

PREPARING for the TABLE

Preparing to
Become a Communing
Church Member

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Presbyterian Church in America

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How To Use This Workbook

PREPARING FOR THE TABLE was designed to be used to prepare children to become communing members of the local church. Each lesson is set up for the child to work independently *and* with a parent to learn the essentials of the Christian faith.

The parent may be as involved as the child needs with the lessons but should be available to spend time discussing the questions designated for parent-child discussion. Parents also may help their children learn or review the catechism questions and answers.

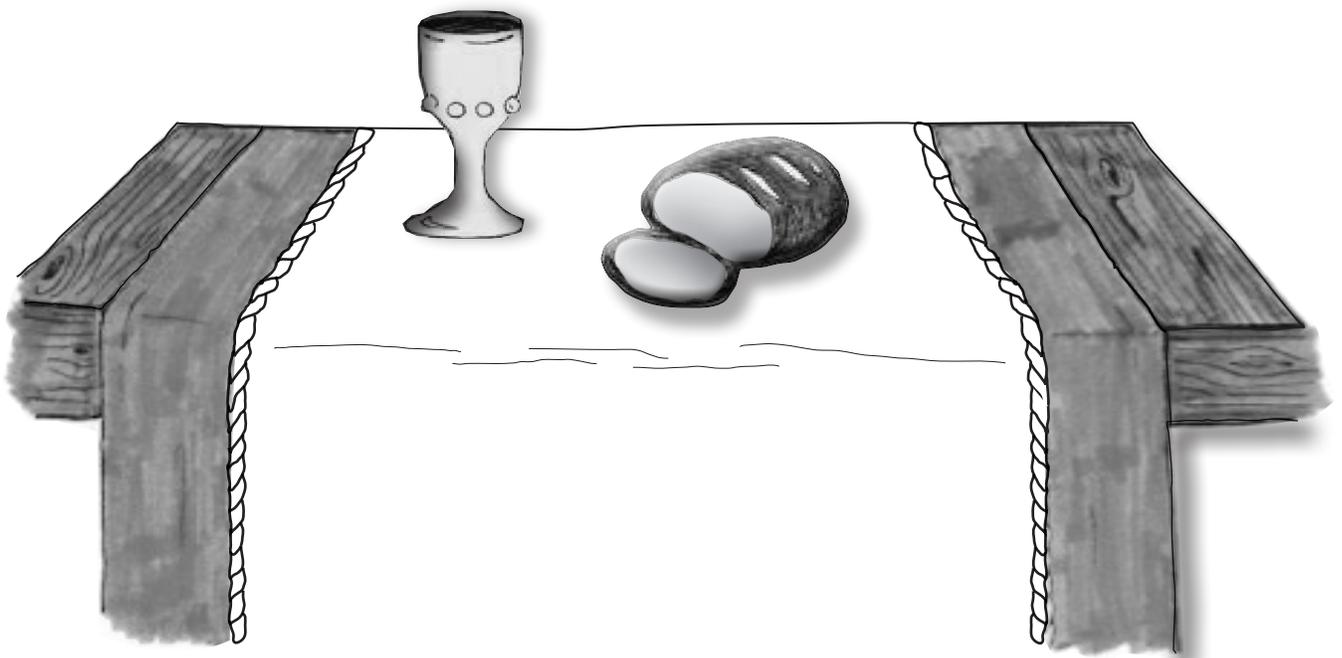
Do not rush through and try to complete the workbook in one marathon sitting. Most lessons have two or more parts. Each lesson covers a topic essential to church membership, and the parts investigate specifics about the topic. Allow at least a day to work through, discuss, and think about each part of a lesson. Let the child's understanding of the lesson part determine the pace to move ahead.

Children and parents are encouraged to make notes and write down any questions they may have at the end of each lesson part. Then, together, they can discuss those items further, look for answers in the Bible or in one of the catechisms (see resources in Appendix B), or ask an elder at church.

It is our prayer that the truths taught in this workbook will build a firm foundation for children as they grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and become active members in His church.



Lesson One

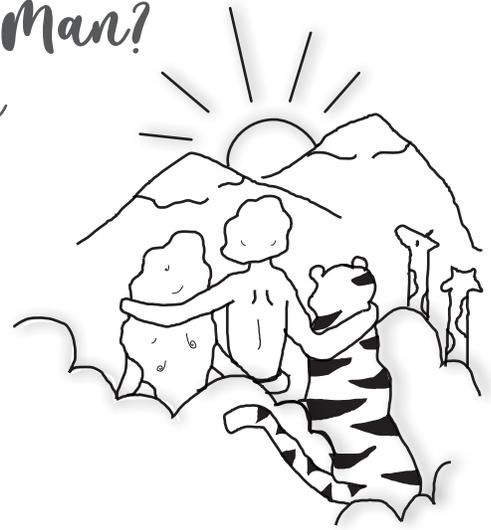


Who Is Man?



Lesson One: Who Is Man?

Part 1 ~ Creation



Read Genesis 1:26-28.

Find the answers in the Bible passage.

In Whose image is man created?

How did God create man? _____ and _____

In verse 31, it says God saw everything that He had made. What did He think of His creation?

Discussion:

Here are some questions for you to think about a little more deeply. Discuss your thoughts with your parent.

⇒ Why is it so important to know that God actually *created* man and that man didn't just happen by chance?

⇒ How does knowing that God made you in His image change the way you live your life?

⇒ Why do you think God made both man and woman to reflect His image?

Discuss these questions from *Catechism for Young Children*.

QUESTION		ANSWER
1 Who made you?		God.
2 What else did God make?		God made all things.
3 Why did God make you and all things?		For His own glory.

✓ Something to Understand

To bring glory to God means to give Him the place of honor. It means that in all we do we point out to others how beautiful and wonderful God is!

Now read Genesis 2:4-24.

This passage goes into a lot more detail about the creation of man and woman, doesn't it? *Find the answers in the Bible passage.*

Look at verse 7. How did God bring Adam to life?

What instructions did God give Adam in verses 16 and 17?

What job did God give Adam to do in verse 19?

What did Adam notice was missing in verse 20?

How did God make Eve in verses 21-22?

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Discussion:

Here are some questions for you to think about a little more deeply. Discuss your thoughts with your parent.

⇒ God said in verse 18 that it was not good for man to be alone, but He waited until after Adam had seen and named the animals to do anything about it. Why do you think God waited?

⇒ What are some things that verses 24 and 25 help us to understand about marriage as God designed it?

⇒ God made one rule in the garden. To whom did He tell this rule? What does this suggest about the relationship of man and woman?

Discuss these questions from
Catechism for Young Children.

QUESTION

ANSWER

16 Who were our first parents?



Adam and Eve.

17 Of what were our first parents made?



God made the body of Adam out of the ground, and formed Eve from the body of Adam.

18 What did God give Adam and Eve besides bodies?



He gave them souls that can never die.

LESSON 1: WHO IS MAN?

19 Have you a soul as well as a body?



Yes, I have a soul that can never die.

20 How do you know that you have a soul?



The Bible tells me so.

Personal notes and questions:

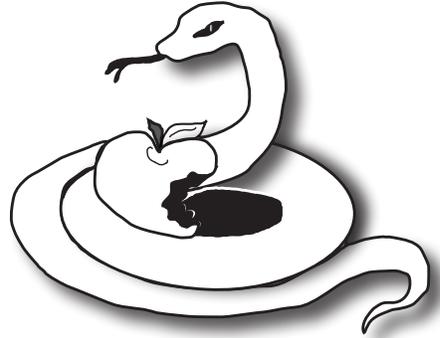


Part 2 ~ The Covenant of Works and the Fall

Read Genesis 1:28-31 and Genesis 2:15-17.

What were Adam and Eve allowed to eat from the garden?

What were Adam and Eve not allowed to eat from the garden?



What would happen to them if they disobeyed?

So, what would happen if they always obeyed?

We call this the “Covenant of Works” when God promised that people could live forever in relationship with Him as long as they obeyed.

✓ **Something to understand:**

A covenant is an agreement between two or more persons. It is a solemn promise that both sides will do what they have agreed upon. God has made many covenants with man, but man has broken them again and again. We will soon see how God makes a plan to keep His side of the covenant and man’s side of the covenant, too (since man always fails).

Discussion:

Read all of Genesis 3. Tell the story to your parent **in your own words** and answer the following questions.

⇒ Adam broke the Covenant of Works. How sad! When they heard God coming, what did they do?

LESSON 1: WHO IS MAN?

⇒ I bet you can understand how they felt! Have you ever tried to hide the evidence of your wrongdoing? Tell about it.

It's pretty obvious that we are *ALL* breakers of God's law!

Activity: Circle the consequences that came with breaking the Covenant of Works and cross out the things that did not happen.

God totally lost His temper.

They were ashamed.

They ended their marriage.

Raising their food would become hard, hard work.

Weeds began to grow.

They could not tell good from evil.

God ignored their disobedience.

It would be painful to have children.

They had to leave the garden.

God stopped loving them.

They would never have children.

Flowers were easier to grow.

Death began.

God gave up on Adam and Eve.

The death of an animal was required to cover their nakedness.

Marriage would become hard because Eve would want Adam's role of leader.

This first sin has a special name. We call it: *original sin*.

This whole event has a special name. We call it: *the Fall*.

After this happened, everything was changed. Now when children are born, they desire to do the wrong thing. They have a *sin nature*.

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Activity: Draw what you think the Garden of Eden looked like. Then add the snake slithering in to mess up everything.

Discussion:

Here are some questions for you to think about a little more deeply. Discuss your thoughts with your parent.

- ⇒ How does the sin nature affect you, your family, and the world?

- ⇒ How does it affect man's relationship with God?

- ⇒ What does Scripture tell us about the penalty for sin?

**Discuss these questions from
*Catechism for Young Children.***

Take a couple of days to discuss these questions with your parents.

QUESTION	ANSWER
21 In what condition did God make Adam and Eve?	 He made them holy and happy.
22 What is a covenant?	 An agreement between two or more persons.
23 What covenant did God make with Adam?	 The covenant of works.
24 What was Adam bound to do by the covenant of works?	 To obey perfectly.
25 What did God promise in the covenant of works?	 To reward Adam with life if he obeyed Him.
26 What did God threaten in the covenant of works?	 To punish Adam with death if he disobeyed.
27 Did Adam keep the covenant of works?	 No, he sinned against God.
33 What befell our first parents when they had sinned?	 Instead of being holy and happy, they became sinful and miserable.

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34 Did Adam act for himself alone in the covenant of works?



No, he represented all his posterity.*

35 What effect had the sin of Adam on all mankind?



All mankind are born in a state of sin and misery.

36 What is that sinful nature which we inherit from Adam called?



Original sin.

*Posterity means all the generations of children born to a family.

Personal notes and questions:

