faith. A well-intentioned policy may become a stumbling block that encourages others to have a fearful and introspective evaluation of their spiritual lives.

Withholding at its best

The church welcomes the young into its body with confidence that they have demonstrated evidence of the new birth and life in Christ. Those who have intentionally waited have demonstrated an understanding of Christian faith and have a bold confession of faith and witness in baptism. In the process, the church has spiritual power and has protected the name of Christ.

BAPTISM & CHURCH

God wants everyone who believes in him to grow in their understanding and commitment to Jesus. Two important parts of this new relationship is baptism and church membership.

What is baptism?

Baptism is immersion into water. It symbolizes entering into the grave and dying to sin and exiting the grave living for Jesus. Baptism does NOT save you. Baptism without commitment is only a public bath! True baptism is an action done on the outside to symbolize what has taken place on the inside of your life. In a sense, it is like a wedding ring showing everyone else your commitment.

Why should I be baptized?

Christians should be baptized because Jesus demonstrated it and commanded it. Baptism is a matter of obedience in the Christian life.

Matthew 3:15-16a "Jesus replied, Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this [get baptized] to fulfill all righteousness. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water."

Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

Who should be baptized?

Christians believe that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is sufficient for forgiveness of sin (salvation). If you have turned away (repent) from sin by receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior then you are ready to be baptized. Baptism can be compared to a wedding ring in the marriage relationship; it is a public symbol pointing to a dynamic relationship. In all, baptism does not make you a Christian, rather it shows you already believe in Jesus Christ.

- Is there sorrow and remorse for sin against God (Psalm 51; Romans 3:23)?
- Is there indication of God's Spirit awakening saving faith (John 3:5; Romans 8:5-17)?
- Is there confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord of life and Savior from sin (John 5:24; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10; Hebrews 11:6)?
- Is there evidence of saving faith (James 2:14; 1John 3:23-24)?

When should I be baptized?

A person should be baptized only after making a decision to trust Jesus Christ for salvation. The Christians in the New Testament affirm this pattern.

Acts 2:41 "Those who accepted his message were baptized"

Acts 8:26-39 The Ethiopian was baptized only after understanding the good news about Jesus.

Acts 9:18 Paul was baptized after clearly understanding Jesus' identity and committing to the gospel.

Acts 10:47 Cornelius was baptized after believing the gospel and receiving the Holy Spirit.

Why should I wait to be baptized?

A person should wait to be baptized if they are still growing in understanding the value of repentance of sin and/or trusting solely in Jesus Christ for salvation. Remember, baptism does not save a person. It is important to not baptize a person too soon, especially a young child, that would give them a false impression in the meaning of faith.

Romans 6:1-3 "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?"

Why immersion baptism over infant christening?

The word used in the New Testament for baptism means to dip into, submerge or plunge. The simple meaning of the word calls for immersion. In addition, immersion best pictures the gospel, Jesus dying and buried (into the water) and then raising to new life (out of the water). A baptized person should understand this meaning. We have no set age limit for person wishing to be baptized except that they understand the meaning of baptism pointing to the gospel.

Romans 6:4 "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Why connect with a church?

The local church is a group of people who individually Acknowledge their sin, Believe in Jesus and Commit to follow him. Together, believers help each other grow in their understanding of God by reading the Bible, praying and serving each other. Believers also work together to tell others about who God is and what he has done.

We would love to be your church family.

Ephesians 4:4-6 "There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all"

What should I bring to my baptism?

Our church looks forward to your baptism on _____.

This is a great opportunity to invite family and friends to view your public commitment to follow Jesus. In seeing your baptism they will begin their own process of understanding the meaning of salvation and trusting Jesus.

During this worship service please remember to bring the following things:

- Appropriate clothing to get wet in. Typically a dark colored shirt and shorts are fine, or a swimsuit with a t-shirt. We also have a robe to go over your clothing.
- A change of clothing from the wet clothes.
- A towel and any other necessary items to return to the worship service as fitting.