

INTRODUCTION TO CONFIRMATION

OVERVIEW OF THE SMALL CATECHISM

DEVOTION

THE SIX CHIEF PARTS

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, and such. I must still read and study them daily. Yet I cannot master the catechism as I wish. But I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and am glad to remain so. (LC, Preface 7–8)

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. (1 Timothy 4:6)

FOR SHARING

1. “It’s not what you believe that matters; it’s that you believe!” In what ways is this statement true of many in today’s world?
2. If possible, share a memory from your confirmation instruction. What about your study of the catechism was meaningful to you?
3. The catechism, Luther wrote, is a summary and guide to the whole Bible. How do the Six Chief Parts summarize Christian doctrine? How does the catechism guide us through the teachings of Holy Scripture?
4. Just as Christ is the true focus of the Scriptures, so also Christ is the center of the catechism. How does each part of the catechism point to Jesus and His saving work?
5. Why is regular—daily!—devotion time so important for God’s people? How can the catechism be part of your regular devotions?

PRAYER

Almighty God, thank You for Your Word of truth. In Your Law, You show me my sin, but in the Gospel, You bring me forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ. Strengthen my faith in my Savior every day as I daily study and grow in His Word. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.