

# **Westminster** **Shorter Catechism** *for kids*

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Workbook Four: Salvation  
**SAMPLE PACKET (Questions 31-35)**

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Caroline Weerstra

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**[info@catechismforkids.com](mailto:info@catechismforkids.com)**

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## Introduction

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The Apostle Paul tells us that those whom God predestined have been called, and those who were called have been justified and glorified (Romans 8:29-30). Salvation is a wonderful mystery. We have been predestined, and yet we are called to repentance. We are forgiven forever and yet the process of sanctification required a constant turning from sin.

These concepts are both simple and profound. The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* is brilliant in its organization and definition of each of the aspects of salvation: effectual calling, justification, adoption, and sanctification, as well as the benefits believers receive from Christ.

This workbook breaks down each of those concepts a little further. Children are given examples to help them understand the various definitions. They learn to differentiate between justification and sanctification. The themes are carried over from one section to the next to boost memorization.

The teaching of the Westminster Shorter Catechism was never intended to be a dry collection of theological terms. As we apply the ideas within it to our own lives, we begin to grasp the wonder of God's love. God predestines, calls, justifies, adopts, sanctifies, and glorifies us. It is all a work of God's grace, and nothing of ourselves.

And so we exclaim with the Apostle John, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" (I John 3:1)









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Question 31: What is effectual calling?

Answer: 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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## Lesson 1

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Question 31: What is effectual calling?

Answer: 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.



**Q. 31. What is effectual calling?**

A.

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## Effectual Calling

**What does 'effectual calling' mean? 'Effectual'** means something produces a desired result. It does not fail. **'Calling'** refers to the work of the Holy Spirit calling the elect to faith in Christ. The calling of the Holy Spirit always draws the elect to Christ.

Effectual calling is the work of \_\_\_\_\_'s \_\_\_\_\_.

**What does 'whereby' mean? 'Whereby'** is an old word that means that this is how something happens.

**What does the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* mean when it says that God's Spirit doth persuade and enable us to embrace Christ?** It means that the Holy Spirit changes our hearts so that we are able to love and obey Jesus.



**Fill in the blank.**

The catechism lists three ways in which the Holy Spirit persuades and enables us to embrace Christ. What are those ways?

1.

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2.

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3.

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In the next lesson, we will discuss these three ways in which the Holy Spirit changes our hearts.



## Let's Think!

Could you ever change your heart to love and obey God without the Holy Spirit?

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If the Holy Spirit calls you, could you ever refuse his call?

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What is the term that describes the work of the Holy Spirit that calls the elect to faith in Christ?

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## Lesson 2

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Q. 31. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, enlightening our \_\_\_\_\_ in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our \_\_\_\_\_, he doth persuade and \_\_\_\_\_ us to embrace \_\_\_\_\_, freely offered to us in the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Convinced, Enlightened, Renewed**

In the last lesson, we listed three ways in which the Holy Spirit changes our hearts. Let's review them.

1. **The Holy Spirit convinces us of our sin and misery.** Unless we understand that we are sinners, we will never realize that we need Jesus to redeem us from our sins. The Holy Spirit helps us to see our miserable condition, so that we will turn to God for help.
2. **The Holy Spirit enlightens our minds in the knowledge of Christ.** It is not enough to realize our sinful condition. We must recognize that Jesus is our Savior. The Holy Spirit helps us understand the gospel so that we can put our faith in Christ.
3. **The Holy Spirit renews our wills.** It is no use to know that we are sinners or to know that Jesus can save us unless we want to repent and trust Christ to save us. We must have our hearts changed so that we hate sin and want to obey God. The Holy Spirit helps us so that we want to be saved.

The book of Acts tells a remarkable story about a jailer who received the effectual call of God. A **jailer** works in a prison, keeping the place secure and making sure that the prisoners do not escape. We do not know the name of this particular jailer. All that we know is that he was at work in the prison the night that Paul and Silas were arrested for preaching the gospel. The jailer was told to guard Paul and Silas carefully, and so he took them to a very secure cell and fastened their hands and feet in stocks to be sure that they would not escape. He knew that he would be severely punished if the prisoners escaped, and he did not want to take any chances!

Let's read what happened later that night:

**Acts 16:25-34** About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the

foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.



## Let's Think!

The jailer realized that he needed to be saved. What question did he ask Paul and Silas?

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Paul and Silas told the jailer what he should do to be saved. How do we know that he understood the gospel?

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The jailer was filled with joy that he had come to believe in God.  
How does this show that his will was renewed by the Holy Spirit?

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### Lesson 3

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Q. 31. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_,  
whereby, \_\_\_\_\_ us of our \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_, enlightening our \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_  
our \_\_\_\_\_, he doth persuade and \_\_\_\_\_  
us to embrace \_\_\_\_\_, freely offered to  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Word and Spirit

The Bible speaks of two ways in which God calls people. God calls people by his Word, and he calls people by his Spirit. When God calls people by his Word, we refer to it as an **outward call**. It is a call that comes from outside of oneself—through hearing or reading the Scripture. God’s Word is a call that goes out to everyone. Some people repent, but some refuse to listen.

When God calls people by his Spirit, we refer to it as an **inward call**. It is a call that comes from inside, as the Holy Spirit changes our hearts to understand the Word and to trust in Christ for salvation. The inward call goes out only to the elect, the ones that have been chosen by God for salvation. The inward call is our **effectual calling**—the call that never fails.

These two callings work together. The Word of God is preached (outward call) and the Holy Spirit helps the elect to understand and believe it (inward call).



**Fill in the blank or circle the correct answer.**

When God calls people by his Word, this is an \_\_\_\_\_ call.

Will some people refuse to listen to the Bible?    Yes    No

When God calls people by his Spirit, this is an \_\_\_\_\_ call.

Will some people refuse to be changed by the Holy Spirit?    Yes    No

The work of the Holy Spirit on our hearts that changes us so that we love God and understand our need for salvation in Christ is

called \_\_\_\_\_ because it never fails.



## Let's Think!

**Circle the correct answer.**

In the book of Exodus, Moses tells Pharaoh that God says, "Let my people go!" Pharaoh does not listen to Moses; he refuses to let the Israelites go.

Did Pharaoh receive an outward call?    Yes    No

Did Pharaoh receive an inward (effectual) call?    Yes    No

In the book of Acts, Philip explains the Scriptures to the Ethiopian eunuch. The eunuch understood and believed God's Word, and he asked to be baptized. He went on his way rejoicing.

Did the eunuch receive an outward call?    Yes    No

Did the eunuch receive an inward (effectual) call?    Yes    No

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Question 32: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

Answer: 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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## Lesson 1

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Question 32: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

Answer: 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.



**Q. 32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?**

A.

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## The Benefits of Effectual Calling

**What are benefits?** **Benefits** are good and helpful things.

**What does 'partake' mean?** **'Partake'** means to receive a portion of something.

Putting this all together, we see that the catechism question asks:  
**What good things do people who are effectually called receive in this life?**

Who are the **effectually called**? (If you do not remember, look back at page 11).

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The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* lists three benefits that the effectually called receive in this life. Can you list those three?

1.

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2.

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3.

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In addition to these, the catechism mentions that there are other benefits that accompany or flow from these. In other words, there are some other good things that go with justification, adoption, and sanctification.

If you love God and want to obey him, you have been effectually called. God has called you by both his Word and his Spirit. The Holy Spirit has worked in your heart so that you listen to and respond to the gospel. All of these benefits are yours!



## Let's Think!

Are you effectually called? \_\_\_\_\_

Since you are effectually called, do you receive good things (benefits) in your life?

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What good things (benefits) do you receive?

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In future lessons, we will discuss each of these wonderful benefits carefully. In the next lesson, we will talk about why God gives his children these things: God loves us!

## Lesson 2

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Q. 32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

A. They that are \_\_\_\_\_  
do in this \_\_\_\_\_ partake of \_\_\_\_\_,  
adoption, and \_\_\_\_\_, and the several  
\_\_\_\_\_ which in this life do either accompany or  
\_\_\_\_\_ from them.

### God Loves Us

In the last lesson, we learned that God gives **benefits** to his elect. Some of these benefits are justification, adoption, and sanctification.

Why does God give benefits to his elect? Are we perfect people who always do the right thing? Of course not! We are sinners. We cannot even change our own hearts to want to obey God. Only God's Spirit can change our wicked hearts to make us repent of our sins. Why would God want to help us?

The Bible tells us that there is only one reason that God helps us: God loves us! The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church at Ephesus telling them:

**Ephesians 2:1-5** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Paul declares that there was nothing special about them before they heard the Word of God. They were like everyone else—disobedient to the law of God, thinking only about themselves and what they wanted to do. He tells them that they were **dead** in their transgressions and sins. This is a way of saying that there was nothing they could do to help themselves. They deserved only God's wrath (anger) and judgment. Only God can save someone who is dead in sin. Only God can make a dead soul alive again so that it remembers that its purpose is to glorify God.

Read Ephesians 2:1-5 again. Paul tells the Ephesians why God helped them and made them alive in Christ. What is that reason?

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Like the Ephesians, we were all dead in our sins until God made us alive in Christ. Jesus paid for our sins when he died on the cross. Now we are forgiven, and our hearts are changed.

Let's read a passage from a psalm reminding us why God gives us such wonderful things. This beautiful psalm was written by King David. He was thinking about the benefits that he had received as one of God's elect—especially forgiveness for his sins.

**Psalm 103:1-12**

Praise the LORD, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
Praise the LORD, my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—  
who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,  
who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all the oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
his deeds to the people of Israel:  
The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;  
he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.



**Read Psalm 103:1-12 and answer the questions below.**

David praises God when he remembers \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

According to the psalm, should we think that God is angry about our sin all the time? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How far does God remove our transgressions (sins) from us?

\_\_\_\_\_

How does David describe God?

“The LORD is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,

slow to \_\_\_\_\_, abounding in \_\_\_\_\_.”



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Question 33: What is justification?

Answer: 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.

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## Lesson 1

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Question 33: What is justification?

Answer: 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.



**Q. 33. What is justification?**

A.

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## Justification

Question 33 of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* gives us the definition of the word **justification**. Let's examine each part of this definition.

**What does the catechism mean when it says that justification is a work of God's free grace?** It means that justification is something that God does freely because he wants to do it.

**What does the catechism mean when it says that God pardoneth all our sins?** It means that God forgives our sins.

**What does the catechism mean when it says that God accepteth us as righteous in his sight?** God has forgiven us, and so he accepts us as if we had never sinned at all.

**What does the catechism mean when it says that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us?** Jesus is the only one who is truly righteous, completely without sin. We are only accepted as righteous because his righteousness covers us. God counts Christ's righteousness as our righteousness, so that we are seen as righteous also.

Let's put this all together now:

**What does 'justification' mean?**

**'Justification'** means that God (merely because he wants to, not because he has to) **forgives** our sins and **accepts** us as if we had never sinned at all. God does this by counting the righteousness of Jesus as if it were our righteousness. We receive our justification only by faith in Christ.

**'Justification'** means that your sins are forgiven because Jesus died for you and paid for your sins.

In the last lesson, we read part of a letter that Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus. He told them that they had been dead in their trespasses and sins like everyone else. Just as a dead person cannot get better or help himself, so also a person who is lost in sin cannot get better or help himself. Only God can save someone from sin, and God saves us only because he loves us.

Paul went on to tell the Ephesians more about their justification. Let's read:

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Paul reminds them that they are saved only by God's grace (mercy). They are not saved by anything that they have done for themselves; it is completely a gift from God.



## Let's Think!

Sometimes people think that they help God save them when they are good in some way. Paul tells us that we are saved only by the grace of God and not because of anything that we have done (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Listed in this section are statements that you might hear from someone who believes that they are saved because they are good. Read each statement and explain why it is wrong. If you are not sure, read the suggested Bible verse next to each statement.

1. "God did not choose me. I chose God."

*(Read Ephesians 1:3-4)*

This is WRONG because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

2. "I was not dead in sin. I just made a few mistakes. Overall, I am a good person. That is why God saved me."

*(Read Ephesians 2:1-5)*

This is WRONG because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

3. "Yes, I have done some bad things, but I have done some good things, too. God sees all my good works, and so he forgives me for the bad things that I have done."

*(Read Ephesians 2:8-9)*

This is WRONG because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

4. "Well, maybe God did all the work to save me, but at least I am smart enough to make good decisions. All on my own, I realized that I needed to be saved and put my faith in Christ."

*(Read John 6:63-65)*

This is WRONG because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Remember:** Salvation is completely a work of God. God chooses the elect. He gives us the Word, and the Spirit illuminates our hearts to understand and believe it. He provides atonement for our sins through the death of Christ, and he counts the righteousness of Christ as our righteousness so that we are accepted as holy.

Salvation is a gift from God.

## Lesson 2

Q. 33. What is justification?

A. Justification is an act of God's \_\_\_\_\_, wherein he \_\_\_\_\_ all our sins, and accepteth us as \_\_\_\_\_ in his sight, only for the righteousness of \_\_\_\_\_ imputed to us, and received by \_\_\_\_\_ alone.

### Justified by Faith

In the book of Luke, we read that Jesus met some people who were very confident of their own righteousness. They thought that God would accept them because of all their good works. They looked down on everyone else.

Jesus told them a parable about how a person is truly **justified** (forgiven and accepted) by God:

**Luke 18:10-14** “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

In the days in which Jesus told this story, the Pharisees thought they were the most committed to serving God. They spent much time in prayer and fasting. Tax collectors were despised by the people. They worked for the hated Romans, collecting money for Caesar, and they often stole money while they were collecting.

In the story, the Pharisee trusted in his own works. When he prayed, he bragged to God about all the good things he had done and said that he was better than most people. The tax collector was humble before God. He understood that he was a sinner and that only God’s mercy could save him.



**Fill in the blank or circle the correct answer.**

In whom did the Pharisee have faith? \_\_\_\_\_

In whom did the tax collector have faith? \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these went home justified (forgiven and accepted by God)?

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The problem with the Pharisee was not that he was a worse sinner than the tax collector. Perhaps the Pharisee tried very hard to do good things. However, doing good things does not save someone.

We are justified by grace **through faith**. God forgives and accepts us because of his own kindness and mercy, not because of our good works. We receive this forgiveness through faith in God. We ask God to save us, and we believe his promise that the blood of Christ pays for our sins and that we are accepted by God. God always speaks the truth, and so we can trust him.



**Let's Think!**

Think of another Bible story in which someone demonstrated faith in God.

Which story did you remember?

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In this story, who demonstrated faith in God? How?

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How do you demonstrate faith in God?

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## Lesson 3

Q. 33. What is justification?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ is an act of God's \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, wherein he \_\_\_\_\_ all our  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ us as  
\_\_\_\_\_ in his sight, only for the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
imputed to us, and received by \_\_\_\_\_ alone.

### The Reformation

Martin Luther was a monk in the Roman Catholic Church in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The Catholic Church had become very corrupt. They taught that people were not saved by faith in Christ alone, but

by a combination of faith and works instead. The leaders of the Catholic Church liked to build huge cathedrals, and, in order to pay for these building projects, they began to sell indulgences.

Indulgences were pieces of paper that promised that someone would not be punished by God for his or her sins.

Martin Luther was outraged by the sale of indulgences. In 1517, he nailed 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Church. In his theses, he argued against the corruption of the church and especially the sale of indulgences. He said:

Therefore those preachers of indulgences are in error, who say that by the pope's indulgences a man is freed from every penalty, and saved.<sup>1</sup>

Martin Luther's bold condemnation of indulgences was the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. People who were tired of the errors of the Roman Catholic Church quickly joined Martin Luther's cause. Very soon, entire cities and nations began to break away and join forces against Catholicism. The newly Protestant (non-Catholic) people needed to establish a new church with biblical doctrine. Martin Luther wrote the Smalcald Articles to summarize the Bible's teaching. Below is an excerpt of the Smalcald Articles written by Martin Luther:

The first and chief article is this: Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification (Romans 3:24–25). He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), and God has laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6). All have sinned and are justified freely, without their own works and merits, by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in his blood (Romans 3:23–25). This is necessary to believe. This cannot be otherwise acquired or grasped by any work, law, or merit. Therefore, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us... Nothing of this article can be yielded or surrendered, even though heaven and earth and everything else falls (Mark 13:31).<sup>2</sup>



## Let's Think!

Martin Luther disagreed with the Roman Catholic doctrine on justification. The Catholic Church taught that we are justified by

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

Martin Luther proclaimed that the Bible teaches that we are

justified by \_\_\_\_\_ and not by works.

Did Martin Luther think that this difference between grace and works was important? How do you know?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why is it important to recognize that we are justified by grace through faith alone?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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Question 34: What is adoption?

Answer: 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.

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## Lesson 1

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Question 34: What is adoption?

Answer: 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.



**Q. 34. What is adoption?**

A.

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## Adoption

Do you know what it means to be **adopted**? Children are adopted when they receive a new father or mother. Here is a story that is based on true events that occurred in 2005 in Kampala, Uganda. Read the story, and then think about what it means to be adopted.

Early one morning, a pastor walked from his home to the church. It was Sunday, and he wanted to arrive early to unlock the door of the church for all the people who would arrive soon for morning worship. Just as he put his key into the lock, he noticed a basket sitting on the steps. The pastor looked into the basket. Two tiny babies lay inside, wrapped in a blanket. One of the babies was asleep, but the other looked up at him and whimpered.

Church and government officials searched for the mother and father of the babies, but they never found them. The babies had been simply abandoned there on the church steps. Finally, the babies were taken to a Christian orphanage. Everyone was still hoping that maybe the mother would come back, but she never did.

Eventually, the babies were issued birth certificates. Since no one knew their names, they were called 'Abandoned Girl' and 'Abandoned Boy.'

The people on staff at the orphanage were kind to the babies. The babies had food and clothes and toys. However, they still did not have a mother or father. Sometimes one staff member or another would take care of them for a while, but then they would get another job and leave, and that made the babies sad.

One day, a man and woman came to the orphanage looking for a baby to adopt. When they saw Abandoned Girl and Abandoned Boy, they knew right away that these babies were meant to be their very own. The man and woman could not take the babies home right away. First, they had to fill out a lot of papers and pay a lot of money, and then they had to go to court

and tell the judge that they wanted to adopt the two babies. The judge agreed, and finally the little babies were allowed to go home with their new parents.

Nobody called the babies 'Abandoned Girl' and 'Abandoned Boy' anymore. They received new birth certificates that said that they were Lisa Ann Wilson and Benjamin Daniel Wilson, the daughter and son of Ted and Margaret Wilson. Looking at their new birth certificates, no one would even know that they had ever been orphans at all.

The Bible tells us that we who have been forgiven of our sins have also been adopted by God. We are received into **the number of God's family**, and we have all the **privileges** of sons of God. This is amazing!

Let's read a Bible verse which tells us that we are children of God:

**I John 3:1** See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.



**Let's Think!**

Have you been adopted by God?

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Think about the beginning of the Lord's Prayer. What is the first petition? (If you are not sure, read Matthew 6:9).

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How does this prayer show that we are children of God?

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## Lesson 2

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Q. 34. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's \_\_\_\_\_, whereby we are \_\_\_\_\_ into the number, and have a right to all the \_\_\_\_\_, of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

### Privileges of the Sons of God

As children of God, we are granted certain **privileges**. This means that God cares for us in a special way. Your mom and dad care for you in a special way also. They do certain things for you that they would not normally do for someone else's child. You have privileges as part of the family. Can you think of something that your parents do for you because you are their child?

**Draw a picture of something your parents do for you because you are their child:**

Let's think about the special ways in which God cares for us because we are his children.



**Read each of the Bible verses below and write which privilege it is describing.**

**Revelation 3:12** The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

As children of God, we have \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 8:17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings - in order that we may also share in his glory.

As children of God, we are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Hebrews 12:7-11** Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Because we are his children, God \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 7:9-11**      “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

As children of God, we have \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.



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Question 35: What is sanctification?

Answer: 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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## Lesson 1

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Question 35: What is sanctification?

Answer: 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.



**Q. 35. What is sanctification?**

A.

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## Sanctification

**What does the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* mean when it says that we are renewed in the whole man?** It means that we are made new — not partly, but completely.

**How are we renewed?** We are made new in the image of God.

**Sanctification** is a process that goes on for our whole lives. Every day, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts, renewing us into God’s image. Gradually, we learn to sin less and to obey God more. This is not easy. In fact, no one can do it at all unless the Holy Spirit changes their heart. However, nothing is impossible for God, and every day, he turns our hearts to love him more and to want to obey him.

**Justification** and **sanctification** are different concepts. Justification occurs only once when God forgives our sin because of Christ’s atonement. Sanctification happens every day as the Holy Spirit renews our hearts. In justification, sin is forgiven, and in sanctification, sin is restrained and overcome. However, both of these are works of God. Christ died on the cross for our justification, and the Holy Spirit works sanctification in us.



## Let's Think!

Read each Bible verse below and indicate whether it is referring to justification (J) or sanctification (S).

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:26)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:1,2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. (Psalm 32:1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33)

## Lesson 2

Q. 35. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_  
grace, whereby we are \_\_\_\_\_ in the whole  
man after the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and are  
enabled more and more to \_\_\_\_\_ unto sin, and live  
unto \_\_\_\_\_.

### Renewed

The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* tells us that we are **renewed**, and that this means that we are made able more and more to die unto sin and to live unto righteousness. This picture of dying and living describes the process of sanctification in the way that the Apostle Paul described it.

**Romans 6:6-13** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

In this passage in Romans, Paul explains that we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. Jesus was crucified on the cross and paid the price for our sin, and so it is like our sinful selves were crucified and died. After he died, Jesus rose from the dead, and so we also rise again to a new life.

Paul tells us to remember that we are dead to sin and so we should not let sin rule over us. Now we are alive to God in Christ Jesus, and so we should give ourselves to God and obey his Word.

**Remember:** The process of sanctification means that we are

made able more and more to \_\_\_\_\_ unto sin and

\_\_\_\_\_ unto righteousness.



## Let's Think!

The gospel of Luke tells a story about a man who was known for being a terrible sinner until the day that he met Jesus. Read the story and explain how Zacchaeus demonstrated sanctification.

**Luke 19:1-10** Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Zacchaeus demonstrated sanctification when he \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

How do you demonstrate sanctification in your life?

I demonstrate sanctification when I \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

### Lesson 3

Q. 35. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, whereby we are \_\_\_\_\_  
in the whole \_\_\_\_\_ after the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_, and are \_\_\_\_\_ more and more  
to \_\_\_\_\_ unto sin, and live unto \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Faith and Works

Although **justification** and **sanctification** are not exactly the same, they are closely linked together. We are forgiven and accepted by God (justified) and then we learn to obey God (sanctified).

In the days in which the Apostle Paul lived, there were some people who claimed that they could do anything they wanted to do because God had forgiven them. These people claimed that more sin was better because God would show more grace and mercy.

Paul responded to this doctrinal error in the book of Romans. Let's read what he said.

**Romans 6:1,2** What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Paul states that anyone who is united to Christ has died to sin and therefore would not go on carelessly living a sinful life. Of course, Christians still do sin, but they repent of sin and try to obey God.

Remember that justification and sanctification are always joined together. Anyone who has been justified (forgiven and accepted) will then be sanctified (made holy) over time. Sanctification is never perfect in this life; we will only be perfect when we get to heaven. Even so, we will certainly see changes in the life of anyone who has been forgiven and accepted by God. Anyone who loves God will want to obey God and will be sorry for their sin.

Jesus explained this by comparing people to fruit trees and to houses:

**Luke 6:43-49** "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts



them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”



## Let's Think!

Jesus said, “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.” What does this mean?

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A person who hears the words of Jesus and obeys is like what?

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Jesus said that a person who hears his words and does not put them into practice is like a house built on sand. What happened to the house when the storm arrived?

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Many people today still say that they believe in Jesus, but they do not obey God's Word. Suppose someone said to you, "I do not have to stop sinning. Before I die, I will just pray and God will forgive all my sin and I will go to heaven."

How would you answer this person?

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