



Road Map

Along The Way

Circle all of the correct responses:

1. Martin Luther is famous for
 - a) nailing the 95 Theses on the door of a church.
 - b) leading the 1960's civil rights movement.
 - c) inventing the lighted Christmas tree.
 - d) starting his own Church.
2. "Catechism" is
 - a) a style of instruction based on question and answer.
 - b) from a Greek word which means "to repeat or echo."
 - c) a drag.
 - d) what Luther wrote in Small and Large versions so that Christians might have a tool to help them learn the basics of the faith.
3. Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism
 - a) almost five centuries ago.
 - b) in order to torment young teenagers.
 - c) for parents to use at home to help teach the basics of the faith to their children.
 - d) inspired, in part, by his then three year-old son, Hans, who was always asking, "What's that?"
4. Luther's Small Catechism
 - a) must be memorized word for word or it won't do you any good.
 - b) is divided into six main parts: 10 Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Holy Communion.
 - c) is based on important passages of the Bible.
 - d) helps young Christians formulate their confession of faith.

Catechism Unit 1, Lesson 1

"What's This Mean?"

Introduction to the Small Catechism

 Your Name

Fuel

"Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

– 2 Timothy 3:14-15

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About That Road Trip Video:
Who did Martin Luther compare to farm animals?

Get Your Bearings

Do and discuss the following in your group:

1. Name one new thing you learned this week. Where did you learn it? From a teacher? Friend? Parent? Television? Church?
2. The best way for me to learn about a new subject is to
 - read about it.
 - write about it.
 - watch a video about it.
 - listen to someone talk about it.
 - join a discussion about it.
 - other _____.
 - some combination of the above.

Keep On Going

3. What kind of things have you seen friends or others learn “the hard way”? For instance, do you know someone who got in a lot of trouble? Do you think that person learned a lesson?
4. The toughest lesson I’ve learned over the last 12 months is...

Next Stop

Looking ahead to next time, read and discuss the following:

Proverbs 9:10. What is meant by the word “fear” as it is used here? How does fearing God lead to wisdom? In comparison, take a look at Proverbs 1:7 to see what it has to say about “fools.”

Road Side

From Luther’s 1529 preface to the Small Catechism (**Road Trip** Version):

“Regular people don’t know anything about the Christian faith. Unfortunately, many pastors aren’t skilled or able teachers. The people don’t know the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed, or the Ten Commandments! So they live like simple cows and senseless pigs.”

Bring It Home

Take this sheet home and do the following with your family members:

1. Since this lesson kicks off your study of the Small Catechism, sit down together and talk about the coming year. Agree on the day and time during the week when parent(s) and student(s) will come together to review these Road Maps and do the “Bring It Home” section.
2. Parent(s): share what you remember about your church experience (if any) when you were growing up. What did you think about church? How often did you go? What do you remember about your pastor from that time? Or what did you think about pastors in general? Did you do Confirmation? If so, what do you remember about it? Can you still recite a Bible verse or something from the Small Catechism that you may have memorized from that time?
3. A proverb (like the one at left) is a wise saying. Parent(s): share and explain any wise sayings that you may have learned from your parents or grandparents. (Examples: “A stitch in time saves nine.” “God helps those who help themselves.”)

Legend (answer key): (1) a; (2) a, b, d; (3) a, c, d; (4) b, c, d.