



Outline - Lesson 6



OPENING PRAYER

MEMORY WORK

MEMORY WORK TERMS & APPLICATION: PAGE 31

Terms & Application

❖ “Imprint On The Mind” ❖
(Memory Work)

Second Article

℞ “Understanding Before Imprinting” ℞
(Defining Terms)

Descended - _____

Right Hand - _____

Thence - _____

Begotten - _____

Redeemed - _____

Righteousness - _____

📁 “In Simple Terms” 📁
(In Your Own Words)

 **“Using What You Know”** 
(Applying It To Life)

Why is it good to know Jesus redeemed you: _____

What two things can you do today to thank Jesus for His work: _____

QUIZ TIME

REVIEW QUESTIONS

What do you know to be true because forgiveness is offered in your Baptism?

What did you gain by being rescued from eternal death?

What connection is there between your Baptism and your crown of life?

What are two things you can do to live your Baptism?

LESSON OVERVIEW

Last week, we discussed the blessings we receive by Baptism. Today, we will discuss the power of Baptism and what we need to do each day because we are baptized. We will begin by talking about the power of Baptism and how we obtain the benefits of Baptism. Then, we will focus on the daily battle that goes on within us each day and how we can win more often than we lose. As we complete our discussion on Baptism, we will take a few minutes to summarize the information we have discussed in the past three weeks.

LESSON

Baptism has power because God has chosen to use His power through Baptism. Yet how does the water we use in Baptism get its power? How does Baptism obtain the power to forgive, to rescue us from eternal death and the devil, and to give us eternal life?

Turn to page 32 in your Handouts.

Giving It Power

In the explanation of Baptism, the question is asked, “How can water do such great things?” For each statement that accurately explains how Baptism receives its power, put a “P” on the line for “power.”

- _____ 1. As the Pastor pours the water on the baby’s head, the water suddenly has the power God intended.
- _____ 2. As the water is placed in the baptismal font for a Baptism, the water is blessed by the Pastor and that blessing gives Baptism its power.
- _____ 3. As the water is applied to the baby’s head and God’s Word is spoken, the use of water and God’s Word in that way gives Baptism its power.
- _____ 4. The water used for Baptism is “holy water.” It has power because the water is holy.
- _____ 5. If we removed God’s Word from the Baptism service, there would be absolutely no power and no benefit in Baptism.
- _____ 6. Baptism receives its power because God chooses to connect His Word to the water. That combination gives Baptism its power.
- _____ 7. Baptism receives its power the moment it is applied to the baby. After that time and before that time, there is nothing but water present.
- _____ 8. As long as someone uses water and speaks words, Baptism contains the power God intended.
- _____ 9. Baptism receives its power based on the faith of the person doing the Baptism.
- _____ 10. As long as the parents of the child have faith, Baptism will have the power God intended.
- _____ 11. As the Pastor makes the sign of the cross on the baby’s forehead and heart, he is making the power of Baptism available to that child.
- _____ 12. Because God chose Baptism, because He chose water and His Word to impart power, there is power in Baptism.
- _____ 13. Baptism receives its power because God has chosen to work through Baptism.
- _____ 14. Baptism receives its power the moment Baptism occurs, yet that power diminishes significantly as years go by.

Baptism has power because God gives it power. As God connects His Word to the water at Baptism, that water/Word combination has the power to do everything God intends it to do.

Baptism has power, yet that power doesn't become ours unless faith is present. If God chose not to work faith through Baptism, that child would remain without the power and blessings of Baptism.

Look at the next page in your Handouts.

Making It Mine

God gives Baptism its power, yet that power only becomes available to us by faith. Circle the number of each true statement below as it pertains to the relationship of Baptism and faith.

1. As long as the parents claim to have faith, their child will receive the power and blessings of Baptism.
2. The power and blessings of Baptism belong to the newly baptized child because of the faith of the Pastor who did the Baptism.
3. Although we can't see their faith, the blessings and power of Baptism belong to that baby because he/she believes in Jesus as Savior.
4. Saying the right words is what it takes to receive the power of Baptism in my life each day.
5. Only when I trust in my God will I receive the blessings of my Baptism.
6. If I walk away from my faith, the blessings of Baptism are no longer available during that time.
7. The blessings of my Baptism come and go depending on how strong or weak my faith is at the moment.
8. As long as I lean on my God, rely on Him to guide my life, and believe in the work He has done for me, every blessing of Baptism remains mine.
9. If my faith becomes weak, the power of my Baptism decreases.
10. Faithfully following Jesus, living my life for Him each day assures me that everything offered in Baptism is available to me.
11. When I allow the devil to tempt me, to lead me down the wrong path for a time, I lose my Baptism blessings until I get myself back on the right path.
12. Going to church and Sunday School guarantees the power of Baptism will remain part of my life.
13. The combination of believing and doing good deeds is a perfect combination for enjoying my Baptism blessings.
14. My Baptism blessings decrease as I get further from the date of my Baptism.

Baptism has power. Baptism offers blessings. Baptism does everything God tells us it will do. Yet all those blessings and all that power remains in our possession only by faith and faith alone.

As we continue our Baptism topic, we need to look at a comparison to better understand the imagery of our Baptism. Oftentimes, we describe Baptism as a battle between the Old Man and the New Man or between the Old Adam and the New Adam. For that imagery to be meaningful to us, we need to understand the terminology.

Every day, our Baptism sets before us a daily battle, a battle to drown the bad guy (Old Man) and enable the good guy (New Man) to rise and take control of our lives. For as long as we live, this battle continues. Therefore, we need to know as much about the battle as possible so we win more often than we lose.

Turn to page 34 in your Handouts so we can get a better understanding of the opposing forces found on the battleground.

Defining the Opposition

For each statement below, determine whether it applies to the bad guy or the good guy by writing "Good" or "Bad" on the line preceding each statement.

- _____ 1. He wants to destroy my faith and turn me over to the devil.
- _____ 2. He likes to make my life difficult some days, but others days, he is okay.
- _____ 3. His goal is to keep me strong in my faith so that the devil can never take control and cause me to give up my faith.
- _____ 4. He arrived in my life at birth; I inherited him from my parents because of the Fall into sin.
- _____ 5. He needs to be drowned every day, to be pushed out of the way so I can live the life God wants me to live.
- _____ 6. As long as he treats me well, he can be a part of my life.
- _____ 7. Every day, he looks for an opportunity to trip me up, to con me into believing what he offers is better.
- _____ 8. He is the picture of perfection. If I could keep him in control, if I could follow his guidance, I would always remain on the right track.
- _____ 9. His intentions are good; his motivation is pure; his goal is that I cling to my God every day.
- _____ 10. He receives his power from God, increases in power as I rely on God.

- _____ 11. He is sneaky and underhanded. He likes to catch me in my weakest moments.
- _____ 12. He enjoys making my life difficult, wreaks havoc in my Christian walk, and finds his best moments to be my weakest moments.
- _____ 13. He thrives on deception, spends his life attempting to undermine God's plan, and celebrates each time I get angry at my God.
- _____ 14. He smiles when I cling to my God, gives me power to win the battle, and assures me of God's eternal plan.

Now that we understand our opponents, we need to determine what we can do to win the daily battle, to drown the Old Man and enable the New Man to guide our lives with God's intervention.

Turn to page 35 in your Handouts.

Battle Strategy

Draw an "X" over each statement you believe is not a way to win the daily battle.

1. Talk to God, call on God when I can't figure things out on my own because I don't want to bother Him needlessly
2. Go through my day without thinking of my Baptism. Take life as it comes
3. When I face a tough time, recall the power God offers me through my Baptism
4. Begin my day remembering my Baptism and end my day remembering my Baptism
5. Tell myself I'm a baptized child of God and then go and do whatever I choose to do because I claimed I was baptized
6. Do all I can to allow my faith to affect my life
7. Recall the price Jesus paid on the cross so I could be part of His family
8. Expect a battle each day; plan to fight that battle with all my strength
9. Expect a battle each day; ask God to help me, and face the battle convinced I can win
10. Don't sweat the little battles; reserve God's intervention and assistance for times when I really need it
11. Take God with me wherever I go and expect He will be on my side for every battle I face

12. Take life as it comes; do my best each day and call that good enough
13. Meet the devil and all his tricks head on confident I have the power to stand against him
14. Seek God's forgiveness regularly; ask for His guidance; live life to the fullest with His blessing
15. Don't worry. God will always come through, so just go with the flow

Winning the daily battle, that battle that goes on within you each day, will be a life-long task. Until you arrive in heaven by faith, expect the battle to greet you in the morning, to knock at your door several times a day, and to be waiting for you as you drop into bed at the end of the day.

As we bring our discussion of Baptism to a close, we need to take a few minutes to pull it all together, to review Baptism and its importance in our lives.

Look at page 36 in your Handouts.

Pulling It Together

Circle the number of each true statement below as we pull our thoughts together regarding Baptism.

1. Baptism was instituted by Christ to provide me with a visible means of assurance that I am forgiven by God.
2. Only those who have true faith in Christ can receive the blessing and benefits of Baptism.
3. In summary fashion, Baptism works forgiveness of sins, delivers me from eternal death in hell and from the devil, and gives me the assurance of eternal life in heaven.
4. Baptism makes me a member of the church. Beyond that, Baptism has no real significance to me.
5. Through Baptism, I became an adopted member of the family of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
6. Since I am part of the family of the Triune God, my life has great value every day regardless of what others may say or think.
7. Infant Baptism reminds me that there was nothing I did to earn the blessings of Baptism. Everything was God's doing.
8. I believe in baptizing babies because I know babies can believe and that they are part of the "all nations" that Jesus commanded us to baptize.

9. Baptism offers me added reassurance of forgiveness, yet it doesn't provide more forgiveness than I receive in the pronouncement of forgiveness which occurs in a worship service.
10. Because of my Baptism, I know I will never spend eternity in hell no matter how I live my life.
11. Every day, I must fight the battle within. Some days, I will win; other days I will lose.
12. Fighting the battle between the Old Man and New Man is about as simple as playing a video game.
13. The water in Baptism gets its power as the Pastor pours it on a baby's head.
14. The water in Baptism is "holy water" that has special powers from God.
15. As God connects His Word to the water at the moment of Baptism, He provides all the blessings of Baptism.

REVIEW OF THE DAY

How does Baptism get the power to forgive, to rescue you, and to offer you eternal life?

What is necessary for the blessings and benefits of Baptism to become yours?

Who are the key players in your daily battle?

Why is there a battle going on inside of you every day?

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will take the next step in our faith journey as we consider what we believe by discussing the information related to the Apostles' Creed. In particular, we will discuss the topics of a creed, what we believe based on the creed, the attributes of God, creation versus evolution, and what we know about angels.

TEST TIME

I indicated at the end of our last lesson that we would have a test over the material we have discussed thus far. Since we do not have time to complete the test in class, I am going to send it home with you. Leave your Handouts here since you are not to use them for the test. Be sure to bring the test with you to our next class.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADDITIONAL MEMORY WORK



Outline - Lesson 7



OPENING PRAYER

MEMORY WORK

MEMORY WORK TERMS & APPLICATION: PAGE 37

Terms & Application

❖ *“Imprint On The Mind”* ❖
(Memory Work)

Third Article

℞ *“Understanding Before Imprinting”* ℞
(Defining Terms)

Sanctification - _____

Reason - _____

Enlightened - _____

Calls - _____

Last Day - _____

📁 *“In Simple Terms”* 📁
(In Your Own Words)

⌚ **“Using What You Know”** ⌚
(Applying It To Life)

Why is it valuable for you to know that the Holy Spirit worked faith in your heart:

Because you know of eternal life, what does that promise motivate you to do today:

QUIZ TIME

REVIEW QUESTIONS

How does Baptism get the power to forgive, to rescue you, and to offer you eternal life?

What is necessary for the blessings and benefits of Baptism to become yours?

Who are the key players in your daily battle?

Why is there a battle going on inside of you every day?

LESSON OVERVIEW

In our last lesson, we completed our discussion of Baptism as we realized the blessings of our Baptism and also the daily battle we face. Today, we take the next step in our faith journey as we consider what we believe by discussing the information related to the Apostles’ Creed. In particular, we will discuss the topics of a creed, what we believe based on the creed, the attributes of God, creation versus evolution, and what we know about angels.

LESSON

To begin our discussion today, we need to ask a basic question, “What is a Creed?” We talk about the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed, yet we need to understand what a creed is before we will see the value of our creeds.

Turn to page 38 in your Handouts.

Defining the Basics

Circle the number of each true statement regarding a creed.

1. A creed is a statement of everything I believe about my faith.
2. A creed is a summary of the most important teachings of the Bible.
3. When I speak the words of the Apostles' Creed, I prove I am a Christian.
4. A creed gives me a simple way to explain what I believe about my God.
5. If I can say the Apostles' Creed from memory, that proves I know God.
6. If I believe everything contained in the Apostles' Creed, I can know with confidence I would be in heaven if I died tonight.
7. A creed takes me back to my Baptism as it provides a summary of the faith worked in my heart through the Holy Spirit at my Baptism.
8. When I was baptized into the family of God, everything in the Creed was offered to me by faith.
9. At my Baptism, the Creed was likely spoken as the summary of the faith into which I was being baptized.
10. The Creed is my declaration, one way of declaring my Baptism is incredibly valuable to me.
11. The Creed remains my summary of faith throughout my life and also provides the assurance that heaven is my home when I leave this world.
12. Like my Baptism, the Creed is valuable and should be remembered and used regularly as evidence of the faith worked in my heart by the Holy Spirit.
13. To reject the information found in the Creed is to reject my Baptism; to reject my Baptism is to reject Jesus Christ as Lord in my life.
14. The Creed provides me with comfort and encouragement each time I speak it and pay attention to what I am speaking.

A creed is a statement of faith, a statement of what we believe. The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed are the most used summaries of our faith. Whether you profess the words of the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed, you are professing your Baptism faith, the faith worked in your heart by the Holy Spirit.

For centuries, the Apostles' Creed has been known as the Christian's statement of faith, as a summary of what we believe, confess, and profess. That being true, we need to look at the Apostles' Creed in more detail to see what information it provides about the God we believe and profess in our daily lives. In particular, today we want to focus on the First Article of the Creed.

Turn to page 39 in your Handouts.

This I Believe

As you look at the First Article on page 15 in your Catechism, circle the number of each true statement below.

1. I believe God created everything in the world out of nothing.
2. I believe I am merely a son or daughter of my parents and not part of God's creative work.
3. I believe my ability to think, to formulate ideas, and to learn were created within me by my Father.
4. I believe everything I see around me, every animal, every plant, every tree, and all the stars and planets are also part of God's creative work.
5. I believe that the food on the table at dinner time is not God's work, but Mom's doing since she made it.
6. I believe my God has unlimited power and can do anything I need Him to do.
7. I believe God has given me what I need to take care of and preserve my life.
8. After God created the world, I believe He placed it on auto pilot so He didn't have to be involved in my day-to-day activities.
9. I believe God loves me and watches over me every day, that no matter where I am, He is there with me.
10. I believe God's work of creation does not involve protecting me on a daily basis.
11. I believe God's reason for everything He does is based on what I do or don't do for Him.
12. I believe I can earn favor with God by the good things I do.
13. I believe my proper response to God's work is to thank Him occasionally.
14. I believe that, because of all God does for me, it is my privilege to praise Him and serve Him.

Now that we have a better understanding of the explanation of the First Article, we need to dig deeper as see what else we can learn.

In the First Article, we acknowledge that we believe in God. To truly believe, we need to know the basics of what we believe about God. Saying the words may be easy, but words without understanding are useless.

Turn to the next page in your Handouts.

That's My God!

Read each statement below. If you agree, write "Yes" on the line; if you disagree, write "No."

- _____ 1. My God is invisible; He is a spirit who floats around in heaven like the angels.
- _____ 2. My God existed before He created the world and He will continue to exist after this world ends.
- _____ 3. My God changes His mind depending on what I do or don't do.
- _____ 4. If I plan to do something against God's will and I change my mind and don't do it, God will change His mind about how He thinks toward me.
- _____ 5. My God has no limits; absolutely everything God decides to do will be done. There is no request He cannot answer.
- _____ 6. My God is very busy with the workings of the world; He knows the basic things that occur in my day, but remains unaware of the little things.
- _____ 7. There are places I can go where God will not be with me, where I will actually be all alone.
- _____ 8. God often sweeps my minor mistakes under the rug, as it were, because they are not bothersome to Him.
- _____ 9. Whether I always agree or not, God treats me fairly; He is more generous and giving than I deserve.
- _____ 10. On rare occasions, God may fail to keep His promise, but beyond that, He always keeps His promises.
- _____ 11. God is good; He always does what is good, yet sometimes I do not see certain situations as good.
- _____ 12. God is one of the kindest people I know. His kindness toward me is simply amazing.
- _____ 13. Although God is a gracious God, He only forgives sins based on what I promise to do in the future.

- _____ 14. To every sin I confess to my God with a sincere heart, God says, “forgiven.”
- _____ 15. God is loving toward me at all times. God is love. He is the perfect picture of love.

Each the of the statements above describes an attribute of God, something that describes God. Although we are unable to have perfect understanding of God, He does give us information that enables us to know what is most important about our God.

Aware of the attributes of God, we need to take a closer look at God’s creative work.

In the Creed we say, “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.” In that statement, we declare God is the maker of everything. Yet, there are those who have a very different idea about how the world came into existence. In many classroom textbooks, it’s called the theory of evolution.

Turn to page 41 in your Handouts.

Case Closed!

If you believe the statement agrees with creation, place a “C” on the line. If the statement applies to evolution, place an “E” on the line.

- _____ 1. The world was not created out of nothing because there had to be something before creation could occur.
- _____ 2. Through the study of plants and animals, we can prove the world must be millions of years old and in a constant state of change for the better.
- _____ 3. Because God has unlimited power, it is perfectly reasonable to believe the world was created in six, twenty-four hour days.
- _____ 4. As I look at a plant, a tree, a flower, I see something that could have only been created by the hand of God.
- _____ 5. Our world is becoming a better place. We are much better people than we were a thousand years ago.
- _____ 6. When the big bang occurred, it created the formation of the sun, moon, and stars.
- _____ 7. Since we have the ability to “clone” an animal in a science laboratory, we have the evidence needed to prove that God is not necessary for creation to occur.

- _____ 8. I am able to choose to do whatever I want with my life. I am accountable to no one; nothing gives me reason to believe differently.
- _____ 9. For creation as we know it to occur, there had to be cells of some sort that existed forever.
- _____ 10. Angels, which most claim to exist, provide added proof that the world had to be created by Someone of great power.
- _____ 11. The seasons, the weather patterns, the fact that the planets continue to remain in their proper orbit are all proof that God created the entire world.
- _____ 12. If everything is getting better, death should not occur because it is evidence of deterioration in our world.
- _____ 13. If I believe the world is something less than the work of God, I eliminate the possibility of the existence of heaven.
- _____ 14. Evolution leaves no room for forgiveness. To believe in evolution is to believe God does not exist and does not forgive and, therefore, life in all forms ends at death.

If evolution were true, life would have no purpose; eternity would be nothing more than a fictitious dream of a place that doesn't even exist. Yet, as surprising as that may be, there are still many who believe in evolution, many who will find out evolution was a fraud when the Last Day arrives.

Since we, as Christians, believe our heavenly Father created all things out of nothing, we find great comfort in the existence of angels, God's most important invisible creature.

Turn to page 42 in your Handouts.

(The verses and phrases below are for your reference. They do not appear in the student's Handouts.)

Genesis 2:1 - Created by God

Hebrews 1:14 - Ministering spirits, serve

Genesis 19:1 - Appear in human form at times

Luke 2:13 - Multitude

Psalm 103:20 - Strong, do God's will

Psalm 91:11-12 - Watch over us

Luke 2:14 - Praise God

II Peter 2:4 - Evil angels sinned, cast into hell

Job 1:7 - Permission to roam the earth

Ephesians 6:12 - Cunning, powerful

I Peter 5:8-9 - Looking to devour

Angels Watching Over Me

Circle the number of each true statement below. Then, look up the passages and place the correct passage on the line.

Genesis 2:1

Hebrews 1:14

Genesis 19:1

Luke 2:13

Psalm 103:20

Psalm 91:11-12

Luke 2:14

II Peter 2:4

Job 1:7

Ephesians 6:12

I Peter 5:8-9

- _____ 1. Angels are constantly watching over me, even when I don't realize it.
- _____ 2. Most of the angels in the world today are evil.
- _____ 3. Angels are not as powerful as God, yet they do carry out His plan.
- _____ 4. An angel could appear to me in visible form if God wanted it to happen.
- _____ 5. Evil angels are looking for ways to make me walk away from my faith.
- _____ 6. All angels exist to praise God.
- _____ 7. Evil angels exist today because they chose to disobey God.
- _____ 8. Good angels do things for me on God's behalf.
- _____ 9. Evil angels will use anything possible to keep me from following Christ.
- _____ 10. Evil angels exist today because God wants to punish us.
- _____ 11. Good angels always have the power to do what God wants them to do.

- _____ 12. In the beginning, God created all good angels.
- _____ 13. It is comforting and reassuring to know that there are good angels surrounding me who are serving God.
- _____ 14. What appears to be a good angel could be an evil angel trying to destroy me.
- _____ 15. Angels have more power than I do.

Angels, God's most important invisible creation, are wonderful evidence of God's creative work. At the same time, they bring us comfort and assure us of God's care and kindness toward us. Since the good angels always serve God's purpose, we are encouraged in our faith by the knowledge of good angels surrounding us at all times.

REVIEW OF THE DAY

Give me your definition of a creed.

Name three specific things you believe based on the First Article.

What are some of the attributes of God we discussed today?

Name two major differences between creation and evolution.

What are three things good angels do as they serve God?

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will continue our discussion of the Creed as we focus on God's work of preservation. We will learn ways God is still at work today, talk about why suffering exists in a world created by God, realize our part in God's preservation plan, talk about the purpose of work, and also consider why God takes care of us.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADDITIONAL MEMORY WORK



Outline - Lesson 8



OPENING PRAYER

MEMORY WORK

QUIZ TIME

REVIEW QUESTIONS

How would you define a creed?

What are three specific things you believe based on the First Article of the Creed?

What are three of the attributes of God which we discussed in our last lesson?

What are two major differences between creation and evolution?

What are three things good angels do as they serve God?

LESSON OVERVIEW

In our last lesson, we began our discussion of the Creed, our statement of faith. As we did so, we learned what a creed is, some of the attributes of God, information about angels, and we discussed creation versus evolution. Today, we will continue our discussion of the Creed as we focus on God's work of preservation. We will learn how God is still at work today, talk about why bad things happen in a world created by God, realize our part in God's preservation plan, and also consider why God takes care of us.

LESSON

God created the world in six twenty-four hour days, yet His work did not cease on the seventh day. The idea some have of God is that He is sitting in His rocking chair in heaven watching the world from a distance, that as He looks one direction, He is angered by what He sees, and as He looks another direction, He smiles at what He sees.

The idea that God is sitting in heaven doing nothing is totally inaccurate! God is a God of activity. He is a God who remains involved in His world. Every day, He is doing whatever needs to be done to preserve His creation.

Turn to page 15 in your Catechism.

I need someone to read the first paragraph under “What does this mean?”

What does it say God does beyond creating?

With the last six words of that paragraph, we profess that God takes care of us, that He takes care of His entire creation.

Turn to page 43 in your Handouts.

Still at Work

God is at work today. He is taking care of you at this very moment. Read each statement below. If the statement describes something God is doing to take care of you, put a “+” on the line in front of the statement.

- _____ 1. He provides me with air to breathe and keeps my body functioning.
- _____ 2. He controls the seasons and the weather.
- _____ 3. God places people in my life who make my life more enjoyable.
- _____ 4. He smiles on me and overlooks my mistakes because He doesn’t want to make me sad.
- _____ 5. He provides me with a way to earn a living.
- _____ 6. He provides me with a loving family who cares for me.
- _____ 7. He makes sure I have food to eat and water to drink each day.
- _____ 8. He knows the actions of every person I encounter in my day and is always aware of what will happen next.
- _____ 9. He keeps me healthy and gives me all I need to function.
- _____ 10. He protects me from every evil, from everything bad, from anything that could make my life more challenging.
- _____ 11. He uses other people to brighten my day, to bring a smile to my face.
- _____ 12. He controls every aspect of my life so that I always have all I need without ever working.
- _____ 13. He protects me from every health issue and makes sure I never get sick.
- _____ 14. He carefully works behind the scenes doing so many things I never even realize.

Our God created the world and He also continues to take care of His world every day. Yet if God takes care of the world, why do bad things happen? Why do evil and pain exist?

Turn to the next page in your Handouts.

The Blame Game

When we face pain, when something goes wrong, we are quick to blame God. Yet pain, heartache, and bad things are not God's fault. Circle the number of each true statement below.

1. Suffering exists because God uses it to punish me for my past mistakes.
2. Pain and heartache occur as payback for the times I have disobeyed God.
3. Bad things happen because I live in an imperfect world, a world I have made imperfect, not a world God made imperfect.
4. God can and does use what we call bad situations to work out something good.
5. God should prevent every painful event from happening because He is the God of all power.
6. Evil and pain exist because I am part of an imperfect world.
7. Since I am a Christian, I will always face less pain and heartache than someone who is not a Christian.
8. If there is someone to blame for the evil of the world, it is myself, never my God.
9. Even though God takes care of me, the devil is still actively creating bad situations.
10. When I face pain, the best I can do is to endure it with God at my side.
11. Blaming God for the bad things that happen in my life is appropriate because He could have prevented them from happening.
12. If God really loves me, He will always protect me from all the really bad things.
13. When bad things happen, it must be someone's fault. Therefore, it's okay to blame God when He doesn't act as I want Him to act.
14. Pain and evil can be traced back to the Fall into sin. It's not God's fault. It's our fault these things happen.

When heartache and bad things happen, we want to blame someone because it makes us feel less responsible. Yet blaming leads us nowhere good, and blaming God is always inappropriate. God loves us. He takes care of us. Blaming Him when life isn't fair is not an appropriate response to our Creator.

As we talk about appropriate responses to our Creator, we need to consider what God expects from us.

When God created us, He created us with the ability to take care of ourselves to a certain degree. For instance, we have the ability to manage our health, to protect ourselves from some pain and heartache.

Turn to page 45 in your Handouts.

Doing My Part

What can you do to take care of yourself? Read each statement below. If it describes something you can do to care for yourself, write the word, "me" on the line.

- _____ 1. I can watch what I eat and do what I can to keep my body healthy.
- _____ 2. I can prevent myself from ever getting sick.
- _____ 3. I can avoid certain situations that are dangerous for me.
- _____ 4. I can observe basic safety rules so I do not injure myself.
- _____ 5. I can avoid those things that would harm my body.
- _____ 6. I can give my body the rest it needs each night and choose not to push it beyond its limits.
- _____ 7. I can choose to maintain a positive attitude and to view life as a gift.
- _____ 8. I can offer care to others knowing others will also offer care toward me.
- _____ 9. I can treat my body as God's creation and avoid doing deliberate harm to it.
- _____ 10. I can do my best to use my talents and gifts for the benefit of others.
- _____ 11. I can choose a negative attitude toward life if life doesn't go as I had it planned.
- _____ 12. I can go to my God in prayer and rely on Him to guide and direct me through each day.

_____ 13. I can appreciate how I look and not spend excessive time or money attempting to change my appearance.

_____ 14. I can look forward to each new day as an opportunity to make a difference for my God.

Sometimes, we forget that preservation isn't entirely God's work. In His amazing design, He created us with the ability to take care of some aspects of life ourselves. Since we have been given that ability, we need to do our part in God's work of preservation.

As we think about God's effort to preserve us, we need to ask, "Where does work fit into God's preservation plan?"

Why do we work?

Most often, we believe we work only because it's a necessity, because it's the only way to survive. Yet work is more than a necessity. It's our response to God's efforts to care for us.

Look at the next page in your Handouts.

Working Because...

Circle the number of each true statement below as it relates to the proper understanding of work.

1. I work because it's the only way to pay the bills.
2. I work because God has given me the ability to work and my efforts bring honor to Him.
3. I work because my work enables me to earn special blessing from my God.
4. I work because I appreciate my God for giving me my abilities.
5. I work because I like to work, because work is a joy when I view it as a response to my God.
6. I work because God unfortunately makes me work. I have no other choice.
7. I work because my work and my attitude as I work gives evidence of the God I serve.
8. I work because my work gives appropriate honor and glory to my Creator.
9. I work because those who work really hard are more blessed by God.
10. I work because God likes to see me working with joy in my heart.

11. I work because it's what people do; it's just part of life.
12. I work because working shows God that I value His preservation work in my life.
13. I work because as I earn an income, I am able to offer care in different ways to others.
14. I work because God commands me to work. If I don't, God will punish me.
15. I work because work is part of what I can do to care for myself.

Even though most people see work as something unfortunate, God gave work for our benefit. Through work, we honor our Creator, do our part in God's plan of preservation, and learn to view work as a joy instead of a burden.

As we consider all God does for us beyond His creative work, it's only proper to ask, "Why does God take care of us?"

Look at Q111 on page 118 in your Catechism.

Why does God take care of you?

If we were to summarize God's motivation with one word, that word would be "love." God does it all out of love.

Look at page 47 in your Handouts.

God's Motive...

It's rather simple to say God does all He does out of love. Yet what does that really mean? How does God's motive play out in our day-to-day living? Put a star on the line in front of each true statement.

- _____ 1. God takes care of me every day because that's what God does. He has no choice.
- _____ 2. God preserves me because He feels sorry for me.
- _____ 3. God watches over my life each day because He is waiting for me to make a mistake.
- _____ 4. God takes care of me because He knows I am helpless without Him.
- _____ 5. God takes care of me because He enjoys taking care of me.
- _____ 6. God watches over me and protects me because it's what a Father does for His children.

- _____ 7. God watches over me because my God is good.
- _____ 8. My God takes care of me because I am good to Him.
- _____ 9. My God takes care of me because I have earned His love by my actions.
- _____ 10. My God cares for me because it's the only way He would receive any praise from me in return.
- _____ 11. God guides and protects me because He has pity on me and my situation.
- _____ 12. God protects me each day because I choose to serve Him.
- _____ 13. God takes care of me because it is the very nature of God to love.
- _____ 14. God takes care of me because it was God's plan to care for me before I was even born.

It's easy to say God's motivation is love, yet as we have seen, God's motivation is more than just saying He loves us. His motivation is demonstrated by His actions every day.

REVIEW OF THE DAY

Name three things God does today as part of His preservation plan.

Why does pain and suffering exist in a world created by God?

Name two things you can do as your part of God's preservation plan.

Why do we work?

When we say that God's motivation to care for us is love, what does that mean?

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will finish our discussion of the First Article by discussing the topic of alcohol misuse and how it relates to God's preservation plan. After that, we will spend the remainder of our time learning what our proper response is to all God has done and continues to do for us.

Extra credit: For next week, bring me a written list of five reasons why teens misuse alcohol.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADDITIONAL MEMORY WORK



Outline - Lesson 9



OPENING PRAYER

MEMORY WORK

MEMORY WORK TERMS & APPLICATION: PAGE 48

Terms & Application

❖ “Imprint On The Mind” ❖
(Memory Work)

Lord’s Supper I

℞ “Understanding Before Imprinting” ℞
(Defining Terms)

Under - _____

Instituted - _____

Betrayed - _____

Remembrance - _____

Testament - _____

Shed - _____

📁 “In Simple Terms” 📁
(In Your Own Words)

⌚ **“Using What You Know”** ⌚
(Applying It To Life)

Why is it important for you to know Jesus gives His true body and blood for you:

When Jesus says, “Do this in remembrance of Me,” what do those words mean to you:

QUIZ TIME

REVIEW QUESTIONS

What are three things God does for you today as part of His preservation plan?

Why does pain and suffering exist in a world created by God?

Name two things you can do as your part of God’s preservation plan.

Why does work exist in our world today?

What motivates God to take care of you?

LESSON OVERVIEW

In our last lesson, we focused on God’s work of preservation where we learned God not only created the world, but is still actively taking care of it. Today, we will finish our discussion of the First Article by discussing the topic of alcohol misuse and how it relates to God’s preservation plan. After that, we will spend the remainder of our time learning what our proper response is to all God has done and continues to do.

LESSON

As we said last week, God’s preservation plan includes us taking care of ourselves. Right now, that may not seem like a difficult task. Yet one particular topic is making taking care of yourselves much more complicated. That topic is alcohol, more specifically, the misuse of alcohol.

God is not opposed to drinking. He does not condemn drinking. Yet God is very saddened when His people, especially His young people, misuse alcohol.

Who brought their extra credit, their five reasons why teens misuse alcohol?

(Discuss their lists briefly and refer to them wherever possible in the discussion that follows.)

Turn to page 49 in your Handouts so we can look at some “eye-opening” statistics about the misuse of alcohol.

Eye Opening Facts

1. Americans drink 15.7 million gallons of beer every day which is equal to 28 million six-packs a day.
2. The 15.7 million gallons of beer would be enough to fill a football stadium with beer cans 30 feet high.
3. Americans drink 1.2 million gallons of hard liquor each day which is enough to get 26 million people thoroughly drunk.
4. Statistics indicate that 9 million people are addicted to alcohol, and 15.1 million abuse alcohol.
5. Every 27 minutes, a person dies in an alcohol-related death.
6. Every 60 seconds, a person is injured in an alcohol-related crash.
7. Every year at least 24,000 people are killed in alcohol-related tragedies.
8. By graduation from high school, at least 90% have tried alcohol.
9. By graduation from high school, the average person today has seen 100,000 beer commercials.
10. Alcohol is a **drug**.
11. Between 8:00 pm and 4:00 am on any Friday and Saturday, one of the next 10 vehicles you meet is being driven by someone under the influence of alcohol.
12. Between midnight and 4:00 am, about 80% of the drivers who are killed have been drinking.
13. More Americans between the ages of 16 and 24 die from alcohol-related accidents than any other cause of death.
14. An estimated one out of every two Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related accident during their lifetime.

As we learn some of the facts about alcohol, it's common to think, "Those may be facts, but that information doesn't and won't apply to me!" Rarely does anyone intend to become a statistic, yet it happens more often than we would prefer to admit.

Frequently, individuals become statistics because they are carrying around a lot of mis-information about alcohol.

Turn to the next page in your Handouts (page 50) so we can learn some additional information about alcohol.

Me & Alcohol

Circle the number of each true statement below.

1. When I am with my friends, drinking helps me fit in and be popular.
2. Drinking is never an issue as long as I don't drive.
3. Drinking slows down my response time and my reflexes putting me and others at risk for harm or injury.
4. Alcohol enables me to relax and enjoy life more.
5. Alcohol misuse seldom occurs in my town. It only happens in other locations.
6. Drinking can have a significant affect on my relationships with others.
7. Drinking beer isn't nearly as dangerous as drinking hard liquor.
8. Drinking is just something people do. If God doesn't approve, He will get over it.
9. If I don't drink at certain activities where someone offers me a beer, I will be looked down on and severely teased.
10. Since so many other kids drink, it's okay if I drink as long as I don't get drunk.
11. Drinking and driving is no more dangerous than driving and talking on my cell phone.
12. Only those who are really drunk have a difficult time walking and/or driving.
13. If my friend were drunk, it would be okay to ride home with him as long as I sat in the front seat.
14. Getting drunk is an unforgivable sin.

15. Drinking at my age and misusing alcohol later in life both break the heart of God.

As much as we may not like to admit it, alcohol is dangerous. It has the power to kill, to snuff out the lives of innocent people. We can ignore the facts. We can pretend those horrible things could never happen to us, yet while we are pretending, people are dying, people who didn't need to die if God's people would choose to use alcohol in an appropriate way.

There is much more that could be discussed regarding alcohol, but for now, we are going to bring our discussion of alcohol to a close and focus on our appropriate response to God's goodness, to His preservation work among us.

Look at Q112 on page 118 in your Catechism.

According to that question, what do we owe our God in response to His goodness?

We are to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

But did you notice the words that began the response to the question?

"It is our duty" reminds us that our response is not optional nor is it meant to be whenever we feel like it. We have a responsibility to respond to our God with thanksgiving, praise, service, and obedience. Yet, as we will see, it's a joy-filled responsibility, not an unfortunate duty.

Turn to page 51 in your Handouts.

Tour of Duty

In the military, they speak of a tour of duty, a specified amount of time you are called into active service in a particular location. In all actuality, our tour of duty lasts a lifetime. Draw a triangle on the line preceding each true statement below.

- _____ 1. In response to all my God has done for me, it is my duty to do what pleases Him.
- _____ 2. My response to God depends on His response toward me and my needs.
- _____ 3. I will fulfill my duty to my God as long as He answers my prayers in the way I want them answered.
- _____ 4. I will fulfill my duty even when I may not feel like it or agree with God's actions.
- _____ 5. Because of all the wonderful things God does for me, the least I can do is to respond to Him in appropriate ways.

- _____ 6. Since God loves me more than I can understand, it is my privilege to live my life for Him, not merely an unfortunate duty.
- _____ 7. Aware that I owe God more than I can ever repay, I view “duty” as a natural response to my incredible God for His work in my life.
- _____ 8. I don’t owe God anything. God did what He did because He wanted to do it. If I do something in response, that’s my choice.
- _____ 9. Responding to my God is a joy; it’s something I want to do. If someone wants to call it a duty, it is a joyful duty.
- _____ 10. Considering all God has done and continues to do for me, He asks very little in return.
- _____ 11. My God is a great God; I can’t wait for the opportunity to live each new day for Him.
- _____ 12. If what I do in response gives honor to my God, that’s exactly what I will do for Him.
- _____ 13. Responding to God’s goodness toward me is the greatest duty I could ever fulfill in my lifetime.
- _____ 14. Since I know I can never repay my God, anything I can do to give Him honor is what I intend to do.

The word “duty” may have negative connotations in other areas. Yet when the word is used to describe our response to God, duty becomes the most wonderful privilege of our lives.

Now that we have a better understanding of our tour of duty, we need to look more carefully at what we can do to fulfill our God-given duty.

Look at page 52 in your Handouts.

Responding with Words

Our Catechism indicates that it is our duty to thank and praise our God. Those words sound simple, yet they involve more than we might first imagine. Draw an “X” over the number of each false statement below.

1. I give thanks to my God by making the most of each day He gives me.
2. I give praise to my God by eagerly anticipating tomorrow and what I can do tomorrow to make a difference for my God.
3. I give thanks to my God by being grateful for the simple things in life.

4. I praise my God each time I ask Him to bless what I am about to do.
5. I praise my God by keeping a positive attitude when life is tough.
6. I give praise to my God each time I go to Him in prayer.
7. I give thanks to my God each time I offer my thanks to another person for their kindness.
8. I give thanks by choosing to live each day to the fullest.
9. I give thanks by offering compliments to others.
10. I give thanks to my God each time I welcome tomorrow as another gift from God.
11. I give praise to my God by offering my best efforts in all I do.
12. I give praise each time His creation brings a smile to my face.
13. I offer my thanks to my God by being satisfied with what I have at the moment.
14. I give thanks to my God each time I choose to forgive rather than hold a grudge.
15. I offer my praise to my God each time I worship with a grateful heart.

Now, turn to the next page as we learn what we can do to serve and obey our God.

Actions Speak

Circle the number of each true statement below.

1. I serve my God by using my talents to the best of my ability every day.
2. I obey my God by obeying my parents and others in authority.
3. I obey my God by choosing to follow Him even when another path may look more inviting.
4. I serve my God each time I listen to my heart and respond accordingly.
5. I serve my God whenever I offer my care and concern to another person.
6. I serve my God by doing all I can to take care of His creation.
7. I obey my God each time I do my best to live according to His Commandments.

8. I obey my God by gathering joyfully in His house for worship.
9. I serve my God each time I volunteer for activities in His church.
10. I serve my God by doing my work with a smile on my face and a song in my heart.
11. I obey my God by doing what my parents ask me to do.
12. I obey my God by choosing to preserve rather than to waste our natural resources.
13. I serve my God by providing gifts to His church that can be used to share Him with others.
14. I serve my God by looking for opportunities to brighten someone else's life, to make their day by what I do for them.

Having considered how we can thank, praise, serve, and obey our God, we realize that what we may call a duty isn't actually a duty, but a response of love toward our God who loves us beyond anything we can comprehend.

REVIEW OF THE DAY

Which of the alcohol statistics did you find most alarming?

How does our duty toward our God differ from our typical idea of a duty?

What are two things you can do to give thanks and praise to your God?

What are two things you can do to serve and obey your God?

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will discuss what we believe about Jesus and His work. Then we will look at what we can do in response to what we believe, talk about Jesus as true God and true man, and end our lesson discussing the threefold office of Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADDITIONAL MEMORY WORK

Outline - Lesson 10

OPENING PRAYER

MEMORY WORK

MEMORY WORK TERMS & APPLICATION: PAGE 54

Terms & Application

❖ “Imprint On The Mind” ❖
(Memory Work)

Lord’s Supper II & III

℞ “Understanding Before Imprinting” ℞
(Defining Terms)

Given - _____

Shed - _____

Life - _____

Salvation - _____

Bodily - _____

Main Thing - _____

📁 “In Simple Terms” 📁
(In Your Own Words)

⌚ **“Using What You Know”** ⌚
(Applying It To Life)

In the statement, “Given and shed for you,” which two words are most important:

When you know you are forgiven, what other blessings belong to you:

QUIZ TIME

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Which of the alcohol statistics from our last lesson did you find the most alarming?

How does our duty toward our God differ from our typical idea of a duty?

What are two things you can do to give thanks and praise to your God?

What are two things you can do to serve and obey your God?

LESSON OVERVIEW

In our last lesson, we completed our discussion of the First Article as we discussed alcohol misuse and how it relates to God’s preservation plan, along with learning what our proper response is to all God has done and continues to do for us.

Today, we move into the Second Article and the work of Jesus. We will look briefly at what we believe about Jesus and His work. Then, we will look at what we can do in response to what we believe, talk about Jesus as true God and true man, and end our lesson discussing the threefold office of Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King.

LESSON

Turn to page 119 in your Catechism Textbook.

The words of the Second Article and the explanation are words we have heard and spoken many times. Yet, how often have we actually paid careful attention to those words? When was the last time you studied these words and considered what they were saying to you?

In all likelihood, most of you have read or heard these words, yet never really applied them to your life. Speaking words or hearing words does us no good. We need to apply them.

Turn to page 55 in your Handouts and let's see what we can learn from these familiar words.

I Believe...

The Second Article is a statement of what we believe about Jesus Christ. Circle the number of each true statement regarding what you believe about Jesus.

1. I believe Jesus is in control of my life and will do what is best for me.
2. I believe Jesus suffered and experienced pain in the same way I feel pain, yet did not sin during His suffering and pain.
3. I believe Jesus is God's Son, but not actually God since only God can be God.
4. I believe Jesus has existed forever, yet has existed in human form only since His conception and birth.
5. I believe I was lost, that I had absolutely no chance of coming to faith or attaining eternal life without Jesus entering my life.
6. I believe Jesus fulfilled all the requirements of God the Father in my place and that He did it all entirely out of love.
7. I believe the payment for my sins was obtained by the death of my Lord.
8. I believe Jesus rescued me from eternal death in hell and from the destruction of the devil.
9. I believe Jesus would have suffered and died even if I had been the only person on the earth.
10. I believe Jesus loves me far more than I will ever understand.
11. I believe Jesus did all He did so I could be part of His special family, part of the family of God.
12. I believe Jesus wants me to follow His will, to obey Him, and to live my life for Him each day.
13. I believe serving my Lord each day of my life is one of the finest ways I can honor Him.
14. I believe Jesus rose on the third day and rules over the world and my life each day.

Now that we've taken a few moments to look at these familiar words, hopefully the next time you speak these words, they will speak to your heart and affect what you do and say.

As we speak about the importance of these words affecting what you do and say, look at the next page in your Handouts.

My Response

Draw a star on the line preceding each statement you believe to be true for you.

- _____ 1. Since Jesus is my Lord, I will ask Him each day to guide me and show me how to make a difference for Him.
- _____ 2. Since I believe Jesus came into this world out of love, I will do all I can to show love and care toward others.
- _____ 3. Knowing some of the pain Jesus suffered so that I could live with Him, I will endure my challenges and heartaches without complaining.
- _____ 4. Because Jesus rose victorious over death and the devil, I will live each day with a smile in my heart and on my face because I know Jesus is right beside me.
- _____ 5. Since Jesus is Lord of my life, I will do what I can every day to make a good difference for Him.
- _____ 6. Since Jesus paid for my sins on the cross, I will do what I can to serve Him in all areas of my life.
- _____ 7. Since Jesus rescued me from eternal death in hell, I will offer my praises to Him each new day.
- _____ 8. Since the devil can't destroy me, I will go to my Lord in prayer and then do what I can to make a difference for Christ in my day.
- _____ 9. Because of the enormous price Jesus paid for me, I will treat my life with high value and not allow anyone else to make me feel less valuable.
- _____ 10. Since Jesus has made me part of His family, I will honor and respect Him in all I do and say.
- _____ 11. Knowing Jesus rules the world and my life, I will listen to my heart and do what my Lord leads me to do.
- _____ 12. Since Jesus has proven His power over death, I will trust that Jesus can handle anything I bring to Him in prayer.

- _____ 13. Since Jesus rules the world, I will continue to trust Him and rely on His guidance even when things around me are very disturbing and discouraging.
- _____ 14. My response to all Jesus has done is to offer Him my life and to say, "Use me, Lord, as You know best!"

As we speak the words of the Creed and specifically the Second Article, we are doing more than merely speaking words. We are acknowledging we will respond to these words with actions that match the words we profess. Because of all Jesus had done for us, we choose to respond with words and actions that give Him praise and honor.

As we move on in our discussion of the Second Article, we need to understand why Jesus is called "true God" and also "true man." In the explanation of the Second Article, we say, "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord." We call Jesus both true God and true man.

Turn to page 57 in your Handouts.

Teach Me, Lord

In the Bible, we find verses that describe Jesus as man and as God. Look up each passage below and write a word or phrase that describes something you learn from that verse. Also, put a check mark in front of each passage that indicates Jesus is true God.

I John 5:20 - True God

John 20:28 - My Lord, My God

John 1:1-2 - Eternal

John 1:3 - Created all

John 5:23 - Be honored

Matthew 17:5 - My Son, God's Son

Matthew 28:20 - Omnipresent

Matthew 9:6 - Power to forgive

Hebrews 13:8 - Unchangeable

I Timothy 2:5 - Man

Luke 24:39 - Hands & feet

Matthew 4:2 - Hungered

Matthew 26:38 - Soul

Matthew 27:50 - Died

John 19:28 - Thirsted

John 11:35 - Wept

Now that we've looked at these verses, let's sum up what we know on the bottom of the page in your Handouts.

Summing It Up

Jesus Christ is true God and true man.

He is true God because He has divine names, attributes, works, honor, and glory.

He is true man because Scripture calls Him man, ascribes to Him a human body and soul, feelings and actions.

Jesus is both true God and true man. The uniting of these two natures, which occurred at Christ's conception, is called the Personal Union. It is a mystery which we cannot fully explain. Yet we can use some imperfect examples to demonstrate the Personal Union.

(Use an object lesson to demonstrate the Personal Union. Bring sugar and salt. They are distinct yet when poured together they are inseparable, but still maintain their separate identity. If someone took enough time, you could separate the sugar crystals from the salt crystals.)

Before we leave the topic of Jesus as true God and true man, we need to consider the benefits we receive from Jesus being both God and man.

Turn to page 58 in your Handouts.

Reaping the Benefits

Draw a box around the number of each true statement.

1. Because Jesus is true God and true man, I know He understands me when I hurt and also has the power to heal me.
2. Because Jesus is true God and true man, I find comfort knowing He will provide the relief I need when He knows best.

3. Because Jesus is true God and true man, I know He made the payment for my sins and I now have the freedom to do whatever I want whenever I want.
4. Because Jesus is true God and true man, there is nothing I ask that God cannot do.
5. Because Jesus is true God and true man, I know He loves me more than I can ever love Him and will always demonstrate His love toward me.
6. Because Jesus is true God and true man, He is sad when I disobey Him, yet ready and willing to forgive me when I ask for His forgiveness.
7. Because Jesus is true God and true man, He knows my needs and provides for my needs every day entirely out of love.
8. Because Jesus is true God and true man, I know He will give me the strength to live my life in a way that pleases Him.
9. Because Jesus is true God and true man, He understands my failures and also has the power to forgive.
10. Because Jesus is true God and true man, nothing is impossible that God intends to do in my life and through my life.
11. Because Jesus is true God and true man, I want to make a difference for Him since He has done so much to make a difference for me.
12. Because Jesus is true God and true man, He is always waiting for the opportunity to punish me when I make a mistake.
13. Because Jesus is true God and true man, I know with confidence that there is a place called heaven and that one day I will arrive there by faith.
14. Because Jesus is true God and true man, I know He walks beside me, cares for me, and intervenes in ways beyond my understanding.

We may not realize it, but life would be very different if Jesus were not true God and true man. Since Jesus remains true God and true man, He understands us incredibly well and also has the power to intervene in ways He always knows best.

As we continue our topic of Jesus Christ and our discussion of the Second Article, we need to learn more about the work of Christ by considering what we call the three-fold office of Christ, the three primary areas where Christ functions for our benefit.

Turn to page 59 in your Handouts.

Christ at Work

Circle the number of each true statement below. Refer to pages 127-130 in your Catechism for assistance.

1. As Jesus preached on earth and performed miracles, He provided proof that all He said was accurate.
2. The resurrection of Christ provided the clearest proof that what Jesus spoke as our Prophet is precisely what would come true at the appointed time.
3. Jesus no longer functions as Prophet in my life today.
4. Through the Word of God, Jesus is still declared to be my Redeemer even though He no longer walks on the earth.
5. Jesus is still my Prophet, my Savior, and the one who rescues me from eternal death and the devil.
6. Jesus, as my Priest, fulfilled the demands of God perfectly in my place.
7. As my Priest, Jesus willingly offered Himself as the sacrifice, as the payment for my sins, making Him both Priest and Sacrifice.
8. Jesus still speaks to the Father on my behalf, still intercedes with the Father for my benefit.
9. As King, Jesus continues to rule the entire world including every aspect of my life.
10. Jesus protects me and guides me through each day when I choose to follow His guidance.
11. Jesus will take me and all believers to eternal life in heaven at the right time.
12. As my King, Jesus rules with an iron fist looking for opportunities to punish me.
13. As King, Jesus guides and directs my life and the lives of His people so that His plan can be carried out in the world.

As Christ became man, He came for our benefit; He came to work, to fulfill His Father's will. He came to be our Prophet whose word is verified as truth, to be our Priest who speaks to the Father for us, and to be our King who guides and rules our lives. Even today, Christ is still at work for you and for me.

REVIEW OF THE DAY

As you speak the words of the Second Article, what are two things you believe?

Name two things you can do as a response to what you believe.

What do you know about Jesus as true man?

What are two things you gain by believing Jesus is true God and true man?

What does Christ do as your King?

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will focus on the two stages or states of Christ's life, His state of humiliation and what it means for us, and His state of exaltation and how it affects our lives today. Near the end, we will discuss the return of Christ.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADDITIONAL MEMORY WORK

