



Central Kids

Summer Field Guide

Week of August 23rd

Over the next several weeks we are encouraging families to use this Field Guide to interact with your kids on Sunday morning or mid-week to learn catechism, a *collection of biblical truths in a question and answer format*. We will be using The New City Catechism curriculum to help construct a fun and creative way for your kids to memorize doctrine. Check out <http://newcitycatechism.com/videos> to learn more. These Field Guides are designed for family worship or devotional time. However, they can be used individually for older children.

HOW CATECHISM WORKS: Read the question and answer with your child and repeat. Then ask your child the question and have them give the catechism answer. The Field Guide offers additional activities to make learning fun and to help your children memorize God's Word.

MEMORIZATION TIPS: The key to memorizing is repetition. Be creative: turn it into a song, write it down, cut out the words and place them in order, use funny voices, or make up actions.

FAMILY WORSHIP: "The Life" by Seeds Family Worship. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUFRoxOv9Cw>

Catechism Question #50

QUESTION: What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

ANSWER: Christ triumphed over sin and death so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and everlasting life in the world to come.

Introduce Q50

Ask your kids, "What's one thing every single person be certain about in life?" Let them spend time guessing, and if they don't get it, explain to them that it is death. There may be lots of things that we want to happen in life, but in reality, there is only one thing that is predictable about every human life: everyone will die. Explain that people generally don't like thinking about death. We often try to hide it. Let your kids know how important it is for Christians to think about death, because what Christians believe about death affects how they think about life. People who believe this life is all there is will be concerned to make the most of it, living primarily for pleasure, success, and happiness. Christians, however, understand that this life is not all there is. Christians believe in eternal life and should live with eternity in mind. That should make them stand out among those who think there is nothing after death. Introduce Question 50: What does Christ's resurrection mean for us? Explain that this question will help them understand how Jesus's resurrection should shape and influence our lives.

Activity: Triumph

Point out that this week's catechism answer says Jesus triumphed over sin and death. Ask if triumph means Jesus was only slightly better than sin and death. Does it mean that Jesus almost defeated death but not quite? No! Triumph is a decisive defeat! Bring out balloons and markers. Write sin and death on the balloons. Tell them that to help them remember how decisively Jesus triumphed over death, they are going to pop all the balloons. Have fun celebrating Jesus' resurrection! (If you do not have balloons, write sin and death on paper and crumple them up and throw them in the garbage.)

When finished popping, explain that when Jesus rose again on the third day, it was the public announcement that God was fully satisfied with the sacrificial death of his Son. Because of Jesus' resurrection, all Christians can confidently believe that they too will be raised from death. Jesus provides proof that there is life beyond the grave, and his triumph

over sin and death guarantees that all who put their trust in him for the forgiveness of sins will be raised to everlasting life!

Activity: Word Search

Print out a copy of the Q50 word search. Circle the answer and commit to memory.

Catechism Question #51

QUESTION: Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension?

ANSWER: Christ is now advocating for us in the presence of his Father and also sends his Spirit.

Introduce Q51

Tell your kids that whenever a country receives a new king or queen, there is an enthronement ceremony when the monarch is given the charge to rule the country and care for the people. Jesus's ascension results in his enthronement as heavenly King. He has completed the mission that God set for him on earth and now reigns as Lord while seated at the right hand of God the Father. Introduce Question 51: "Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension?" Explain that just as a human king or queen strive to look after the people, so Jesus works tirelessly for his people. Tell the children that this question will help them understand a little more about what Jesus is doing right now.

Activity: Advocate required

Ask your kids if they know what an advocate is. It's a person who fights for the rights of another. Give some examples: people who fight for unborn children, those who fight against bullying, etc. Highlight that Jesus is an advocate for all Christians, representing them to God. Ask how having the King of the universe speak on their behalf makes them feel. Jesus is intimately involved in the lives of his people.

Print out Q51 Advocate Required and cut out each scenario. Appoint one person to be the advocate, one to be the judge, and one to read the scenario. After the scenario has been read, the advocate should make a persuasive case to the judge. After they finish, ask the judge if they were convinced. Swap though roles and scenarios within your family. After a couple advocacy sessions, ask your kids why having someone else speak on your behalf may be more effective in some situations.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that when Jesus ascended into heaven, you sent the Holy Spirit to indwell in each believer. Thank you that Jesus is intimately involved in in my life both through the work of the Spirit and also his ongoing work on my behalf from his seat at the right hand of the Father. May we understand the work of the risen and ascended Christ and rejoice in the knowledge that he is our Advocate and Intercessor. Thank you, God for enthroning Jesus to be ruler over all. Thank you that you are interceding from heaven on our behalf. In your name we pray, Amen.

Discuss - Sometimes your child may have additional questions. Here are some possible questions that may come up:

Why do we need an advocate if Jesus dealt fully with our sins? Jesus's presence in heaven means that sin and death have been defeated and his death has satisfied God's wrath. God has accepted his sacrifice on our behalf. Even though this saving work has been accomplished, Jesus still intercedes for us, asking God to grant us what we need on his behalf.

What happens to those who aren't Christians when they die? Everyone will be resurrected, but only those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus during their life will enter into eternity with Jesus. Those who didn't put their faith and trust in Jesus will face judgement and eternal separation from God in hell.

1. **Reader:** Fourth grader
Advocate: Son or daughter of the school principal
Judge: School principal

Pretend you live in a place where it hardly ever snows. You just listened to the weatherman forecast snow for tomorrow. He says that some schools may close. Your good friend is the child of the principal of your school. Call your friend and ask him or her to convince the principal to close school tomorrow.
After the advocate is finished, ask the judge if the advocacy worked.

2. **Reader:** Younger sibling
Advocate: Older sibling
Judge: A librarian

Pretend you lost a library book. Ask the advocate, your older sibling, to use his or her imagination to explain to the librarian what happened to the book and explain why you should not have to pay a fine.
After the advocate is finished, ask the judge if the advocacy worked.

3. **Reader:** Baseball card collector
Advocate: Best friend
Judge: Classmate who does not collect baseball cards

Pretend you collect baseball cards. One of your classmates brings a baseball card to school that he or she found as a prize in a cereal box. Your classmate asks if it is a good card. It happens to be your favorite baseball player of all time! Your classmate is not interested in giving or selling it to you. Ask the advocate, your best friend, to persuade your classmate why he or she should give up the card to you, the baseball card collector.
After the advocate is finished, ask the judge if the advocacy worked.

4. **Reader:** Third grader
Advocate: The parent of the third grader
Judge: The third-grade teacher

Pretend you arrived at school thirty minutes late. Ask the advocate, your parent, to use his or her imagination to explain to your teacher why you were late and to convince him or her that you should not be punished.
After the advocate is finished, ask the judge if the advocacy worked.

Find and circle the words from the answer to Question 50. Words appear horizontally, vertically, and diagonally, but not backwards. Words that appear twice in the answer will be found only once in the word search.



Words to find:

CHRIST TRIUMPHED OVER SIN AND DEATH SO THAT ALL WHO TRUST IN HIM ARE RAISED TO NEW LIFE IN THIS WORLD AND TO EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE WORLD TO COME.

Maze: Ascension

Follow the cloud path to Jesus.

