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By Colin Mattoon, Kyle Roland, and Dane Hays

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for picking up this resource! A *catechism* is a summary of doctrine in question and answer form. At Crossing, we believe that these truths are more than just rote exercises in doctrine... we believe they are life-changing principles from God's Word. We are so excited about how the Lord may use this for His glory and the strengthening of the families at Crossing Church. It is our prayer that you would be able to use this catechism for many years to come. Here are some helpful tips as you embark on this exciting journey with your family:

- Each truth contains at least three components: A) Truth, B) Application, and C) Memory Verse. We recommend starting with just section A for younger kids.
- Each year, as your children grow, you can add the application and the memory verse, giving you up to three years of learning objectives.
- We also ask that you commit to pray with and for your children as they learn.
- If you have any questions about how to use this resource or about the content of this resource, email us at kids@crossinglouisville.com and we would be happy to help you!

A special thanks to Colin Mattoon and Kyle Roland, without whom this project would have never come to the light of day. Thanks also to the elders at Crossing for their helpful edits along the way. Finally, special thanks to Wayne Grudem and his work in systematic theology from whom we gained much insight and instruction throughout this process. May God's blessings abound to you and your family!

For the KidCity Team,
Dane Hays

Recommended Resources for Families:

Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem. Zondervan, 1994.

Christian Beliefs, Wayne & Elliot Grudem, Zondervan, 2005.

Big Truths for Young Hearts, Bruce Ware, Crossway, 2009.

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1. Who is God?

- a. **Truth:** God is the perfect creator and sustainer of everyone and everything who has made Himself known to us.
- b. **Application:** I should worship God, seek to know God, and serve God with everything I have.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...” (Exodus 34:6).

2. What is the most important thing to do in life?

- a. **Truth:** The most important thing in life is to glorify God and enjoy God forever.
- b. **Application:** I should glorify and enjoy God in everything I do. To glorify God means to love God by doing what He commands and showing God's greatness to others. I can do this by loving God and loving others. So I should try to love God and other people every day.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4).
- d. **For Further Study:** 1 Corinthians 10:31.

3. What is the Bible?

- a. **Truth:** The Bible is the totally true book God gave people so they can know Him.
- b. **Application:** The Bible is one big story that is totally true and all about Jesus. The Bible also shows us how to follow God. I should read, understand, and obey God's Word.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

4. What is the story of the Bible?

- a. **Truth:** The Bible is a story that is told in four parts: God makes everything perfect, perfection is lost, God promises to fix everything, God makes a new perfect world.
- b. **Application:** I should know the story of the Bible and be thankful God has let me know how I can be saved from my sins.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

5. What is the first part of the story of the Bible?

- a. **Truth:** Creation: God made a perfect world.
- b. **Explanation:** God made a perfect world where people could know, love, and enjoy God forever. People were perfect, our relationships with each other were perfect, and the world was perfect. There was no brokenness, suffering, pain, or evil because everything was perfect.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31).

6. What is the second part of the story of the Bible?

- a. **Truth:** Fall: Perfection is lost when people rebel against God.
- b. **Explanation:** The world, people, relationships, and relationship with God was broken when people rebelled against God. The world was cursed. People no longer get to live with God. People also experience suffering, pain, and evil because of rebellion.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat? The man said ‘the woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate’” (Genesis 3:11-12).

7. What is the third part of the story of the Bible?

- a. **Truth:** Redemption: God promised to send Someone to make things perfect again.
- b. **Explanation:** God promised to send someone to make things perfect again. The people of the Old Testament wait for this person and in the New Testament we find that this person is Jesus Christ who God sent to save us. Jesus came to save the world from brokenness and rebellion against God. Because of Jesus those who love God will get to live with and know God.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Gen. 3:15).

8. What is the fourth part of the story of the Bible?

- a. **Truth:** Restoration: God restores everything to perfection.
- b. **Application:** Jesus begins to restore everything to perfection by dying on the cross so people can be saved from sin. Jesus will finish his work of restoring everything by making a new perfect world where His people get to be with Him and love, worship, and enjoy Him forever.

- c. **Memory Verse:** “And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true’” (Revelation 21:5).

9. What is Sin?

- a. **Truth:** Sin is rebelling against God and disobeying God’s laws. All people sin.
- b. **Application:** I should admit I have rebelled against God and disobeyed his laws. I should admit this is wrong and feel bad for it. I should turn away from sin and ask God to help me obey and live for Him.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

10. What is Original Sin?

- a. **Truth:** The original sin was committed by Adam. Because of Adam’s sin all people are born sinful and disobedient.
- b. **Application:** Because of Adam’s sin everyone is born sinful and disobedient towards God. All people remain rebellious until Jesus changes his or her heart.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
- d. **For Further Study:** Romans 5:12-14

11. How Does God Respond to Sin?

- a. **Truth:** God hates sin and is angry about sin because sin is evil and bad. Those who sin will die because sin leads to death.
- b. **Application:** I should understand God hates my sin and is angry about my sin. God says sin is bad, hurts me, and hurts other people. God wants me to turn to Jesus in the midst of my sin.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “...whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him” (John 3:36).

12. What is Death?

- a. **Truth:** One day my physical body will die, my spirit will go to God, and I will face judgment.
- b. **Application:** If someone has turned from sin and trusted in Jesus during his or her life, Jesus will accept that person into heaven. If not, they will go to hell.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment...” (Hebrews 9:27).

13. What is the Gospel?

- a. **Truth:** The gospel is the good news that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save people from sin and give them new life.
- b. **Application:** If I believe this is true, trust God, and turn away from my sins, I will be forgiven for my sins and have a new life with Him now and live with God forever once we die. God will forgive me for my sin and I can enjoy Him forever!
- c. **Memory Verse:** “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8).

14. What is the Trinity?

- a. **Truth:** There are three persons in the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- b. **Application:** I should worship and love the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

15. What is God’s Holiness?

- a. **Truth:** God's holiness is his total perfection. God is unlike anything else because is completely perfect and good.
- b. **Application:** I should worship God because He is holy. God is separate and different from everything else that exists because He alone is perfect.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3).

16. What is God’s Glory?

- a. **Truth:** God is the most important and greatest person that exists. Because God is perfect (holy) He is glorious (the greatest and most wonderful Person ever).
- b. **Application:** When we see God’s perfect holiness we see God’s greatness, or glory. We should see God's glory in the Bible and creation and respond by worshipping Him.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel" (Exodus 24:17).
- d. **For Further Study:** Psalm 66:1-4

17. What is Omnipresence?

- a. **Truth:** Omnipresence means God is everywhere at all times.
- b. **Application:** We can be assured that God is always with us wherever we may go.
- c. **Memory Verse:** Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! (Psalm 139:7-8)
- d. **For Further Study:** Matthew 28:16-20.

18. What is Omnipotence?

- a. **Truth:** Omnipotence means God is all-powerful and controls all things.
- b. **Application:** God should be worshipped because he is all powerful. We can turn to God and trust God knowing He is all powerful and has control over everything in the universe.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “He made the storm be still and the waves of the sea were hushed” (Psalm 107:29).

19. What is Omniscience?

- a. **Truth:** Omniscience means God knows everything.
- b. **Application:** Because God knows all things we should worship Him. Nothing is ever secret from God, He knows everything, so we can pray and approach God trusting he knows everything. In fact, He knows and understands more than we do about everything, even ourselves.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you...” (John 16:30).
- d. **For Further Study:** John 2:23-25, Mark 2:1-12.

20. What Did God Create?

- a. **Truth:** God created everything.
- b. **Application:** God is the Creator and we are His creation. Because God created everything, even us, we should worship and obey Him.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).
- d. **For Further Study:** Genesis 1-2, Psalm 139

21. What is Providence?

- a. **Truth:** Providence means God has control over everything.
- b. **Application:** God has control over everything. God is directly involved in the lives of His people and His creation. All things were created through Him and for Him and He sustains everything.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17).
- d. **For Further Study:** Colossians 1:15-20, Ephesians 1:11

22. Who is God the Father?

- a. **Truth:** God the Father is God and planned to save His people by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross.
- b. **Application:** I should worship and obey the Father for His plan to save me.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

23. Who is Jesus Christ?

- a. **Truth:** Jesus is God, the Son of God who is fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and came back to life.
- b. **Application:** I should follow Jesus and believe in Him for eternal life.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” (John 14:6).

24. Who is the Holy Spirit?

- a. **Truth:** The Holy Spirit is God and was sent by the Father and the Son to help God’s people know, worship, and obey the Father.
- b. **Application:** I should pray that the Spirit will guide me in all truth.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God (1 Corinthians 2:12).

25. What is Resurrection?

- a. **Truth:** Three days after his death, Jesus came back to life and rose from the grave.
- b. **Application:** Jesus conquered sin, death, hell and the grave when he arose from the dead on the third day. Because of his resurrection, we now have hope of our salvation.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you...the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise” (Luke 24:6-7).
- d. **For Further Study:** Matthew 28:1-20, Mark 16:1-8, John 20

26. What is the Return of Christ?

- a. **Truth:** Jesus will return to earth in the future. We don't know for sure when He will return, but we know he will return.
- b. **Application:** Since Christ will return to the earth we must be ready and eagerly wait for Him. We should live in such a way that if he returns tomorrow He will be pleased by us.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him” (Hebrews 9:28).
- d. **For Further Study:** John 14:1-7, Philippians 3:20, and Acts 1:6-11

27. What is Faith?

- a. **Truth:** Faith is trusting and believing God without seeing Him.
- b. **Application:** I should believe God's promises, because He is trustworthy.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

28. What is Repentance?

- a. **Truth:** Repentance is being sorry for sin, hating sin, and deciding not to sin because God doesn't like sin.
- b. **Application:** When we repent we turn away from sin and instead try to obey God because we love God. Repentance is something we do every day to obey Christ. We need the Holy Spirit's help to help us walk in repentance.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "...Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

29. What is Conversion?

- a. **Truth:** Conversion is God bringing my dead heart to life so that I would trust in Jesus.
- b. **Application:** God wants me to love, obey, and enjoy Him not rebel and disobey Him.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son" (Colossians 1:13).

30. What Happens When People Are Converted?

- a. **Truth:** When a person is converted God has saved them so a person can follow God. The person begins to turn away from his or her old sinful way of life and now lives to please God.
- b. **Application:** If I have been converted I have ended my old sinful way of living and now should live to please and obey God. I can have peace because I have been reconciled to God.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:11).

31. What is Union with Christ?

- a. **Truth:** When a person is converted he or she becomes joined to Jesus forever.
- b. **Application:** When a person is united to Christ they receive every benefit Jesus has received. The person united to Christ can know God looks at them just as He looks at Jesus. When a person is united to Christ they are in Christ, Christ is in us, we are like Christ, and we are with Christ.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "'In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28a).

32. What is Regeneration?

- a. **Truth:** When a person is converted God has made them a new person by giving them a new heart and the Holy Spirit.
- b. **Application:** If I am regenerated by God I have a new heart that wants to obey God and the Holy Spirit to help me obey God. I am a new person God has made who loves God!
- c. **Memory Verse:** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- d. **For Further Study:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

33. What is the Atonement?

- a. **Truth:** The atonement is how God saves sinners from the punishment they deserve by sending Jesus to be punished in their place and take their penalty by dying on the cross.
- b. **Application:** I have peace with God because Jesus paid the price for my sin, so I should love God and pray to God.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)

34. What is Adoption?

- a. **Truth:** When God saves people by converting them He makes them His sons and daughters.
- b. **Application:** If I have been converted I can call my God my Father.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:14).

35. What is Election?

- a. **Truth:** Before God created the world, He chose a people for Himself, not based on what they could do but by His grace.
- b. **Application:** I should thank God because He saved me. Now I can tell other people the gospel so they can begin to follow Jesus too.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified” (Romans 8:30).

36. What is Irresistible Grace?

- a. **Truth:** God causes those who repent and believe to see and love Him so deeply they cannot help but want to follow Jesus.
- b. **Application:** We should thank God for causing us to see Him this way so that we want to love, follow, and please God. If we do not see Him this way we should ask him to help us see Him this way so we become Christians.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

37. What is Particular Redemption?

- a. **Truth:** Jesus died to save all people, but only those who repent, believe, and persevere will actually be saved from their sin.
- b. **Application:** Because of His perfect, wise, good, and holy choice, God has selected those whom He will save.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will" (Ephesians 1:5).
- d. **For Further Study:** Ephesians 1:3-14

38. What is Perseverance?

- a. **Truth:** Perseverance is when a person continues to love, trust, follow, and obey God throughout their life. God helps us persevere.
- b. **Application:** I need to continue to love, trust, follow, and obey God every day. As long as I continue to do this I can know I am a Christian who gets to enjoy God forever. All Christians must continue, or persevere, in following Jesus throughout their lives.
- c. **Memory Verse:** And you...He has now reconciled... if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard (Colossians 1:21-23).

39. What is Eternal Security?

- a. **Truth:** When God saves His people, He keeps His people from rejecting Him as long as they persevere.
- b. **Application:** I should rest in the fact that as long as I follow God I can know He loves me and has saved me.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28).

40. What is Justification?

- a. **Truth:** Justification is God thinking of a person as though they never sinned and are perfectly obedient (this happens through propitiation and righteousness).
- b. **Application:** I can know God has forgiven me and is pleased by me because of what Jesus has done. I can pray to God knowing I am forgiven and loved.
- c. **Memory Verse:** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

41. What is Propitiation?

- a. **Truth:** The appropriate payment Jesus made for my sin.
- b. **Application:** We are to be thankful for Christ's sacrifice on the cross because God took out His anger for our sin on Jesus. God's anger was just and perfect, not mean or wrong. God's total goodness means God hates what is wrong, so God's anger for sin was right and good. We should love Jesus because He willingly chose to take our place and take God's anger and punishment for our sin. Because God took His anger out on Jesus God is no longer angry with those who trust in Jesus because their sin has been punished.

- c. **Memory Verse:** "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

42. What is Jesus' Righteousness?

- a. **Truth:** Christ's perfect obedience to God's law is called righteousness because everything Jesus did was right and obedient to God.
- b. **Application:** When a person is converted they are united to Christ so God sees them as perfectly obedient because Jesus was perfectly obedient. I should be thankful for Jesus' obedience and feel joyful because God sees me as righteous.
- c. **Memory Verse:** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous (Romans 5:19).

43. What is Sanctification?

- a. **Truth:** Sanctification is the lifelong process of becoming less sinful and more obedient to the commands God has given.
- b. **Application:** I should live a life of becoming less sinful and more obedient to God because it pleases God and is good for me. This happens by learning what God commands and obeying those commands. This means I stop doing things God doesn't want and start doing the things God does want.
- c. **Memory Verse:** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you... Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. (Colossians 3:5 and 12)

44. What is Glorification?

- a. **Truth:** When a Christian dies a person is freed from sin, given a new perfect body, and gets to be with God forever in a new perfect world.
- b. **Application:** I should wait eagerly and with excitement for glorification.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "We...groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:23).

45. What is Heaven?

- a. **Truth:** Heaven is a new perfect world where we get to be with God forever.
- b. **Application:** I should be excited and hopeful that one day I will not live in this broken world but instead I will get to be with God in the new perfect world.
- c. **Memory Verse:** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (Revelation 21:3).

46. What is Hell?

- a. **Truth:** Hell is a place of punishment where people who never turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus are separated forever from God and every good thing he has made.
- b. **Application:** I should turn from sin and trust in Jesus and tell others to do the same so that we don't have to go to hell.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" - Matthew 25:41
- d. **For Further Study:** Matthew 25:31-46

47. Who is the Church?

- a. **Truth:** The Church is a group of people who love and follow God, have been baptized, and meet regularly to worship God together.
- b. **Application:** If I am one of God's people I need to be a member of a church. I should be a part of a church to help others follow Jesus and let others help me follow Jesus. These little churches all make up all of God's people, the big Church.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ... (1 Corinthians 1:2-3).

48. What Does the Church Do?

- a. **Truth:** God has called the church to make disciples and worship Jesus.
- b. **Application:** I should tell others about Jesus and teach them to obey what God commands. I should let others teach me about Jesus and learn to obey what God commands too.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "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" (Matthew 28:19-20).

49. What is Baptism?

- a. **Truth:** Baptism is being put under water as a way to show we believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
- b. **Application:** When a person repents of their sin and believes in Christ they should be baptized to show they are a follower of Jesus. This is one way we show we have become part of God's people.
- c. **Memory Verse:** "...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" (Romans 6:3-4).

50. What is Communion?

- a. **Truth:** Communion is eating bread and drinking juice or wine that is the symbolic body and blood of Christ. The church does this to remember and show we trust in Christ's death on the cross.
- b. **Application:** By participating in Communion (The Lord's Supper), we not only remember Christ's death but we also show our faith in what Christ did on the cross. Communion is something the church does together to help encourage and remind each other of what Jesus did. It also reminds us that Jesus' payment for our sins has already been accomplished.

- c. **Memory Verse:** “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes” (1 Corinthians 1:26).
- d. **For Further Study:** Matthew 26:23-29

51. What is Common Grace?

- a. **Truth:** God’s blessings to all people, including people who do not love, trust, and obey Him, are called common grace.
- b. **Application:** Thank God for His grace he gave to all people like rain, sun, food, doctors, and other common graces.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “...He makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:45).
- d. **For Further Study:** Luke 6:35-36

52. What is Complementarianism?

- a. **Truth:** God made men and women equal in worth but different in roles.
- b. **Application:** Men and women are different. One way this is true is that men should protect other men and women and women are to encourage, help, and affirm other women and men. In marriages, husbands should seek to love their wives as Christ loved the church. Wives should seek to respect their husband. Children should seek to honor their parents. In the church, men lead the church as pastors. Men and women both serve and minister in the church.
- c. **Memory Verse:** “However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband” (Ephesians 5:33).
- d. **For Further Study:** Genesis 2:18-25 and Ephesians 5:22-33