

*A Year  
with the Catechism*  
(A whole congregation study)

Our congregation is about to take a journey together.  
That journey may at first appear simple, easy and uneventful.  
It won't be!


It will be an exciting ride through Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

What we will see:

- † Weekly worship messages
- † Adult Study – digging deep
- † Youth Bible study – Biblical events correlating to Catechism topics
- † Daily reading plan – Read through the entire Small Catechism with explanation in one year.
- † Contribute to the LCMS treasury of devotional studies.
- † ... and more!!!

Everything begins on September 12

Proclaim God's Word,  
Encourage one another in faith,  
Witness to God's love and  
Serve all people



# Section: The Ten Commandments

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment

**You shall have no other gods.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

How many commandment are there? \_\_\_\_\_

Do all church have the same commandments? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the way we number them, change their meaning? \_\_\_\_\_

The truth is it is far easier to count 9, 12, or 14 commandments in Exodus 20. It is actually hard to come up with a way to number them as one through ten.

Look up Deuteronomy 4:13. What does it say? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments?

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The first three commandments are about our relationship with God.  
The last seven are about our relationship with other people.

There are three functions of God's Law. What are they?

\_\_\_\_\_ It keeps us on the right path. It prevents us from driving off the road.

\_\_\_\_\_ It shows us ourselves. It shows us what we are doing that is wrong?

\_\_\_\_\_ It tells us what road to take. It gives us directions to get safely home.

This is the first commandment God gave, so perhaps He felt it was the most important. Why do you think this commandment is the most important?

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What kind of relationship does God want to have with you?

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What are some things that people make more important than God?  
More important than coming to church or reading their Bible?

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If a person puts other things as being more important than God, what will happen to them when they die? Where will they go? Heaven or Hell

Can a person claim to be a true believer and not be?

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Look at 1 Kings 3:12. What does it say about Solomon?

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Read 1 Kings 11:4-7. What happened to Solomon?

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Here's the scary part. The Bible never says Solomon returned to the true faith. If that is true where did Solomon go when he died? Heaven or Hell

Look up these verses: Proverbs 1:7 and Proverb 9:10.  
What do these verses tell us?

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So why are we here studying these things?

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Let's read the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment together.

**You shall have no other gods.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

What does it mean to “fear” God?

What should “fear” mean to someone who does not believe in God?

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What should “fear” mean to someone who does believe in God?

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## **5 Lies about God**

1) Some would claim that God is distant, un-engaged and disconnected from Creation. Why would that be an attractive way to think about God?

See: Psalm 23;  
Psalm 139:7-12

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2) True or False: “God expects me to change to make me acceptable to Him.”

See: Romans 5:6-8  
Isaiah 64:6  
Ephesians 2:1-4  
Ephesians 2:5-10

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3) Read Philippians 2:12 – Based on these words the Bible says we must cooperate with God to save us.

See: John 6:29  
John 6:44-45  
Ephesians 2:5-10

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4) If I change my life God will forgive me.

See: Romans 5:6-8  
Romans 8:31-39  
Hebrews 10:12 & 14  
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24  
Philippians 2:13

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5) There is a limit to how much God can forgive.

See: Luther's Small Catechism – The Lord's Prayer: The Fifth Petition (p.264)

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The sacramental theology of the ancient, historic Church, and the Lutheran Confessions as they are derived from God's Word, are a rich heritage we should cherish. They not only bolster our own faith but also give us the words to convey that faith to those outside the Church (ie: unbelievers, (or better seen as pre-believers)).

Long time Lutherans will find this study to be a wonderful resource to revisit much of what you may already know and help you apply it to each day of your life. It will help you recall those fundamental doctrines you have learned and through the discussion support each other.

Those young in the faith will find these eternal truths, taught and explained in a simple way, a treasure which will guide you all of your life. We pray that the Holy Spirit's fruitful guidance would help each of us grow in our commitment to the faith that was delivered to all the saints (Jude 1:3), of which you are one (1 John 3:1).

Closing prayer:

Luther's Small Catechism p. 73



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