

LEADER'S GUIDE

This guide accompanies worksheets that can be used with all ages and stages in studying and teaching the Westminster Shorter Catechism using *Bible Truth Explored*. The worksheets have been prepared to help people engage with the Catechism and its themes at an introductory level. The leader can use *Bible Truth Explored* as a teaching book that helps them to explain the meaning of the Catechism to others.

Each worksheet lists some Bible verses (usually five) under a Shorter Catechism question. Some questions have been combined together in a similar way to *Bible Truth Explored*, in this case there is some clear repetition and the leader will need to decide whether to combine questions or engage in some consolidation. The verses have been placed in a sequence that shows how they contribute to the answer that the Shorter Catechism gives at the bottom of the page. In this way they complement *Bible Truth Explored* as a resource. The leader's guide is the same as the worksheets except that outline answers have been provided to help.

Studying with Younger Children

The format is highly suitable for going over one Catechism question and answer per week while looking at a different Bible verse from Monday to Friday. This allows time for review and consolidation on the Lord's Day. Each day the verse can be copied out while the parent or teacher explains its meaning and how it relates to the Catechism question. Children can be encouraged to make the connections themselves depending on their age and understanding. The intention is for them to see how all the verses together help to teach the Catechism answer.

Studying with Teenagers and Adults

This format will work well in a discussion group setting where the verses one by one are read out and their meaning discussed against the theme. Alternatively the sheets can be distributed so that those participating can write down their own responses for later discussion. The leader can then use *Bible Truth Explored* to give further teaching and application. The intention is to have an inductive approach that works towards establishing the Catechism answer so that those engaging with it can see how it is derived from a "breadcrumb trail" of Scripture verses. Sometimes it is more a broader teaching from the Bible rather than one proof text that captures the whole truth. The leader will need to be prepared so as to identify such cases in advance and give extra help and information.



What is the chief end of man?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Revelation 4:11

God is glorious



Psalms 29:2

We should glorify God



1 Corinthians 10:31

Glorify Him in everything



Matthew 5:6

Glorify Him by doing what pleases Him



Psalms 16:11

Enjoy Him for ever

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.



What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



2 Timothy 3:15

The Scriptures tell us how to glorify and enjoy God



2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Word of God is contained in the Scriptures



Deuteronomy 4:2

All and only the Scriptures are God's Word



Acts 17:11

The Scriptures are our only rule



Matthew 15:6

Information from other sources is not our rule

The Word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.



What do the scriptures principally teach?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



John 20:30-31

The Scriptures tell us what to believe



John 5:39

The Scriptures tell us what to believe



1 John 2a

The Scriptures tell us what our duty is



Psalm 119:11

The Scriptures tell us what our duty is



2 Timothy 1:13

The Scriptures are in a symbiotic relationship with faith and love

The scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

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What is God?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.

**Psalm 90:2**

God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable

**Exodus 3:14**

In His being

**Psalm 147:5**

In His wisdom, in His power

**Revelation 4:8b**

In His holiness

**Exodus 34:6-7**

In His justice, in His goodness and truth

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.



Are there more Gods than one?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Deuteronomy 6:4

There is one God only



1 Corinthians 8:b

Idols are nothing



Jeremiah 10:5b-6

The choice is between false gods and the Lord



Jeremiah 10:10a

The Lord is the true and living God



1 Thessalonians 9b

Those who serve idols can be saved by turning to the living and true God

There is but one only, the living and true God.



How many persons are there in the Godhead?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Matthew 3:16-17

There are three persons



Hebrews 1:1-2

The Father is God



Hebrews 1:8

The Son is God



2 Corinthians 3:17-18

The Spirit is God



Matthew 28:19

These three are one God

There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

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What are the decrees of God?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Psalm 33:11

God has an eternal purpose



Ephesians 1:11

His purpose is according to His will



Daniel 2:20-22

God has foreordained everything that comes to pass



Isaiah 43:7

God's purpose is for His own glory



Psalm 148:5-6

God's decree is put into effect in creation and in providence

The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

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How doth God execute his decrees?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Psalm 33:11

God has an eternal purpose



Ephesians 1:11

His purpose is according to His will



Daniel 2:20-22

God has foreordained everything that comes to pass



Isaiah 43:7

God's purpose is for His own glory



Psalm 148:5-6

God's decree is put into effect in creation and in providence

God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.



What is the work of creation?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Nehemiah 9:6

God made all things



Hebrews 11:3

God made all things out of nothing



Psalms 33:6-9

God made all things by the word of His power



Exodus 20:11

God made all things in the space of six days



Genesis 1:31

God made all things very good

The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.



How did God create man?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Genesis 1:26a

God created man in His own image



Genesis 1:27

God created man, male and female



Colossians 3:10

God's image consists in knowledge



Ephesians 4:24

God's image consists in righteousness and holiness



Genesis 1:28

God created man with dominion over the creatures

God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.



What are God's works of providence?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Psalm 119:90-91

God's providence includes preserving all His creatures



Genesis 50:20

God's providence includes governing all His creatures and all their actions



Psalm 145:17

God's providence is most holy



Psalm 104:24

God's providence is most wise



Psalm 103:19

God's providence is most powerful

God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

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What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Genesis 2:16-17

God forbade Adam to eat of the tree on the pain of death



John 17:3

Life is fellowship with God



1 John 2a

[Q15] They sinned by eating the forbidden fruit



Genesis 3:8

[Q13] By their sin they fell



Romans 5:12

[Q16] We are all included in Adam's sin and fall

When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.



Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Genesis 2:16-17

[Q12] God forbade Adam to eat of the tree on the pain of death



John 17:3

[Q12] Life is fellowship with God



1 John 2a

[Q15] They sinned by eating the forbidden fruit



Genesis 3:8

[Q13] By their sin they fell



Romans 5:12

[Q16] We are all included in Adam's sin and fall

Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.



What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Genesis 2:16-17

[Q12] God forbade Adam to eat of the tree on the pain of death



John 17:3

[Q12] Life is fellowship with God



1 John 2a

[Q15] They sinned by eating the forbidden fruit



Genesis 3:8

[Q13] By their sin they fell



Romans 5:12

[Q16] We are all included in Adam's sin and fall

The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit.



What is sin?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



1 John 3:4

Transgression of God's law is sin



James 2:10-11

Any transgression of God's law is sin



Matthew 5:21-22

Any transgression of God's law is sin



James 4:17

Lack of conformity to God's law is sin



Romans 3:23

Lack of conformity to God's law is sin

Sin is any want of conformity unto,
or transgression of, the law of God.



Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Genesis 2:16-17

[Q12] God forbade Adam to eat of the tree on the pain of death



John 17:3

[Q12] Life is fellowship with God



1 John 2a

[Q15] They sinned by eating the forbidden fruit



Genesis 3:8

[Q13] By their sin they fell



Romans 5:12

[Q16] We are all included in Adam's sin and fall

The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

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Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.

**Romans 5:12**

A state of sin and misery

**Romans 5:19**

The guilt of Adam's first sin

**Psalm 14:2-3**

The lack of original righteousness

**Genesis 6:5**

The corruption of our whole nature

**Matthew 15:19**

Actual transgressions

The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

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Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Romans 5:12

A state of sin and misery



Romans 5:19

The guilt of Adam's first sin



Psalms 14:2-3

The lack of original righteousness



Genesis 6:5

The corruption of our whole nature



Matthew 15:19

Actual transgressions

The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called Original Sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

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What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Isaiah 59:2

Lost communion with God



Nahum 1:2-3

Under God's wrath and curse



Romans 1:28-29

Liable to all miseries of this life



Romans 6:23

Liable to death itself



Matthew 25:41

Liable to the pains of hell for ever

All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever.



Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Psalm 111:9

God entered a covenant of grace



Ephesians 1:4-5

God did this from His mere good pleasure



Jeremiah 32:40

God did this from all eternity



Psalm 103:4

God brings them from sin and misery to salvation



1 Peter 1:18-19

God does this by a Redeemer

God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

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Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Revelation 5:9

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Redeemer



John 3:16

He is the eternal Son of God



John 1:14

He became man



Romans 9:5

He is and always will be God and man in two distinct natures and one person



1 Timothy 2:5-6

He is the only Redeemer

The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two different natures, and one person, for ever.

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How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Galatians 4:4

Christ the Son of God became man



Hebrews 2:14

He took a true body



Matthew 26:38

He took a reasonable soul



Luke 1:35

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary and born of her



1 John 3:5

Yet without sin

Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

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What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Hebrews 1:1-2

Christ is a prophet



John 12:49-50

Christ reveals the will of God for our salvation



Acts 10:36

Christ speaks by the Word



John 14:26

Christ speaks by the Spirit



John 16:13-15

Both Word and Spirit concur

Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

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How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Hebrews 1:1-2

Christ is a prophet



John 12:49-50

Christ reveals the will of God for our salvation



Acts 10:36

Christ speaks by the Word



John 14:26

Christ speaks by the Spirit



John 16:13-15

Both Word and Spirit concur

Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

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How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Hebrews 5:5-6

Christ is a priest



Hebrews 9:14

Christ offered up Himself (once)



Isaiah 53:5

Christ's offering satisfied divine justice



Romans 5:10

Christ's offering reconciled us to God



Hebrews 7:24-25

Christ makes continual intercession for us

Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself as a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

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How doth Christ execute the office of a king?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Matthew 21:5

Christ is a king



Isaiah 55:4-5

Christ subdues us to Himself



Ephesians 4:8, 11

Christ rules us



Hebrews 4:16

Christ defends us



Romans 14:10b-11

Christ restrains and conquers all His and our enemies

Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

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Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Philippians 2:6-8

The Son of God humbled Himself



Luke 2:7

His humiliation included being born, in a low condition



John 4:6-8

His humiliation included the miseries of this life



Isaiah 53:3, 5, 6

His humiliation included the wrath of God



1 Corinthians 15:3-4

His humiliation included death, being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time

Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death on the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

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Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Philippians 2:9-11

Christ is now exalted



Romans 1:4

His exaltation included His resurrection



Mark 16:19-20

His exaltation included His ascension



Hebrews 1:3b

His exaltation includes His sitting at the right hand of the Father



Acts 1:11

His exaltation includes His coming again

Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

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How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Colossians 1:14

Christ purchased redemption for us



Acts 26:18

It needs to be applied to us



John 6:37

It will certainly be applied to those He purchased it for



Titus 3:5-6

It is applied to us by the Spirit



John 14:16-17a

The Spirit is His Spirit, the Spirit of Christ

We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.



How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Romans 5:19

We have to be united to Christ



Romans 8:1

Those united to Christ cannot be condemned



Ephesians 3:17a

Christ lives in His people through faith



1 Corinthians 12:12-13

The Spirit gives us faith



Ephesians 2:8

Faith unites us to Christ

The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.



What is effectual calling?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



John 16:8a

The Spirit convinces us of sin and misery



Ephesians 1:17-18

He enlightens our minds in the knowledge of Christ



Ezekiel 36:26

He renews our wills



John 6:44

He persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ



2 Corinthians 4:3-5

Jesus Christ is freely offered in the gospel

Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

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What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Romans 3:24

Justification is an act of God's free grace



Micah 7:18-19

He pardons all our sins



2 Corinthians 5:21

He accepts us as righteous in His sight



Romans 5:17-19

Only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us



Philippians 3:9

Received by faith alone

They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

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What is justification?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Romans 3:24

Justification is an act of God's free grace



Micah 7:18-19

He pardons all our sins



2 Corinthians 5:21

He accepts us as righteous in His sight



Romans 5:17-19

Only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us



Philippians 3:9

Received by faith alone

Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

What is adoption?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.

**Galatians 4:4-5**

Adoption is a benefit of redemption

**1 John 3:1**

Adoption is an act of God's free grace

**Matthew 6:8-9**

God's sons can pray with confidence

**Psalms 103:13**

God's sons have God's pity

**Romans 8:17**

Adoption makes believers heirs

Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.



What is sanctification?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Sanctification is of God's free grace



1 Thessalonians 5:23

We are renewed in the whole man after the image of God



Romans 6:11-12

We are enabled to die more and more to sin



1 Thessalonians 4:1-3a

We are enabled to live more and more to righteousness



Philippians 3:12

Sanctification is an ongoing work

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

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What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Romans 5:5b

Assurance of God's love



Hebrews 10:22

Peace of conscience



Isaiah 61:3

Joy in the Holy Ghost



Ephesians 4:13

Increase of grace



John 10:27-28

Perseverance to the end

The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.



What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Revelation 21:27

Their souls are made perfect in holiness



Luke 23:43

Their souls immediately pass into glory



1 Thessalonians 4:14

Their bodies rest in their graves while still remaining united to Christ



John 5:28-29

There will be a resurrection



Job 19:26-27

At the resurrection, their bodies and souls will be reunited

The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.

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What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

Adults and teenagers should jot down what the following verses are saying, in their own words. Younger children can copy out the verses.



Philippians 3:21

Believers will be raised up in glory



Matthew 10:32

Believers will be openly acknowledged



Matthew 25:34-36

Believers will be openly acquitted



Revelation 21:3-4

Believers will be made perfectly blessed



Revelation 22:4-5

To all eternity

At the resurrection, believer being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

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