

HOPE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

# Hope Catechism

52 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

# Introduction to Catechisms

The Hope Catechism has been developed by the Elders and Children's Ministry at Hope Reformed Baptist Church, to aid parents in discipling their children into Christlikeness.

Historically, "catechising" has referred to the process of teaching orally, through back and forth responses - usually question and answer. The Christian Church has practiced this for millenia, most notably in the wake of the sixteenth century Reformation. It has long been a key tool for training new Christians, young Christians, and maturing Christians, into a thorough, and memorable, understanding of what the Bible teaches.

Every Christian is commanded to learn the Bible's truths in a thorough and systematic way. In other words, biblical doctrine can be studied in its major categories, so that reading, understanding and applying the Bible can be done with greater accuracy.

In Titus 1:9, Paul says that an Elder "*...must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.*" Paul here shows us that believing, teaching, and defending the truth of God is an important quality of a mature Christian. And this is possible, because he sees the Christian faith as a body of connected theological doctrines.

“*Trustworthy word*” means a foundational, rational, logical structure of truth.

“*As taught*” and “*give instruction*” assume it is able to be handed down, repeated, and memorised.

“*Rebuke those who contradict it*” means it is an objective standard that easily highlights errors.

In other words, you can’t engage in Christian discipleship without teaching theology. Catechisms help serve that goal.

The instruction to teach is not only given to Elders, however.

In Ephesians 6:4, Paul commands: “*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*” To Paul, the primary pastor and teacher of each family, is the head of the home - the Father - with his wife alongside in support. Children must learn the Christian faith and lifestyle from their parents first. Again, Catechisms serve to help parents in this all important, lifelong task.

If this Catechism is introduced to your family, and memorised throughout the year, your children will begin to learn about every major category of theology in the Bible. Whether the doctrine is new to you, or the practice is unfamiliar, we believe that God will bless your commitment to start, toward the goal of raising mature Christian children. The important thing is to start somewhere!

For many parents, the Catechism will provide an opportunity to make up for lost time. If you feel there is doctrine you have not learned, or habits of family discipleship you have not seen modeled, do not feel shame or sorrow! Praise God for the opportunity to learn as you go, with your family!

# How to use the Hope Catechism

This Catechism contains 52 questions. Each question can be taught for a week until memorised, and is then taught the following Sunday in Hope Kids Sunday School. As well as memorisation, reading and explaining the related Bible verses will help to deepen your understanding, and your children's.

The format is streamlined compared to some historical Catechisms (the Westminster Shorter Catechism for example, has 107 questions). This is to allow for organic extrapolation of questions. When first starting, or with younger children, you might stick tightly to the script. As you become more comfortable, and your children mature, however, you may divide the question into multiple smaller questions, and lengthen each question slightly.

For much younger children (under 3), you may decide to teach them 1-3 word versions of the answers. These adaptations are included with each question in the Catechism, to make it more broadly useful. For very young children, just focus on the **bold** words.

The Hope Family Worship Guide is a partner resource, published weekly, to be used alongside the Catechism. We desire more than just family catechising; we desire to see Family Worship times established as a discipline in our homes.

The Family Worship Guide contains five days worth of Psalm readings, Sunday sermon passages, explanations on verses relating to the catechism question, and prayers. It offers a simple structure to use, to start your family worship journey. This can be found for free on our website, or printed out at Church on Sunday.

Find our sermons, Q&A, and other helpful video resources on Family Worship, on our YouTube, or our App!

If you need further help with initiating family worship, or overcoming difficult hurdles in your family dynamic, speak to an Elder and request a time that they come to your home for help.

God bless you in this commitment.

**“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”**

**- Galatians 6:9**

# Part One

GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL

# Part One

## GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL

**Question 1:** Who made you and everything else?

**Answer:** God made me and everything else by his Word.

**Question 2:** Why did God make you and everything?

**Answer:** God made me and everything else for His glory.

**Question 3:** How can you glorify God?

**Answer:** I can glorify God by loving him, trusting him and obeying him.

**Question 4:** Is there more than one god?

**Answer:** No, there is only one true God.

**Question 5:** How many persons are there in God?

**Answer:** There are three persons in God.

**Question 6:** What are the names of the three persons in God?

**Answer:** The three persons in God are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, whom we call the Trinity.

**Question 7:** Does God have a body like us?

**Answer:** No, God is a spirit without a body and is everywhere.

**Question 8:** How can we know about God?

**Answer:** God must reveal himself and he has in the Bible.

**Question 9:** Do you have only a body?

**Answer:** No, God made me with a body and a soul.

**Question 10:** What happens to you when you die?

**Answer:** When I die, my body goes into the ground and my soul goes to God.

**Question 11:** Why do you die?

**Answer:** We all die because Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.

**Question 12:** How did God make Adam and Eve, before they sinned?

**Answer:** God made Adam and Eve in a happy and perfect world, to live forever.

**Question 13:** What happened to the world and everybody in it, because of Adam's sin?

**Answer:** Because Adam sinned, God cursed the world and we are born into sin by nature.



GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL

# Question 1

Who made you  
and everything  
else?

# Answer

God made me and everything else by His Word.

**JUNIOR ADAPTATION**

**God.**

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Acts 17:24-29.

GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL

# Question 2

Why did God make  
you and everything  
else?

# Answer

God made me and everything else for His Glory.

**JUNIOR ADAPTATION**

For His **Glory.**

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Psalms 19:1; Romans 11:36; Revelation 4:11.

**GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL**

# Question 3

How can you glorify  
God?

# Answer

I can glorify God by loving Him, trusting Him and obeying Him.

## JUNIOR ADAPTATION

I can **love, trust** and **obey** Him.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Ecclesiastes 12:13; Deuteronomy 6:5-6;  
John 14:15.

GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL

# Question 4

Is there more than  
one god?

# Answer

No, there is only one true God.

**JUNIOR ADAPTATION**

**No.**

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:18;  
1 Timothy 2:5.



GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL

# Question 5

How many persons  
are there in God?

# Answer

There are three persons in God.

**JUNIOR ADAPTATION**

**Three.**

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Matthew 3:16-17; John 14:26;  
2 Corinthians 13:14.

# Question 6

What are the names  
of the three  
persons in God?

# Answer

The three persons in God are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, whom we call the Trinity.

## **JUNIOR ADAPTATION**

**Father, Son** and Holy **Spirit.**

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

Matthew 3:16-17; John 14:26;  
2 Corinthians 13:14.

GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL

# Question 7

Does God have a  
body like us?

# Answer

No, God is a spirit without a body and is everywhere.

## JUNIOR ADAPTATION

**No.**

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Psalms 139:7-10; John 4:24;  
1 Timothy 1:17.

GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL

# Question 8

How can we know  
about God?

# Answer

God must reveal himself and he has in the Bible.

## JUNIOR ADAPTATION

From the **Bible**.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Job 11:7; Psalms 119:18, 72, 89;  
Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 4:4;  
2 Timothy 3:15-17.



GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL

# Question 9

Do you have only a  
body?

# Answer

No, God made me with a body and a soul.

## JUNIOR ADAPTATION

No, I have a **soul** too.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Matthew 10:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

**GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL**

# Question 10

What happens  
when you die?

# Answer

When I die, my body goes into the ground and my soul goes to God.

## **JUNIOR ADAPTATION**

**I go to God.**

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 12:7; 2 Corinthians 5:8 ; Philippians 1:23.

GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL

# Question 11

Why do you die?

# Answer

We all die because Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.

## JUNIOR ADAPTATION

Because **Adam** and Eve **sinned**.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 5:12-14;  
1 Corinthians 15:21-22.

GOD, MAN, CREATION, THE FALL

# Question 12

How did God make  
Adam and Eve,  
before they sinned?

# Answer

God made Adam and Eve in a happy and perfect world, to live forever.

## JUNIOR ADAPTATION

To be **happy** forever.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Genesis 1:26-28; Psalms 8:4-8.



# Question 13

What happened  
to the world and  
everybody in it,  
because of  
Adam's sin?

# Answer

Because Adam sinned, God cursed the world and we are born into sin by nature.

## **JUNIOR ADAPTATION**

We are **cursed** and **sinner**s.

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

Genesis 6:5; Psalms 14:2-3, 51:5;  
Ecclesiastes 9:3; Matthew 15:19-20;  
Romans 5:12, 8:7.