



SIMPLE TRUTHS

for the **new**
believer



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linguistically simple, theologically clear,
biblically faithful

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INTRODUCTION

WHAT KIND OF BOOK IS THIS?

Simple Truths is a book of questions and answers. We wrote the book to help people understand what the Bible teaches. Some people call a book like this a catechism. If the word catechism does not sound familiar to you, do not be too surprised. People do not use the word today as they did in the past. The word comes from a Greek word that means to teach. You can find the word in the Bible in places like Luke 1:4, Acts 18:24-25, and Galatians 6:6. Each time the word means **to teach, to instruct, or to be taught**.

HOW DID WE PUT THE BOOK TOGETHER?

This little book (**Simple Truths**) is a **catechism - a teaching tool**. We used other books like it to help us write the questions and answers for this one. We used questions and answers so that it would be helpful for the people who read it. But these questions and answers are also helpful for people who cannot read. When someone reads the book aloud, anyone who can listen and repeat what they hear can learn them too.

The answers in the little book are short. The short answers help to make them easy to remember. That makes the book a useful tool for teaching people the basic truths about our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are 144 questions and answers divided into 5 parts.

THE FIVE PARTS OF SIMPLE TRUTHS

PART ONE

God and Man

Questions 1 to 26

PART TWO

Sin and Law

Questions 27 to 62

PART THREE

Christ and Salvation

Questions 63 to 90

PART FOUR

Spirit and Church

Questions 91 to 117

PART FIVE

Prayer and Hope

Questions 118 to 144

THE BIBLE AND THE "LITTLE BOOK"

Always remember, the "little book" is not to replace the Scripture. It is a tool to help you understand the Word of God, not to draw you away from it. That is why you will see a list of Bible verses under each question and answer. Each list of verses is short. These verses show where to find the answers in the Bible. There are many more verses we could have included with each answer. But these are included to help you get a good start.

PART ONE

GOD AND MAN

Q. 1 Who made you?

A. God made me.

Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7; Acts 17:26

Q. 2 What else did God make?

A. God made all things.

Genesis 1:31; Psalm 33:6-9; Colossians 1:16-17

Q. 3 Why did God make you and all things?

A. God made me and all things for His own glory.*

Psalm 19:1; Isaiah 43:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31

Q. 4 How can you give glory* to God?

A. I give glory* to God when I love Him and trust Him. And when I do what He tells me to do.

Matthew 5:16; John 14:21; 1 John 5:3

Q. 5 Why should you give glory to God?

A. Because he made me and takes care of me.

Psalm 145:9; 1 Peter 5:7; Revelation 4:11

Q. 6 How many gods are there?

A. There is only one God.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5; Jeremiah 10:10

Q. 7 In how many persons does this one God exist?

A. God exists in three persons.

Matthew 3:16-17; John 5:23; John 10:30; John 15:26

Q. 8 Who are they?

A. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*.

Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2

Q. 9 What is God?

A. *God is spirit.* He does not have a body like men.*

John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 3:17; 1 Timothy 1:17

Q. 10 Did God have a beginning?

A. *No, God has always been and God will always be.*

Exodus 3:14; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 40:28

Q. 11 Does God change?

A. *No, God is always the same.*

Psalm 102:26-27; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8

Q. 12 Where is God?

A. *God is everywhere.*

Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 17:27-28

Q. 13 Can you see God?

A. *No, I cannot see God, but He always sees me.*

Psalm 33:13-15; Proverbs 5:21; John 1:18; 1 Timothy 1:17

Q. 14 Does God know all things?

A. *Yes, God knows all things. I cannot hide anything from God.*

1 Samuel 2:3; Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:13

Q. 15 Can God do all things?

A. *Yes, God can do every holy* thing that he desires.*

Isaiah 46:9-10; Daniel 4:34-35; Ephesians 1:11

Q. 16 Where do I learn how to know, to trust, to love and to obey God?

A. God has shown me how to know, to trust, to love and to obey him in his word, the Bible.

Psalm 119:104-105; John 20:30-31; 2 Timothy 3:15

Q. 17 What does the Bible teach you?

A. The Bible teaches me the truth about God and his plan to rescue the world through Jesus Christ. And it teaches me the truth about myself.

Psalm 119:159-160; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Q. 18 Who wrote the Bible?

*A. Men who were guided and taught by the Holy Spirit.**

2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Peter 3:15-16

Q. 19 Who were our first parents?

A. Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:20; Genesis 5:1-2

Q. 20 How did God make our first parents?

A. God made the body of Adam out of the dust from the ground. God made Eve from the body of Adam.

Genesis 2:7; Genesis 2:21-23; Genesis 3:19; Psalm 103:14

Q. 21 How were Adam and Eve different from everything else that God had made?

A. God made Adam and Eve in his own image.

Genesis 1:26-27

Q. 22 How can we see God's image in Adam and Eve?

A. God gave them rule over his creation. They could understand what is true. They could love what is right. They could enjoy what is beautiful. They could do what pleases God. They could talk with God and each other.

Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7-9; Psalm 147:10-11; Philippians 4:8

Q. 23 What did God give Adam and Eve other than bodies?

A. God gave them souls that will never die.*

Genesis 2:7; Deuteronomy 6:5; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Matthew 16:26

Q. 24 Do you have a soul* as well as a body?

A. Yes, I have a soul that will never die.*

Zechariah 12:1; Acts 7:59; 2 Corinthians 5:8

Q. 25 What were Adam and Eve like when God made them?

A. God made them holy and happy. They lived with God in the garden he made for them.*

Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 2:25; Psalm 8:4-8

Q. 26 What did God require of Adam and Eve?

A. God required them to trust him and obey him completely.

Genesis 2:15-17; Psalm 8:4-8

PART TWO

SIN AND LAW

Q. 27 Did Adam and Eve obey God and remain holy* and happy?

A. No, they did not obey. They chose to sin against God.

Genesis 3:6-8

Q. 28 What is sin*?

A. Sin is when we do not do what God tell us to do. And when we do what God forbids.

Romans 1:32; James 2:10-11; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4

Q. 29 What does every sin* deserve?

A. Every sin* deserves the anger and punishment of God.

Deuteronomy 27:26; Romans 1:18; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 5:6

Q. 30 What was the sin* of our first parents?

A. They ate the fruit that God told them not to eat.

Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 3:6

Q. 31 Who tempted them to sin*?

A. The Devil* tempted Eve and she gave the fruit to Adam.

Genesis 3:1-5; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Revelation 12:9

Q. 32 What happened to the world when our first parents sinned?

A. God spoke a curse upon the ground. And death came into the world, just as God had warned* them.

Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3:16-17

Q. 33 What happened to our first parents when they sinned?

A. God cast Adam and Eve out of the garden. They were no longer holy* and happy. Instead, they were sinful* – guilty, ashamed and afraid.

Genesis 3:8-13; 16-19; 23

Q. 34 Because Adam sinned, what happened to everyone who lived after him?

A. Every person who was born after Adam and Eve was born sinful*.

Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

Q. 35 Did God leave the world under a curse? Did he leave people in their sin?

A. No, God chose to rescue them. God promised to send a Saviour*.

Matthew 1:21; John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:14

Q. 36 What is a covenant*?

A. A covenant is a serious promise between two or more persons.

Q. 37 What covenants did God make with the people of Israel*?

A. God promised to make Abraham's family into a great nation. He promised to bless all the nations through Abraham. God gave Moses the law. He promised to be with Moses and to bless Israel if they obeyed him and followed the laws he gave them. God promised David that one of his sons would become a great king and rule

forever. God promised that one day he would make a new covenant. He promised to forgive people's sins and to change people's hearts.

Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 15; Exodus 24:3-7;
2 Samuel 7:16; Jeremiah 31:31-34

Q. 38 What are the ten commands?

A. The ten commands are the words that God gave Moses for the people of Israel*. God himself wrote the ten commands on two stone tablets.

Exodus 31:18; Deuteronomy 9:10

Q. 39 What are those commands?

- A. 1. Do not put any other gods ahead of me.
2. Do not make for yourself an idol* nor worship* it.
3. Do not use the name of the Lord* your God in a wrong way.
4. Remember to keep the Sabbath* day holy.
5. Give honour* to your father and mother.
6. Do not murder anyone.
7. Do not commit adultery*.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not tell lies against your neighbour.
10. Do not desire anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Exodus 20:1-17

Q. 40 What is the first command?

A. The first command is: Do not put any other gods ahead of me.

Exodus 20:3; Isaiah 45:5-6

Q. 41 What does the first command teach?

A. *The first command teaches us to worship* God only.*

Psalm 44:20-21; Matthew 4:10; Revelation 22:8-9

Q. 42 What is the second command?

A. *The second command is: Do not make for yourself an idol* nor worship* it.*

Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 5:8-10

Q. 43 What does the second command teach?

A. *The second command teaches me not to worship idols* or images.*

Isaiah 44:10-11; Isaiah 46:5-9; Acts 17:29

Q. 44 What is the third command?

A. *The third command is: Do not use the name of the Lord* your God in a wrong way.*

Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11

Q. 45 What does the third command teach?

A. *The third command teaches us that we should not use God's name in a way that does not honour* him.*

Isaiah 8:13; Psalm 138:2; Revelation 15:3-4

Q. 46 What is the fourth command?

A. *The fourth command is: Remember to keep the Sabbath* day holy.*

Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Q. 47 What does the fourth command teach?

A. The fourth command teaches us to honour* God in our rest, in our work and in our worship.

Exodus 16:23; Isaiah 58:13-14

Q. 48 What is the fifth command?

A. The fifth command is: Give honour* to your father and your mother.

Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16

Q. 49 What does the fifth command teach?

A. The fifth command teaches us to love and to obey our parents.

Proverbs 1:8; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20

Q. 50 What is the sixth command?

A. The sixth command is: Do not murder anyone.

Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17

Q. 51 What does the sixth command teach?

A. The sixth command teaches us not to hate other people or take away someone's life.

Genesis 9:6; Matthew 5:21-22; 1 John 3:15

Q. 52 What is the seventh command?

A. The seventh command is: Do not commit adultery*.

Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18

Q. 53 What does the seventh command teach?

A. *The seventh command teaches us that we must not have sex with someone who is not our husband or wife.*

Matthew 5:27-28; Ephesians 5:3-4

Q. 54 What is the eighth command?

A. *The eighth command is: Do not steal.*

Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19

Q. 55 What does the eighth command teach?

A. *The eighth command teaches us that we must not take things that belong to other people.*

Exodus 23:4; Proverbs 21:6-7; Ephesians 4:28

Q. 56 What is the ninth command?

A. *The ninth command is: Do not tell lies against your neighbour.*

Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20

Q. 57 What does the ninth command teach?

A. *The ninth command teaches us to be honest and to tell the truth.*

Psalms 15:1-3; Proverbs 12:17; 1 Corinthians 13:6

Q. 58 What is the tenth command?

A. *The tenth command is: Do not desire anything that belongs to your neighbour.*

Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21

Q. 59 What does the tenth command teach?

A. The tenth command teaches us to be content* with what we have.

Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:6; Hebrews 13:5

Q. 60 Did the Jewish people obey the laws that God gave to Moses?

A. No. They broke God's law and God punished them, as he had warned them.

Deuteronomy 9:12; Ezekiel 39:23

Q. 61 Can any person keep God's commands in every way?

A. Adam disobeyed God. Since that time, no mere man has been able to keep God's commands in every way.

Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; James 2:10

Q. 62 What do the ten commands show us?

A. The ten commands teach us that God is holy and good. They teach us how to show love for God and for our neighbor. They show us that we are sinful* and do not obey God. They show us that we need a Saviour.*

*Ecclesiastes 12:13; 1 Timothy 1:8-9;
Romans 3:20; 5:13; 7:7-11; Galatians 3:19-24*

PART THREE

CHRIST AND SALVATION

Q. 63 Who is the Saviour*?

A. The only Saviour* of sinners* is the Lord* Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:11; Acts 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 1:15

Q. 64 Who is Jesus Christ?

A. Jesus Christ is the eternal* Son of God.

John 1:1,14,18; John 3:16,18; Galatians 4:4;
Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 1:1-3; 1 John 5:20

Q. 65 Why did God send his Son into the world?

A. God sent his Son into the world because he loved us. He sent his Son because he is a God of mercy and grace.*

Psalm 103:8-11; John 3:16-17; Romans 5:7-8;
Ephesians 2:4-5; 1 John 4:9-10

Q. 66 Was Jesus Christ both God and man?

A. Yes, Jesus was fully God and he was fully man.

John 1:1-3,14; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:14-18

Q. 67 What work did Jesus the Saviour* do?

A. He obeyed God in every way and he took the punishment for sinful* people.

Romans 8:3-4; Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 9:14-15

Q. 68 Why did Jesus die?

A. Jesus put away God's anger by dying in the place of sinful* people.

Mark 10:45; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 3:13

Q. 69 How could the eternal* Son of God suffer in the place of sinful* people?

A. *Jesus, the Son of God, became a man.*

John 1:14; Galatians 4:4,5; Colossians 2:9

Q. 70 How did the Son of God become a man?

A. *He was conceived* by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin* Mary.*

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-21

Q. 71 What kind of life did Jesus Christ live on earth?

A. *A simple, honourable* and humble life.*

Matthew 8:20; Matthew 11:28-30; Luke 4:18-19;

2 Corinthians 8:9; 2 Corinthians 10:1

Q. 72 Did the Lord* Jesus Christ ever sin*?

A. *No, he was holy and pure.*

John 8:29; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:21-23

Q. 73 What kind of death did Jesus Christ die?

A. *Christ died on a cross*.*

Luke 23:33; Galatians 3:13; Philippians 2:8

Q. 74 Did Christ remain in the grave after he died?

A. *No, Christ rose from death on the third day.*

Matthew 28:5-7; Luke 24:5-8; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

Q. 75 Whom will God rescue from the result of their sin*?

A. *God will rescue those who repent* of sin*. And*

who believe on the Lord* Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:14,15; John 3:16-18; Acts 20:21

Q. 76 What does it mean to repent*?

A. To repent* is to be sorry for my sin*. And to turn from my sin* because it offends God.

Luke 19:8-10; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

Q. 77 What does it mean to believe or to have faith* in Christ?

A. To have faith* in Christ is to believe in Jesus. We trust* only in him to save* us.

John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 5:11-12

Q. 78 Can you repent* and believe in Christ by your own power?

A. No, I must have the help of the Holy Spirit*.

Jeremiah 13:23; John 3:5-6; John 6:44; 1 Corinthians 2:14

Q. 79 Where do people hear the truth about Christ?

A. In the Gospel*, the good news that offers a Saviour* to all people.

Mark 1:1; Acts 15:7; Romans 1:16-17

Q. 80 What has Jesus our Saviour* become to us?

A. Jesus Christ has become our Prophet*, our Priest and our King.

Matthew 13:57; John 18:37; Hebrews 1:1-3;

Hebrews 5:5-6; Revelation 1:5

Q. 81 How is Jesus Christ a Prophet*?

A. Because He shows us who God is. And teaches us how to please Him.

*Deuteronomy 18:18; John 1:18; John 4:25-26;
Acts 3:22; 1 John 5:20*

Q. 82 Why do we need Christ as a Prophet*?

A. Because we cannot know God without Him.

Matthew 11:25-27; John 17:25-26; 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

Q. 83 How is Jesus Christ a Priest?

A. He died in our place and He speaks to God for us.

Psalms 110:4; Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 7:24-25; 1 John 2:1-2

Q. 84 Why do we need Christ as a Priest?

A. Because our sin has made us guilty and ashamed.

*Proverbs 20:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Isaiah 53:6;
Romans 3:10-12; Romans 3:23; James 2:10*

Q. 85 How is Jesus Christ a King?

A. He rules over us and He defends us.

Psalms 2:6-9; Ephesians 1:19-23; Revelation 15:3-4

Q. 86 Why do we need Christ as a King?

A. Because we are weak and afraid.

*2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Philippians 4:13; Colossians 1:11-13;
Hebrews 13:5-6; 2 Timothy 1:12*

Q. 87 What blessings* do we receive when we believe in Jesus Christ?

A. God forgives* us and He declares us to be righteous.* God receives us into His family as

His own dear children. God makes us holy in heart* and in behaviour. God makes us perfect in body and soul* at the resurrection.**

*Romans 5:18; Galatians 4:4-6; Ephesians 1:5;
Hebrews 10:10-14; 1 John 3:2*

Q. 88 Does God give me these blessings* because I have earned them by my good behaviour?

A. No, God gives me these blessings because of His grace*. I do not deserve them and I cannot earn them.*

Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7

Q. 89 Will God ever remove His blessings* from those who truly repent* and believe?

A. No, Jesus will never leave those who trust Him to save* them.*

John 10:27-30; Romans 8:38-39; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Q. 90 What is the grace* of God?

A. The grace of God is His love and goodness to us when we do not deserve it.*

Exodus 34:6; Ephesians 1:7-8; 2 Corinthians 8:9

PART FOUR

SPIRIT AND CHURCH

Q. 91 What does God desire for all who trust in Jesus as Saviour?

A. He wants them to be holy in heart and in behaviour. He wants them to be like Jesus.*

Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:15; 2 Corinthians 7:1

Q. 92 How does God make us holy* in heart* and in behavior?

A. God gives us a new heart. And He gives us the Holy Spirit.*

Ezekiel 36:26; Romans 8:1-14; Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 1:13

Q. 93 Who is the Holy Spirit*?

A. The Holy Spirit is God. God the Father and God the Son sent the Holy Spirit*.*

Matthew 28:19; John 14:26, John 15:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14

Q. 94 What now has the Holy Spirit become to us?

A. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, the Companion, and the Guide to all who trust in Jesus.

John 16:7-8,12-15; Romans 8:14-16;

1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:14

Q. 95 How may I know the Holy Spirit is making me holy*?

A. I will grow to be more like my Saviour, Jesus Christ. I will see the fruit of the Spirit in my heart and in my behavior.*

Colossians 1:9-12; Ephesians 3:16

Q. 96 What is the fruit of the Spirit?

A. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

Q. 97 Will you always prosper* if you follow Jesus?

A. No. I may sometimes have troubles. I may sometimes suffer or be hated just as Jesus was.

John 15:18-19; 2 Timothy 3:12; Romans 8:23-25;

James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12-13

Q. 98 How does God help you in times of trouble?

A. He gives me the Spirit to comfort me. He gives me the church to care for me. He gives me His promise to work in all things for my good and for His glory.

Romans 5:3-5; Romans 8:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:11;

1 Peter 4:12-19; 1 Peter 5:10

Q. 99 What is the universal Church*?

A. The universal Church is made up of all of God's redeemed* people. The Church* is the family of God the Father. It is the body of Christ the Son. It is the place where the Holy* Spirit* lives.*

1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 3:14-15; Ephesians 5:23;

Colossians 1:24; Hebrews 2:11

Q. 100 What is the local church*?

A. The local church is a group of people that*

trust in Jesus Christ and obey His teachings. They worship God together. They hear and learn the scriptures together. They care for each other and are cared for. They pray and work together to see God's kingdom grow. They baptize believers and eat the Lord's Supper.*

*Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; Acts 8:36-39; Acts 14:23;
Romans 6:1-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Titus 1:5*

Q. 101 Should you be a part of a local church?

A. Yes. The local church is the community that helps me grow and stay strong in my faith. It is where I learn to obey Jesus' new command.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Q. 102 What is the new command that Jesus gave to the church?

A. Jesus said, "Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you."

John 13:34

Q. 103 How may we show this love for one another?

A. We show this love when we are kind to each other, pray for each other, and forgive each other. We show this love when we honour each other, help each other, and encourage each other. We show this love when we speak the truth to each other and put each other's needs before our own.*

*Romans 12:10; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:9,13;
1 Thessalonians 4:18; James 5:16*

Q. 104 What is Baptism*?

A. In baptism a church* leader puts a person under water for a moment. Then the person is brought up out of the water. They do this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit*.*

Matthew 3:6,16; Mark 1:5; Acts 8:12

Q. 105 Who can be baptized*?

A. Baptism is for everyone who repents* of their sins*. It is for all those who believe in Christ for salvation*.*

Acts 2:38,39; Acts 8:36-37; Acts 16:30-33

Q. 106 What does baptism* mean?

A. Baptism is a sign of the believer's* unity with Christ when He died, was buried and was raised from the dead. It says that I am part of His church.*

Acts 16:30-33; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12

Q. 107 How do Christians remind each other about Jesus' death for them?

A. We share in the Lord's supper together.

Mark 14:22-24; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Q. 108 What is the Lord's* Supper?

A. At the Lord's Supper we eat bread and drink the cup. We do this to remember the death of Jesus Christ.*

Mark 14:22-24; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Q. 109 What does the bread mean?

A. The broken bread speaks about the broken body of Christ. He died once because of our sins.*

Matthew 26:26; 1 Corinthians 11:24

Q. 110 What does the cup mean?

A. The cup speaks about the blood of Christ. He bled once for our salvation.*

Matthew 26:27-28; 1 Corinthians 11:25

Q. 111 Who should eat the Lord's* Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is for everyone who repents of their sins*. It is for all those who believe in Christ for salvation*.*

1 Corinthians 10:16,17; 1 Corinthians 11:18-29

Q. 112 Who gave baptism* and the Lord's* Supper to the church*?

*A. The Lord *Jesus Christ.*

Matthew 26:26-29; Matthew 28:18-20

Q. 113 Why did Jesus Christ give baptism* and the Lord's* Supper to the church*?

A. Jesus Christ gave these to show that His people belong to Him. These acts remind us of what Jesus has done for us.

Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:1-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Q. 114 What was Christ's last command on earth to His Church*?

A. *"All authority in heaven* and on earth has been given to me. So go and make disciples* of all nations. Baptize* them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. Teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."*

Matthew 28:18-20

Q. 115 What is the Lord's* Day?

A. *The Lord's* Day is the first day of the week. The early Christians gathered to worship* on that day.*

Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10

Q. 116 Why is it called the Lord's* Day?

A. *Because on that day Christ rose from the dead.*

Matthew 28:1-6; Luke 24:1-6; John 20:1

Q. 117 How may we best spend the Lord's* day?

A. *We best spend the Lord's* Day when we gather with God's people to worship* Him and encourage* each other in our faith.*

Psalms 27:4; Romans 12:9-13; Colossians 3:16

PART FIVE

PRAYER AND HOPE

Q. 118 What is prayer?

A. Prayer is when we talk to God. We thank Him for His goodness. We confess our sin*. We ask for things that please Him.

Matthew 6:6; Philippians 4:6; 1 John 5:14

Q. 119 In whose name should we pray?

A. We should pray in the name of Jesus.

John 14:13-14; John 16:23

Q. 120 When and where should we pray?

A. We can pray to God anywhere, anytime.

Matthew 6:6; Ephesians 6:18; Acts 21:5; Colossians 4:2

Q. 121 What did Jesus give us in order to teach us to pray?

A. Jesus gave us the Lord's* Prayer.

Matthew 6:9-15; Luke 11:2-4

Q. 122 What is the Lord's* Prayer?

A. Our Father in heaven*, May we give honour* to your name. May your Kingdom* come. May what you want to happen be done, On earth as it is in heaven*. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive* us our sins*, Just as we also have forgiven* Those who sin* against us. Help us not to sin* when we are tempted. Protect us from the evil* one.

Matthew 6:9-13

Q. 123 How many requests are in the Lord's* Prayer?

A. There are six requests.

Q. 124 What is the first request?

A. "May we give honour* to your name."

Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:2

Q. 125 What do we pray for in the first request?

A. We pray that all people will praise God's name.

Psalm 8:1-2; Psalm 72:18-19; Psalm 113:1-3

Q. 126 What do we pray for in the second request?

A. We pray that all people in the world will hear and believe the good news. We pray that they will obey Jesus as Lord*.

John 17:20-21; Acts 8:12; Acts 28:30-31; Revelation 11:15

Q. 127 What do we pray for in the second request?

A. We pray that all people in the world will hear and believe the good news. We pray that they will obey Jesus as Lord*.

John 17:20-21; Acts 8:12; Acts 28:30-31; Revelation 11:15

Q. 128 What is the third request?

A. "May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is in heaven*."

Matthew 6:10

Q. 129 What do we pray for in the third request?

A. We pray that people on earth will do as God desires in every way, just like the angels* do in heaven*.

Psalm 103:19-22; Psalm 143:10

Q. 130 What is the fourth request?

A. "Give us today our daily bread."

Matthew 6:11; Luke 11:3

Q. 131 What do we pray for in the fourth request?

A. We pray that God will give us all things that we need for our bodies.

Psalm 145:15-16; Proverbs 30:8-9; Matthew 6:31-33

Q. 132 What is the fifth request?

A. "Forgive* us our sins*, just as we also have forgiven* those who sin* against us."

Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4

Q. 133 What do we pray for in the fifth request?

A. We pray that God will forgive* our sins*. And we pray that God will help us to forgive* those who have hurt us.

Psalm 51:2-3; Matthew 5:23-24; Ephesians 4:32

Q. 134 What is the sixth request?

A. Help us not to sin* when we are tempted. Protect us from the evil* one.

Matthew 6:13; Luke 11:4

Q. 135 What do we pray for in the sixth request?

A. We pray that God will keep us from sin*. And protect us from evil*.

Psalm 119:11; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Timothy 4:18

Q. 136 What does prayer teach us?

A. Prayer teaches us that we must trust* God completely for His help.

Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6; Hebrews 4:16

Q. 137 Where is Christ now?

A. Christ is now in heaven*, at the right side of God the Father.

Mark 16:19; Acts 5:31; Romans 8:34

Q. 138 Will Christ come to this earth again?

A. Yes, He will come to be the judge of all the people in the world at the last day. And He will save those who are waiting for him.

Matthew 25:31-32; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9;

2 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 9:28

Q. 139 What happens to the righteous* at death?

A. The bodies of the righteous* return to the dust. Their souls* go to be with the Lord*.

Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 12:7; 2 Corinthians 5:8

Q. 140 What happens to wicked people at death?

A. The bodies of the wicked return to dust. Their souls* suffer punishment. God keeps them for the day He comes to judge.

Luke 16:23-24; John 5:28-29; 2 Peter 2:9

Q. 141 Will the dead be raised to life again?

A. Yes, all the dead shall be raised when Christ comes again.

Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:14-15

Q. 142 What will happen to the wicked people in the day Christ comes to judge?

A. God will punish them in hell with a destruction that never ends. They will be cast out from God's presence for ever.*

*Matthew 25:41,46; Mark 9:47,48; Luke 12:5; Luke 16:23-26;
2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:12-15*

Q. 143 What will happen to the righteous* people?

A. The righteous people will live happily with God. They will live forever in a new heaven* and a new earth.*

Isaiah 66:22-23; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:2-4

Q. 144 What will the new heaven* and the new earth be like?

A. In the new heaven and the new earth we will be with God. We will never sin. We will never die. There will be no more curse. There will be no more sadness and no more pain. We will never be guilty, afraid or ashamed. We will know the joy that comes from God.

Hebrews 12:22-23; Jude 24; Revelation 21:1-5; Revelation 22:1-4.

APPENDIX

WHY DID WE WRITE THIS BOOK?

We first wrote this book to help new Christians in SE Asia learn what the Bible teaches. Since then, this book has been translated into more than 30 languages and is used in more than 50 countries. Here are some ways that the book has helped God's people around the world.

1 This book helps church leaders teach people some of the most important things in the Bible.

2 This book helps new believers get a good start as they follow Jesus. The "little book" helps them learn what to believe.

3 This book helps the new believer begin to know how to understand the Bible.

4 This book gives the new believer language to help them talk about God.

5 This book helps believers learn the difference between truth and error.

6 This book helps teach believers that Scripture is the final authority for the people of God.

7 This book gives believers a simple path to follow as they grow in their Christian life. It teaches them how to live in a way that pleases God.

HOW PEOPLE HAVE USED THIS BOOK

Teaching believers

Remember that the word catechism is just another word for teaching. So, the main reason to use a book like this is to teach. The teacher is usually the pastor of the local church. Most pastors will be familiar with the content of the little book. They will know Scripture well enough to use the questions and answers to help people understand God's Word. But pastors are not the only ones that can use this book. One Christian can use the book to teach another Christian. In some places, Christians are using the little book as a guide for Bible Study groups and Sunday Schools. Many parents also use a book like this to teach their children about Jesus.

Training leaders

Some churches use the book to train people who desire to become pastors. In one country, a group of churches decided to use the book in this way. They decided that a person could not become a pastor until that person could say the questions and answers from memory. Even then, they would not bless the person to become a pastor without one more test. That person would also need to be able to explain each of the answers by using the Scriptures.

Guiding Pastors

Many pastors use a book like this as a guide for preaching in their churches. One pastor used these questions as the guide for his messages for more than one year. He would use the Scripture verses from the book in his messages. He said that it helped him work through all the major parts of the Christian life. And it helped him show his people how the many parts of the Bible fit together.

After he taught, the pastor would visit with his people during the week. Because each person had a copy of the little book, he could discuss what they had learned. He would always remind them that the little book was important because it helped them understand the Bible. The little book is never to draw people's attention away from the Bible. It is to help them understand it better.

Telling someone about Jesus (Evangelism)

Many people use the book to help new believers. They use it to help them learn more about what the Bible teaches. And, in some places, Christians give the books to people who do not yet know Jesus. Then they offer to sit with them and talk about the questions and answers found there. Sometimes, they also share stories from the Bible with them when they meet. Some of these people decide they would like to become Christians when they understand the

good news about Jesus. Giving this little book to people who are not Christians can provide an opportunity to share Jesus with them.

Talking by the way

The little book can also help good Christians encourage one another. It is important to talk about God and his ways with other believers. Talk about the things you learn in the little book with other believers. It will help you teach one another and learn from one another.

HOW TO GET STARTED?

The first reading

If you have never read a book like this before, start by reading the whole book slowly. Do not worry if you do not understand everything. If you have questions, you can always write them down.

This first reading will help you understand what the little book is about. You will also become familiar with new words and new ideas. Remember not to worry if there are things that you do not understand at first. That is why we wrote the book. It will become the tool to help you learn.

A closer reading

After you have read the little book once, it is time

to take a closer look. Did you think of questions as you read it the first time? This second reading is a good time to return to those questions. Look up the verses in the Bible that appear underneath each question and answer. Remember, the little book was written to help you understand the Bible. Look up the verses and read them. Read the verses before and after those verses as well. This will help you better understand what those verses are saying.

Read together.

One of the best ways to read the little book is to read it with other believers. The New Testament tells us to "teach one another." Finding a Christian who has followed Jesus for a long time can help you. When you come to something you do not understand, maybe they will be able to help you understand it better. If they cannot, then both of you can try to find the answer together.

Learn the questions and the answers by heart.

One of the best ways to use the book is to learn each question and answer so that you can repeat them from memory. Then, you can think about these things even when you do not have the little book with you. This is a good way to teach your family (especially small children) what the Bible teaches. Some families use the book to teach their children even before the children can read. That way, they can talk about these

important things anywhere and at any time. Of course, putting these answers in your memory is also good for adults. Having these things in your head and heart can help guide you in the truth. It can also help you discover error when you hear it.

Some people can remember things quickly. Others remember more slowly. But no matter how you do it, knowing these questions and answers will help you. Keeping them in your memory will help you become a mature Christian. Some people also look up the verses that follow each question and answer and try to remember them as well. These people benefit even more. The man or woman who keeps God's words in their heart will become strong in their faith. They will become wise and understand the ways of God.

Here are some ideas to help:

Learn to recite from memory one to two questions each day. Do this for five days. Then, on days six and seven, check to see if they are in your memory. The next week, do the same and the following week, do the same. Do this each week until you have finished all 144 Questions. Then, at least one day each week, go over all of the questions and answers from the beginning.

One of the best ways to remember these questions and answers is to work together with a friend. One person can ask the questions and the other can give the answers. Then go through

them again and change roles. This will help you both as you learn these important truths from the Bible.

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The following catechisms were useful in preparing this one:

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

The Heidelberg Catechism

A Small Catechism by Martin Luther

The Geneva Catechism by John Calvin

Catechism for Young People, published by Hayes Town Chapel Evangelical Church, Middlesex, England

Catechism for Young Children, published by Reformed Baptist Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan

The Catechism for Young Children with Cartoons, published by Vic Lockman, Ramona, California

Spurgeon's Catechism, published by Word of Truth Publishing, Canton, Georgia

The Shorter Catechism: A Baptist Version, published by Simpson Publishing Company, Boonton, New Jersey

A Catechism, published by Bob Jones University Press, Greenville, South Carolina

Christ My Only Comfort: The Heidelberg for Baptists

WORD LIST

Adoption

Adoption is the legal act that brings a person into one's family. That person is now brought up as one's own child. Before, we were strangers to God and God's enemies. But now God has called us His own dear children.

Adultery

Adultery means to have sex with someone who is not your own wife or husband.

Angel

An angel is a servant from God to bring His messages. An angel is a spirit*. An angel says good things about God. An angel does what God wants. An angel does good for people who are in God's family. A bad angel is working for the Devil*.

Baptism/Baptize

A church* leader puts a person under water for a moment. Then the person is brought up out of the water. In this way we show that Christ has made us clean. We also show to everyone that we are part of the church*. When we are baptized it reminds us of Jesus who died. Men placed Him in a grave. But He rose from death.

Believer

A believer is a person who knows and trusts Christ.

Blessings

Blessings are the good things that God does for us. When we ask God to bless us, we ask Him to help us and do good in us.

Conceive

The moment of making a baby when a new life begins in a woman's body.

Content

To be content is to be happy with what we have. To know that what we have is enough.

Church

The church is a group of people that follow and believe all about Jesus Christ. They meet together. They baptize* believers*. They eat the Lord's Supper. They obey the teaching of Christ.

Cross

A cross is two pieces of wood fixed together. When Jesus lived, people fixed criminals to a cross in order to kill them. Jesus died on a cross.

Curse

A powerful word that can bring harm or punishment on someone or something.

Devil

Devil is another name for Satan*. Satan* is the worst of the bad angels* [see angel].

Disciple

A disciple is a person who follows another person and learns from him. A person who believes in Jesus. A person who follows what Jesus teaches.

Eternal

Things that have always been or will always continue to be are eternal. A thing that has no beginning or ending.

Faith

Faith means to believe in someone or something. To trust* and believe in God. To know that God is real, even when we cannot see Him.

Forgive

To forgive is to show love and not to remember bad things against someone. When God forgives us, He does not hold the wrong things we do against us.

Glory

God's glory is everything that makes God beautiful and great, like a great king.

Grace

Grace is a gift of God that we should not get because of the bad things we have done. Grace is what God gives because He is so kind to us. The forgiveness* and help that comes from God.

Heart

The heart is the most important part of a person. The part of a person that feels and thinks and decides things.

Heaven

Heaven is the place where God and Christ are. God lives and rules there. Heaven is the place where people who really know God and Jesus will go after they die. The place where people will always be happy and have no troubles. The new heaven and the new earth is the future home of the people who know God.

Hell

Hell is a place where God has separated wicked people from Himself. Hell is the place of punishment for wicked people after death.

Holy

To be holy is to be set apart for God. To be like God is. To be godly. When we are holy we are without sin. We are clean before God.

Holy Spirit

God's Spirit [see spirit] whom Jesus sent to help people. The Holy Spirit is another name for God. Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit that helps us. The Holy Spirit is a person, but is not human as we are. He is God, equal with God the Father and with God the Son [see also Trinity]. He does the work of God among the people in the world. Nobody sees the Holy Spirit but He lives with and in those that know Jesus.

Honour

To honour someone is to speak well of a person. To act well toward a person because you respect and value them.

Honourable

To act well. To live in a way that shows respect for God and for people. To be a person who does good and right things.

Idol

An idol is a thing made of wood, stone or metal to which people pray. They should worship* God. An idol is a picture of a person or a thing one loves instead of God. An idol is a false god. Something that somebody loves more than God.

Israel

The land where the Jewish people lived. The people of Israel is another name for the Jewish people. They are the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Jew

A Jew is a person that is born from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and their children. A person that has the faith* of the Jews.

Kingdom

A kingdom is where a king rules. A land where a king rules. The kingdom of God is where God rules.

Law

Rules that a ruler makes to tell people how to live. The rules God gave Moses for the people of Israel.

Lord

Lord is the name for God in the Bible. It means that He is above all other things and ruler of all things. A name that we use for Jesus when we obey Him.

Prophet

A prophet was one who was able to tell to other people what God wanted. Prophets spoke for God a long time ago. Someone who told things that would happen in the future.

Prosper

To prosper is to enjoy good things. To prosper is to be in good health or be rich. We prosper when people speak well of us. When prosper when we enjoy the kindness of other people.

Redeem

To buy something back after it has been lost or taken. To pay a price to make something your own.

Repent

To repent is to turn from sin*. To do what God wants us to do. To decide not to do the bad things you did in the past.

Respect

Respect means to treat someone as if they are very valuable.

Resurrection

Resurrection means to be raised from death. To come alive again.

Righteous

To be righteous means to be right with God. The righteous are the people who are right with God. When God makes a person right with Him, He sees that person as clean. A righteous person is God's friend and not His enemy.

Sabbath

The Sabbath was the day when God rested from His work of creation. The Sabbath was a day when God told the Jews* not to work. It was a special day when they rested and worshipped God.

Save/Salvation

Salvation is when God rescues us from the results and power of sin*. To be saved or rescued from bad things.

Satan

Satan is another name for Devil*. Satan* is the worst of the bad angels* [see angel].

Saviour

Jesus Christ is the Saviour. Someone who brings us back to God and rescues us from being punished for the bad things we have done.

Sin/ Sinful

Sin is the wrong things that people do against God or against other people. When we do not follow the rules that God made, we sin. When we do not do what God wants us to do, we sin. All people are sinful because they do things against God or other people. All people are sinful because they were born with bad desires.

Soul

The soul is the part of a person that we cannot see that is in us during our life, and lives after we die. God gave a soul to Adam and Eve when He breathed life into them. The soul of a person is sometimes called the person's spirit* [see spirit].

Spirit

A spirit is a being that does not have a body and no one can see it. God is spirit. God made other spirit beings (angels*) that we cannot see, who can be good or bad. The soul* of a person is sometimes called the person's spirit [see soul].

Trinity

Trinity is the word we use to speak of the One God that is three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit*.

Trust

To trust is to follow something or somebody you think is true. To have faith* and act with faith* [see faith].

Virgin

A virgin is a person who has not had sex.

Worship

To worship is to show God that He is great and that we love Him very much. To worship is to give honour* [see honour] and thanks to God. What we should do when we are with God.

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