

Discipleship in the Home

Week 2: Catechesis 101

What comes to mind when you hear the word “catechism?”

Definitions

Catechesis—a “catchall” word for this particular form of ministry; sometimes used to refer specifically to the process

Catechize—a verb referring to the process of teaching in this particular manner

Catechism—sometimes a designation for the actual content in which persons are catechized; often used today to refer to content in some particular printed format; sometimes, another “catchall” word for this form of ministry

Catechist—the teacher; the one who catechizes others

Catechumen—the learner; the one being catechized

For our purposes...A catechism is simply an *instructional guide*.

Biblical Background

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” ~A.W. Tozer

Deuteronomy 4, 5, 6

Judges 2:10-12

Psalms 78

תּוֹרָה

κατηχέω

Historical Background

“But for myself I say this: I am also a doctor and preacher, yea, as learned and experienced as all those may be who have such presumption and security; yet I do as a child who is being taught the Catechism, and every morning, and whenever I have time, I read and say, word for word the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the Psalms, etc. And I must still read and study daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and am glad so to remain.” ~Martin Luther

Luther's catechism	Decalogue	Creed	Lord's Prayer	Sacraments	Additional Teachings
Geneva Catechism	Creed	Decalogue	Lord's Prayer	"Of the Word"	Sacraments
Heidelberg Catechism	Summary of the Law	Creed	Sacraments	Decalogue	Lord's Prayer
Westminster Catechism	Theological foundations	Decalogue	Sacraments	Lord's Prayer	Creed often appended

Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

Resource: *Training Hearts, Teaching Minds* by Starr Meade