



Central Kids Summer Field Guide Week of July 12th

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: "Do not be Anxious" by Seeds Family Worship: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z984DP2NDgU>

Catechism Question #38

QUESTION: What is prayer?

ANSWER: Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God.

Activity: What is Prayer

Use the Q38 Question mark printout and write down any questions you may have on prayer. Follow by asking your children to think about these questions:

- How did they get to know their friends and build relationships with them?
- How do they usually communicate with their parents?

Explain that the way people build relationships is by talking to one another. God longs to have a relationship with us and so he has enabled us to talk to him through prayer. God is very present and is always listening to the prayers of his people. When we pray, we give God a rightful place in our lives. In the same way that we build relationships with friends and family while talking, our relationship with God will grow and mature as we spend time talking to him.

Craft: Prayer Journal

Make a booklet with 5-6 pieces of paper. Cut them in half and staple, or punch holes and use ribbon, to make a journal. Get creative and design a cover page with the phrase "Pour out your hearts to him" or write out the entire catechism question. Tell your kids that they can write anything they want in it. This journal is a private place for them to share their thoughts and prayers with God. Keep it for future weeks as we will use them again.

Scripture Activity: Gratitude list (Psalm 62:8)

Read Psalm 62:8 together. Prepare a whiteboard or piece of paper with 62 lines on it. Pour out your heart to God by writing down things that you are thankful to God for. Nothing is too small or insignificant to give thanks for.

Finish up by having children pray quick prayers based on their gratitude list. They can be as simple as "Thank you, Father, for _____."

Catechism Question #39

QUESTION: With what attitude should we pray?

ANSWER: With love, perseverance and gratefulness.

Activity: Attitude

Show some pictures of famous people or people you know that your children will admire. Introduce question 39: "With what attitude should we pray?" by explaining what attitude means. Help them understand that it is a response to knowledge about an idea, person, or situation that can affect behavior. Ask your kids to describe what attitude they might have if they were to meet the person in the photo. For example, if they met the Queen of England, would they have a humble or sincere attitude? If they encountered a famous athlete, would they have an enthusiastic attitude? If they met someone who had been hurt, would they have a sympathetic attitude?

Ask your kids what kinds of attitudes they express

- To their teachers in school and Sunday school teachers at church
- To their siblings
- To the school principal
- To an elderly person

Have your child consider how they approach God and what their heart response to God is when they come to him in prayer.

Activity: Memorize

Have your children use different voices to memorize Question #38 and #39. Say it really loud and really quiet, talk like a robot, or say it with an accent. Make memorizing fun!

Watch

Watch this additional resource by "Crossroads kids' club, God's Story: Prayer.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrdlXOk_QdQ

Prayer

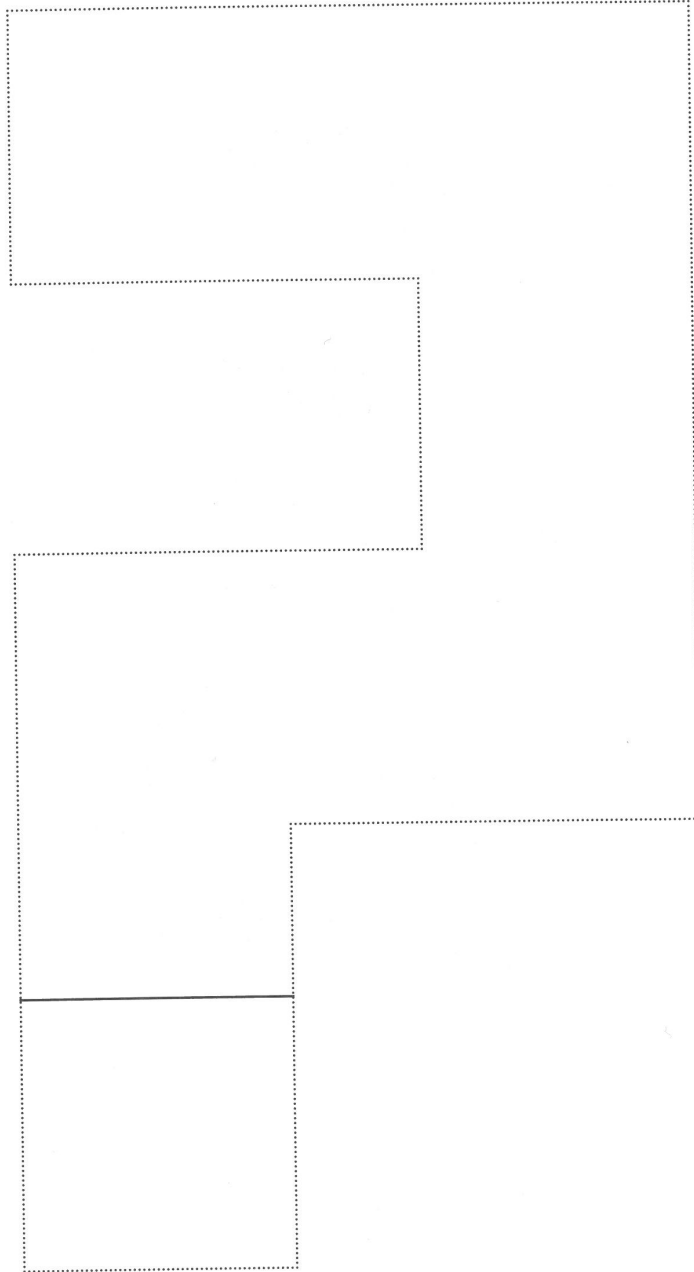
Encourage your child to write a prayer in their prayer journal. Conclude by praying that God would help the children (and you) to pray with an attitude that reflects his goodness.

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

- *If God knows everything, why do we need to pray?* Prayer is the means God has chosen to allow us to participate in his work. Prayer is a blessing because it allows us to build a relationship with our Heavenly Father.
- *Why does it sometimes seem like God isn't hearing or answering our prayers?* Read Matthew 7:7-11. This passage teaches us to believe that God hears us and we can expect him to answer us. He wants to give us good gifts. Ask your children, based on the analogy that God is a good Father, what a good father does when a child asks for something harmful or something that would be too old for them. In the same way, God sometimes tells us "no" or "wait", but he always hears us.
- *Are some situations too unimportant to pray about?* There is nothing too insignificant for prayer. God loves to hear from us about the smallest details of our lives.

*Show your kids that you can pray anytime or anywhere. Pray with your child in the car, as you go for a walk, while you make your bed, before you eat and before you sleep.

Q38 | Question Mark





After Jesus had sent the crowd away, he went up on a mountain to pray. Evening came and Jesus was alone.