

WEEK 1 – THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Vocabulary

Please study the following words and definitions until you know them well enough to explain them on your own.

1. *doctrine*: the church's teachings, based on the Bible, about God and our salvation.
2. *confessions*: organized, carefully written statements of doctrine approved by the church.
3. *Belgic Confession*: the oldest confession of the Reformed church (1561); consists of 37 articles or statements of Reformed doctrine.
4. *Heidelberg Catechism*: a popular confession of the church, used primarily to teach doctrine. This sixteenth-century confession includes 129 questions and answers about the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer.
5. *attributes of God*: God's characteristics or qualities, such as goodness and greatness. God's attributes help us understand, praise, and imitate God.
6. *goodness of God*: an attribute of God; means that God satisfies the needs of all his creatures.
7. *greatness of God*: an attribute of God; means that God is awesome. God's greatness is the muscle behind his goodness.
8. *triune*: being at once a triple and a unit. To say that God is triune is to say that God is three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) but only one God. That is, God is a *Trinity*.

Questions

Day 1: Write three things that you don't know about God, things that make God "mysterious."

Day 2: Read Psalm 145. Then write down at least half a dozen specific examples the psalm gives of God's goodness.

Day 3: Give an example from Psalm 147 of two quite different ways in which God displays greatness.

Day 4: How is the Trinity like a family? Like a church?

Summary Talk with your *mom* or dad about a time when they---or your entire family--felt God's goodness or greatness in a special way. Write a brief version of his or her answer.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 2 – GOD ACTS IN CREATION

Vocabulary

Please study the following words and definitions until you know them well enough to explain them on your own.

9. *Our world belongs to god*: a “contemporary testimony that the Christian Reformed Church has approved for use in its congregations. This testimony is intended to help us serve the Lord in the world around us. It addresses such concerns as abortion, nuclear war, ecology, and so on.

10. *Sovereignty of God*: the attribute of God which means that God is supreme and in control.

11. *creation*: the sovereign act of God by which he brought into being the whole universe from nothing. Creation shows God’s sovereignty, goodness, and greatness, as well as God’s image in us.

12. *image of God*: the likeness of God in human beings. We see the image of God in us by our ruling over creation, by our fellowship with each other, and by any right actions we do. The image of God means being like Christ.

Questions

Day 1: How is God’s sovereignty shown in creation?

Day 2: How many times is the word good mentioned in Genesis 1? What does this tell us about God?

Day 3: Suppose you had to convince someone who doubted God’s greatness that God was truly awesome and wonderful. Where might you take that person? What could you show him or her? Explain.

Day 4: Describe three ways in which you “image” or resemble God?

Summary

Find a few verses from a Psalm that describe God’s greatness in creation. Ask someone in your family for help, if you wish. Write down the location of verses you found and be ready to tell the class how these verses show God’s greatness in creation.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 3 – GOD ACTS IN PROVIDENCE

Vocabulary

Please study the following words and definitions until you know them well enough to explain them on your own.

13. *providence*: the care god shows for his creation. God preserves the world, rescues his people, works for good, and controls history. Providence lest us trust and thank God

Questions

Day 1: Mention six things that we tend to take for granted in our day to day lives actually come from God and are signs of his providence. Why does God provide these things for us?

Day 2: Why can't the world preserve itself? (2 reasons)

Day 3: *What* reasons can we give for all the terrible suffering and evil in our world--why does it happen? What promise can you find in today's Scripture and confession?

Day 4: What would you say to someone who is worried about the possibility of being a victim of school violence? Write a short paragraph on this.

Summary

Almost every family has a "rescue story" in its history – a time when God saved them from trouble or provided for them in a special way. Talk to your family about this. Briefly describe (in writing) what happened. Be ready to share your story with the class.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 4 – GOD SPEAKS IN CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Vocabulary

14. *God's speaking*: God's communication to us. God speaks in his world, in his word (including the Bible), and by his Son. God's speaking tells us that God is a personal, caring, and saving God. When God speaks, we ought to respond.

15. *God's word*: what God says in his speaking. Some of what God says is written down in the Bible. That is why the Bible is sometimes called God's Word. Everything important about God is "lived out" by his Son, Jesus Christ. That is why he is sometimes called the Word of God.

Questions

Day 1: Where does God speak (2 places)? Why does he speak? What does God's speaking tell us about him?

Day 2: Supply your own examples of how God speaks his power, his reliability, his providential care, his creative variety, his attention to the smallest detail, his sense of humor.

Day 3: In what forms do we hear God's word? Why does God need to speak to us with words? What can words tell us that creation (the world) can't?

Day 4: How can Jesus, a person, be the Word?

Summary

How should we respond to God's speaking in his world? How should we respond to God's speaking in his word?

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 5 – GOD SPEAKS IN THE SCRIPTURE

Vocabulary

This week's words are very important in helping us understand the Bible. Please study them extra carefully. If your teacher is giving a unit test after unit 1, also begin reviewing the vocabulary and questions of each week.

16. Bible: the book that contains the writings, or Scriptures, that Christians recognize as the written Word of God.

17. inspiration of Scripture; the process by which God "breathed" into the biblical writers what he wanted them to write. God moved, influenced, inspired them by the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit now inspires us to receive and believe the Bible.

18. authority of Scripture: The power of the Bible to influence our believing and acting. Because the Bible is our authority, it can even give commands that we must obey. The Bible is authoritative because God is its author and because only in the Bible do we find Jesus Christ, our rescuer.

19. infallibility of Scripture; the quality of the Bible that means it will not fail. By the Bible's unfailingness or infallibility we mean it does not deceive us, make mistakes in presenting God's word, or fail to reach its goal of helping people get saved and then lead thankful lives. '

Questions

Day 1: Review the definition of *inspiration* above. What word in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 means "inspired"? What words in Article 3 of the Belgic Confession describe what we mean when we say the Bible is "inspired"?

Day 2: Review the definition of the authority of Scripture. Why do Christians study the Bible and take it so seriously? How should we respond to the authority of the Bible?

Day 3: Review the definition of the infallibility of Scripture. In what three ways is the Bible infallible? What good does it do you to know this?

Day 4: Mention three improper uses of the Bible and five proper uses of the Bible.

Summary Write a paragraph in which you describe the place of the Bible in your life. (How important is it to you? How often do you read it or hear it read? How is it helpful to you?)

Parent Signature: _____

Unit 1 Test

God

Part One: Matching

Match each word to its definition. (3 points each)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|--|
| A. attributes of God | ___ | 1. the quality of the Bible that means it will not fail or deceive us or make mistakes in presenting God's word. |
| B. authority of Scripture | ___ | 2. the written Word of God. |
| C. Bible | ___ | 3. being at once a triple and a unit, three and one; God in three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) |
| D. creation | ___ | 4. the name given to all of God's characteristics or qualities |
| E. doctrine | ___ | 5. the sovereign act of God that shows his goodness, greatness, and his own image in us |
| F. goodness of God | ___ | 6. the likeness of God in human beings |
| G. greatness of God | ___ | 7. the care God shows for his creation |
| H. Heidelberg Catechism | ___ | 8. the teachings of the church about God and our salvation |
| I. image of God | ___ | 9. the attribute of God which means that he is awesome |
| J. infallibility of Scripture | ___ | 10. a popular, sixteenth-century confession, used primarily to teach doctrine, has 129 questions and answers |
| K. inspiration of Scripture | ___ | 11. The attribute of God which means that he is supreme and in control |
| L. providence | ___ | 12. the power of the Bible to influence our believing and acting because God is its author |
| M. sovereignty of God | ___ | 13. the process by which God "breathed" into the biblical writers what he wanted them to write. |
| N. triune | ___ | 14. the attribute of God which means that he satisfies the needs of all. |

Part Two: Questions (Please write out answers in the space provided)

1. The Attributes of God
 - a. Give two good reasons why we bother to talk about and learn about the attributes of God. (4 points)
To understand, praise, imitate God
 - b. Mention one place in the Bible where all three persons of the Trinity appear. (2 points)
The baptism of Jesus, the Great Commission
 - c. Mention two things to which we may compare the Trinity to help us understand it. (4 points)
A human family, the church
2. God Acts in Creation
 - a. What's the first act of God we know about? (2 points)
creation
 - b. Which of these psalms best shows God's greatness in creation: Palm 1, Psalm 8, Psalm 23? (2 points)
Psalm 8
 - c. How is God's sovereignty shown in his creating the world? (2 points)
By the wonderful things God made and by the way he made them – out of nothing
He spoke, and the world came into being.
 - d. Describe two ways in which we humans "image" God. (4 points)
in ruling over creation, by our fellowship with each other, and by any right actions we do

Parent Signature: _____

Name _____

3. God Acts in Providence

- a. Write a thoughtful paragraph on what good it does you to know that God acts in providence. First tell what it means that “God acts in providence”; then explain how knowing this can help you live in our troubled world. (10 points)

Providence is the care God shows for his creation in preserving our world, in rescuing his people, in working for good, in controlling his people – key words – trust, security, comfort, hope, praise

4. God Speaks in Creation and Providence

- a. List two reasons why God speaks to us in his Word rather than only in his world. (4 points)
Sin has blinded and deafened us to God; things in nature are no longer perfectly good

- b. Think of two things in God’s world that tell you something about him. What do they tell you. (4 points)

Power in the storm, faithfulness in sunrise/sunset/rain, order in design, care in feeding the animals

- c. Why is Jesus called the “Word”? (2 points)

Jesus is the word because he stands for everything that God wants to tell us about himself. God speaks through the person of Jesus

5. God Speaks in Scriptures

- a. Suppose someone said to you that the Bible is really just another book written by human authors – a very good and wise book, but no better, really, than the “bible” of any other religion. Write a response to this comment, bringing what you learned about the Bible in our last lesson, especially the three key words we used to describe the Bible. Include the location of at least one key Bible passage. (10 points)
Inspiration, Infallibility, Authority

Part Three: Your Response (Please answer below)

List four specific things that you could say or do or be in response to what you’ve learned during the past five weeks. (8 points)

Praise, taking care of God’s world, reading the bible, etc...

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 6 – THE HUMAN TRAGEDY

Vocabulary

20. *evil*: the combination of sin and misery that we see in the world around us. Evil originated in the angel world but comes to us through the fall of Adam and Eve.

21. the fall: the even in which our first parents disobeyed God and thus brought evil into the world.

22. *tragedy of the fall*: the fact that the fall happens not to unimportant creatures (whose fall wouldn't matter so much) but to people made in God's image. The fall is also tragic because it includes trickery, foolishness, pride, and disastrous results.

23. *shame*: a sense of humiliation after sin. People who are ashamed feel as if they'd like to crawl under something or have some covering hide them from view. The fall brings shame into the human race.

Questions

Day 1: Mention two false explanations of “what is wrong with us.” What chapter in the Bible gives us the right explanation?

Day 2: Explain how Satan deceived Adam and Eve by dressing up evil as good. Give two examples of how TV programs sometimes present evil as good.

Day 3: What did our first parents pretend to be? Why? Name one way we pretend to be more than what we actually are.

Day 4: Which of the Bible verses for this reading show innocence? Shame? God's grace?

Summary

What evidences of sin and misery do you see in your own world: your school, community, home? Mention a couple of specific things you've observed in others or in yourself.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 7 – ORIGINAL SIN

Vocabulary

24. *original sin*: the corruption and guilt that the human race has inherited from Adam and Eve. The doctrine of original sin tells us that sin is universal, that it keeps reproducing, and that it is extremely hard to get rid of.

25. *corruption*: the seeping or flooding power of sin. Sin seeps into every part of human life, staining and spoiling thoughts, words, deeds, feelings, and inclinations.

26. *common grace*: God's way of partly stopping corruption so that human life can continue. Common grace explains why unbelievers often show good behavior - better than that of some Christians.

27. *guilt*: what we have when we break God's law and deserve the law's penalty. Guilt includes not only what we have when we do wrong; it also includes what we have when we fail to do right. When we fail to do right, guilt is called debt.

Note: Please review the vocabulary section of week 6.

Questions

Day 1: How are our sins like "original copies"? What does the doctrine of original sin tell us about sin?

Day 2: In what two ways do we human beings sin? What is corruption, what keeps it under control?

Day 3: *What are the two* parts of original sin? What's the difference between being guilty and feeling guilty?

Day 4: Give an example of how one sin can lead to another and another and another, and so on.

Summary

Talk with your family about Bible passages that assure us that our sins are forgiven and that God loves us. List the location of at least one such passage below.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 8 – MISERY

Vocabulary

28. *misery*: the pain and suffering that come from sin; the fallout that comes from the fall. Among the fallen world's miseries are disorder, estrangement and death.

29. *disorder*: the loss of harmony and right relation in the universe. Disorder shows up in relations between God and humanity, between some humans and others, between humanity and nature, and even within individual human beings.

30. *estrangement*: a disorder in which persons or things that ought to be friends become strangers instead. For example, when people are estranged from God, they see God not as a loving father but as an embarrassment or even an enemy.

31. *spiritual death*: the estrangement from God that people experience when they try to live without him. Hell is the ultimate spiritual death.

Questions

Day 1: Pick out one sentence which you think best says what the reading for day 1 is trying to prove. Write the sentence out.

Day 2: Name four kinds of disorder that sin brings into our world. How can order be restored in our lives?

Day 3: From whom and from what does sin estrange us? How can estrangement be overcome?

Day 4: How do physical death and spiritual death differ? How do death, estrangement, and disorder all fit together? How has God provided a way to escape death?

Summary

"God whispers to us in our pleasure, but shouts to Us in our pain." Talk with your family about what this means; then write a brief explanation below. Give an example if you can.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 9 – COVENANT OF GRACE

Vocabulary

32. *covenant*: a solemn agreement or pact. In a covenant there are always promises on one side and often obligations on the other. Covenants are usually signed and sealed, sometimes by specific actions.

33. *grace*: lovingkindness to a person in misery, especially when a person is miserable because of his or her own sin. Grace is then undeserved favor or kindness.

34. *covenant promises*: God's promises in the covenant of grace that he will love his people, protect them, and help them. God also promises to bless the whole world through his people.

35. *covenant obligations*: the duties God's people owe to God. These are especially obedience (because God is Parent and King), trust (because God is Savior), and thanks (because God shows grace).

36. *circumcision*: the Old Testament sign and seal of the covenant of grace.

Questions

Day 1: How is the adoption of Alice a covenant of grace? Where's the grace in this? Where's the covenant?

Day 2: Why does God make covenants with the people he loves?

Day 3: List four things God promises in the covenant of grace. Also mention one promise of God that is especially meaningful to you.

Day 4: What are the two parts of the covenant of grace? What are our obligations to God?

Summary

Read Genesis 17:1-11. Identify the covenant partners, the covenant promises, the covenant obligations, and the covenant sign. Then tell when this covenant of grace was renewed and when it was fulfilled (see the reading for day 2). Finally, tell to whom the covenant promises of God are now given (see Gal. 3:6-9) and what the sign of the covenant is today.

Parent Signature: _____

Unit II Test

Humanity

Part One

Fill in the blanks below (1 point each, unless otherwise indicated, all answer can be found in the weekly readings.)

Human tragedy began when Adam and Eve _____ God, as recorded in Genesis _____. Their fall brought _____, a combination of _____ and _____, into our world. The tendency to do wrong is like a hereditary _____ that is passed down the generations. Even today Satan _____ us by dressing up evil as _____. He also gives us a foolish _____ which makes us pretend to be as great as _____. But just as God came to Adam and Eve after they sinned and offered them graceful _____, so He comes to us in our humiliation, or _____, and offers us His amazing _____.

The two parts of original sin are _____ and _____. Original sin is the sin that we've _____ (2 pts). The seeping or flooding power of sin that enables it to creep into every part of life is known as _____. God holds evil in check in our world by his _____. When we break God's law and deserve its penalty, we are filled with _____.

A covenant is a _____ (2pts.). Grace is _____ (2 pts.). In the story about the "faceless" baby girl adopted by a nurse, the covenant of grace is compared to _____ (2 pts.) God made the main covenant of grace between himself and _____ and his _____, as recorded in Genesis _____. One of God's promises then was that _____ (2pts.)

One of the obligations of God's people was to _____ (2 pts.) That main covenant of grace was renewed with _____ and fulfilled by _____. Today God extends His covenant promises to _____ (2 pts.).

Two of the things God promises his people today are _____

_____ (4 pts.).

In return we are obligated to _____, _____, and _____ God. In the Old Testament the sign of the covenant was _____; today, the sign is _____.

(disease, 3, 17,evil, baptism, good, God, grace, corruption, undeserved favor or kindness, corruption, guilt, solemn pact or agreement, deceives, the paperwork of adoption, pride, Abraham, descendants, guilt, great nations would come from Abraham, misery, obey God, Moses, Christ, all believers, shame, forgiveness of sins, sin, his constant presence, obey, clothing, trust, disobeyed, thank, inherited from Adam and Eve, common grace, circumcision.)

Parent Signature: _____

Part Two

Longer Answers (10 points each)

1. The Human Tragedy

Look up Genesis 2:25, 3:7, and 3:21. How do these verses give us a little picture of what happened to the human race? Which verse gives us reason to feel comforted by and grateful to God? Explain.

2. Original Sin

If something is original, then it's not a copy. And if something is a copy, then it's not original. So how can our own sins be "original copies" of Adam and Eve's sin? Also, tell where to find one Bible passage which says that all our sins – original and actual – are forgiven if we repent.

3. Covenant of Grace

In your own words explain (1) how God's covenant promises come to you (how you're in the covenant), (2) why God establishes a covenant with us, and (3) how knowing about that covenant makes you feel.

4. Evaluation

Think of the last four weeks of readings from your textbook and the last four class sessions. What do you think you will remember the best? Or, if you prefer, what reading or story or classroom experience has meant the most to you and why?

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 10 – INCARNATION

Vocabulary

37. *messiah*: the Hebrew word for "the anointed one." In the Old Testament this person was an expected warrior king, suffering servant, or even God himself. He would bring reconciliation, peace, and prosperity. The Greek word for Messiah means "the Christ."

38. *messianic age*: in the Old Testament, the age to come, when God would make things right by means of his anointed one, or even by his own appearance.

39. *Immanuel*: Hebrew word that means "God with us."

40. *incarnation*: the Christmas event in which the eternal Son of God took on human flesh.

Questions

Day 1: Mention half a dozen different ways that people have answered the question "Who is Jesus?" Why don't people all believe the same things about Jesus?

Day 2: Name several Old Testament passages that (a) show that the coming Messiah would be human; (b) show that the coming Messiah would be divine (God).

Day 3: What kind of Messiah were the Jews of Jesus' day expecting? What did Jesus do that revealed that he was Immanuel ("God with us")?

Day 4: What three reasons does the author give for Jesus' becoming a human being?

Summary

Ask one person in your family to answer this question: Who is Jesus? Write down his or her answer.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 11 – ATONEMENT

Vocabulary

41. *atonement*: the process by which Jesus Christ puts right what sin puts wrong. Christ's suffering and death are an atonement, a making amends, for sin.

42. *sacrifice*: the act of giving up something of value to get something of even greater value. Jesus sacrificed his life in order to win ours.

43. *satisfaction*: giving someone what he has coming, so as to "fill up an empty place" in him. Through his death Christ satisfies God's justice by obeying God perfectly, as we cannot, and by suffering the penalty for our disobedience.

44. *redemption*: to rescue someone by paying a ransom. Just as God redeemed Israel from the land of Egypt, so Jesus Christ redeems us from the slavery of sin and death by paying the ransom price of his lifeblood.

45. *reconciliation*: restoring peace and harmony to estranged parties. Jesus Christ brings peace and reconciliation by acting as arbitrator, or mediator, between God and humanity.

Questions

Day 1: In what way was Jesus' death on the cross a sacrifice?

Day 2: What does God's justice demand? What does God's mercy provide?

Day 3: Why does almost this entire reading talk about slavery? What's the point?

Day 4: How are we like Job? What does it mean to be reconciled to God?

Summary

Do *one* of the following:

- a. Did any one or any part of this week's readings (including the Scripture passages and confessional statements) say something special to you or capture your attention in some way? If so, be ready to share your choice and the reasons for it with the class,
- b. Write a brief statement of personal reaction to God's incredible way of paying for our sins (the atonement). If you prefer, find a Bible passage that expresses the way you feel.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 12 – JUSTIFICATION

Vocabulary

46. *justification*: God's acceptance of unacceptable people. Justification includes the forgiving of our sins and the adding to us of Jesus' righteousness.

47. *forgiveness of sins*: the subtracting, or putting away, of sins so that they are no longer held against us. When God forgives our sins, we can be at peace with him.

48. *alien righteousness*: the holiness of another. We do not have our own holiness, so the holiness of another (an alien) must be given to us to make us acceptable to God. Jesus is the alien.

49. *acceptance*: the receiving and welcoming of another. Acceptance is the heart of justification. Accepted people often, then, begin to act acceptably.

Questions

This week would you please make up one good question and answer for each reading? Try to ask questions that bring out the main ideas in the readings (no true/false, yes/no questions, please). You may ask questions about the Bible passages and confessional statements as well as the readings, if you wish. Write out all your questions and answers and be sure to bring them to class next week.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 13 – FAITH

Homework

Vocabulary

50. *union with Christ*: the bonding or attaching of persons to Christ. All of us are united to Christ by being members of his church, but the union is finally secure only when we are personally grafted to Christ by true faith.

51. *faith*: the bond to Christ from our side. Faith includes belief in the promises of God and trust in Jesus Christ. Faith *receives* justification.

52. *election*: God's choice of us for the gift of saving faith.

Questions

Day 1: Did the grafting idea help you understand your relationship to Christ? Why or why not?

Day 2: What's the most important thing Christians hope for? What's meant by the last line in the reading?

Day 3: What are the two parts of faith and how are they different?

Day 4: Explain Jesus' words: "You did not choose me, but I chose you."

Summary

Talk with a parent about how the Holy Spirit has worked and is working your life to help you receive God's gifts through faith.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 14 – REPENTANCE

Vocabulary

53. *repentance*: the complete turning around of our lives. Repentance is like dying and then being born again. Repentance is sometimes called conversion .

54. *dying away*: the killing of the old self. Our old self is the person we are by sin, original and actual. Dying-away includes fighting sin and fleeing from it.

55. *coming-to-life*: the arising of the new self. The new self is the person we are by justification, faith, and repentance. The new self is Christlike and full of joy.

Questions

Day 1: Mention three things that repenting is like.

Day 2: How is repenting different from just saying "sorry" to God? Why is repenting difficult and unpleasant?

Day 3: Give an example of (a) a sin young people could probably fight against, (b) a sin young people should flee from.

Day 4: How is the gospel like a fantasy come true? How is it unlike a fantasy?

Summary

Discuss this question with your parents: Should people be able to point to a specific hour in their lives in which they repented (were converted)? Why or why not? Jot down a brief answer.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 15 – SANCTIFICATION

Vocabulary

56. *sanctification*: the lifelong conversion by which Christians become gradually holier - that is, more like Jesus Christ. Sanctification is the solution to the problem of pollution. We want to live the life of holiness because of our desire for God, our gratitude to him, and our faith in him.

57. *glory of God*: the light of God and God's weighty reputation. Christians glorify God by reflecting his energy back to him in good deeds. These actually increase God's reputation among humans. To glorify God is the goal of the Christian life.

Questions

Day 1: In your own words, what does *sanctification* mean? Who does it? How does it differ from *justification*?

Day 2: Why should we want to live a life of holiness? (What three things drive us forward in sanctification?)

Day 3: How is sanctification like athletic training? And what's the connection between sanctification and conversion?

Day 4: How are we - as Christians being sanctified - like reflectors?

Summary

Ask any three adult Christians what the goal of the Christian life is. Write down their answers.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 16 – THE LAW OF GOD

Vocabulary

58. *law of God*: the statement of what God wants from us. The law of God is a training guide for the new life of liberty.

59. *justice*: what persons have coming. The first table of the law tells us what God has coming from us. The second table tells us what other humans have coming.

60. *need-love*: a powerful yearning for others. Need-love wants others to adorn us with something they have. Need-love is created by God and comes naturally to us.

61. *gift-love*: the power of caring for others. Gift-love wants to adorn others with something we have. Gift-love is created by God but has to be learned by us.

62. *freedom*: the removal of things that drag us down and the opening up to joyful life in God. According to the Bible, we are never so free as when we are slaves of God.

Questions

Day 1: How is the law of God like a set of instructions for all of us new drivers who find ourselves in possession of a new life of liberty?

Day 2: What things does God justly expect from us (first table of the law)? What things should others justly expect from us (second table of the law)?

Day 3: Describe one way in which you could show more than justice to another person.

Day 4: Explain: "We are never so free as when we are obeying God."

Summary

Ask your mother or father to name one rule they want you to observe and to explain why they have made that rule.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 17 – PRAYER

Vocabulary

63. *prayer*: any attempt to address God. Our prayers include thanksgiving, confession, intercessions, and petitions.

64. *thanksgiving*: a kind of prayer that flows out of gratitude. We are thankful for many things, but especially for the mighty work of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

65. *confession*: a kind of prayer in which we own up to who we are, what we have done, and what we have failed to do. In confession we also admit our dependence and our weaknesses.

66. *intercession*: a kind of prayer in which we play the role of a priest by pleading the case of someone else. Our intercessions are helpful not only to others but also to us who pray them.

67. *petition*: a kind of prayer in which we make a solemn request of God. Petitions may be for others (intercessions), for the whole world, or for ourselves. Denied petitions sometimes raise a problem in our minds.

Questions

This week, instead of writing out answers to questions, please do the following:

Day 1: Take a little time out of your busy schedule today to thank God for his gifts - big and small - to you.

Day 2: Take time today to offer a sincere prayer of personal confession to God.

Day 3: Use your hand (as explained in the reading) as a guide to your own prayer of intercession.

Day 4: Talk to God about the big and small things you need.

Summary

Talk to your parents (or to someone else in your family) about a time when they offered a prayer that meant a great deal to them. Ask how God answered their prayer.

Parent Signature: _____

UNIT III TEST

CHRIST, SPIRIT,

AND SALVATION

Please write all answers on this paper. If you need more room for any answer, use the back of this paper or use your own paper.

Lesson 10: Incarnation

1. Identify (2 points each)
 - a. The Hebrew word for "the anointed one." _____
 - b. The meaning of *Immanuel*. _____
 - c. The name given to the Christmas event in which the eternal Son of God took on human flesh. _____
2. True or false: Jesus is half human, half divine. (2 points) _____
3. Give one reason why Jesus became human, like us. (2 points)

4. What would Jesus want you to say in response to his question: "Who am I?" (2 points)

Lesson 11: Atonement

1. What do we mean by the atonement? (4 points)

2. What does it mean to redeem someone? How did Christ redeem us? (4 points)

3. True or false: Christ brings reconciliation between God and us by acting as our mediator. (2 points) _____

Lesson 12: Justification

1. Justification is God's _____ of unacceptable people. When we are justified, God subtracts our _____ and adds the alien _____ of Christ. (6 points)
2. Explain this statement: "God never justifies sins, but God does justify sinners." (4 points)

Parent Signature: _____

3. What happens to our self-image when we are justified (accepted) as holy by God? (2 points)

Lesson 13: Faith

1. We are justified by God's _____ alone, but faith is the way we _____ God's justification. (4 points)

2. The two parts of faith are _____ and _____. (4 points)

3. True or False: We choose God; God does not choose us. (2 points) _____

4. Why should you (or anyone else) have faith in Jesus? In other words, how do you know Jesus can be trusted? Give two reasons. (4 points)

Lesson 14: Repentance

1. Identify (2 points each)

- a. repentance _____
- b. dying-away _____
- c. coming-to-life _____

2. Name a person from the Bible who experienced a gradual conversion. Name another person from the Bible who experienced a sudden conversion. (1 point each)

3. How can you tell if you personally are converted? Name at least three things you could look for or ask yourself. (6 points)

Lesson 15: Sanctification

1. Sanctification is the process by which Christians become gradually _____, more and more like _____. Unlike justification, which happens only once and is done entirely by _____, sanctification happens _____ and is the cooperative work of the _____ and Christians. Learning to live sanctified lives requires a discipline similar to _____

that practiced by _____. The goal of the sanctified life is to reflect the _____ (14 points)

Lesson 16: The Law of God

1. How should we, as Christians, think of God's law in our lives? (4 points)

2. Justice is what other persons have coming. The first table of the law tells us what _____ has coming from us. The second table tells us what _____ have coming. (4 points)
3. Give an example (using one of the commandments) of how we can do more than show justice to another person—we can show love. (4 points)

Lesson 17: Prayer

1. Why do you pray to God? Give at least two good reasons. (4 points)

2. Name the four kinds of prayer (or four parts of prayer) and give an example of each. (8 points)

WEEK 18 – THE CHURCH

Vocabulary

68. *church*: the group of people who have been "called out" of the world for true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though the members of this group – across the world and across the centuries - are often different from each other, they still belong to only one group.

69. *holiness of the church*: the sanctification of the church in doing good and becoming more Christlike. To say that the church is holy also means that it is set apart for doing rescue work in the world.

70. *catholic church*: the church in its biggest, most universal form. The catholic church is like a great hall. Denominations and congregations are like rooms off this hall.

71. *marks of the true church*; the qualities you can find in the church when it is true to its nature and obedient to Christ. These include good preaching, sacraments, and discipline.

Questions

Day 1: In what three ways do we use the term *church*? Which is the most important? Why?

Day 2: Jot down two or three ways in which your congregation expresses its holiness.

Day 3: Why do we say the church is *catholic*?

Day 4: What are the marks of a true church? Check the reading for day 2 and add a couple of other "marks." Then explain what good it does to know the marks of a true church (check 1 Tim. 4:1-2 for one reason).

Summary

Talk to your parents about the strengths they see in your congregation. List those strengths on your paper.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 19 – THE SACRAMENTS

Vocabulary

72. *ritual*: a pattern of motions and words that "acts out" some deep feeling or important belief or promise. Rituals say things deeper in meaning than we see at first. The two most important Protestant church rituals are the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper

73. *sacrament*: a sacred ritual, a sign and seal, by which God binds himself to us and we bind ourselves to God.

74. *sign*: a pointer or indicator. Breaking bread and pouring wine are signs of the death of Christ. Dipping a person in and out of the water (or sprinkling a person) is a sign of the death and resurrection of Christ.

75. *seal*: something that confirms or certifies. The sacraments sign and seal our union with Christ.

76. *holy baptism*: the church ritual in which a believer or the child of a believer is sprinkled with or dipped in water. Baptism identifies us as members of the people of God.

77. *the Lord's supper (holy communion)*: the church sacrament in which confessing believers ritually eat bread and drink wine. This sacrament binds us not only to Christ but also to each other. That is, it nourishes the whole church.

Questions

Day 1: List several of your own examples of rituals from your everyday life. Why do we say that the sacraments are church *rituals*?

Day 2: What's the difference between a sign and a seal? In your own words, what do baptism and the Lord's supper sign and seal?

Day 3: What do God, the child's parents, and the congregation promise every infant at baptism?

Day 4: In your own words tell what benefits you could expect to receive as a result of taking communion.

Summary

Do *one* of the following:

If you were baptized as an infant, talk with your parents about this. Ask them what your baptism has meant to them over the years. Summarize their comments.

Explain the connection between baptism and profession of faith

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 20 – THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Vocabulary

78. the kingdom of God: God's reign over his universal realm. Covenant, prophets, priests, human kings, and the church are all tools, or instruments, of the kingdom of God. Like a mustard seed, the kingdom starts out small but grows and grows. The things that kingdom people cherish and value – like humility, forgiveness, kindness – seem “upside-down” to the people of this world.

Questions

Day 1: What universal war does this reading describe? What steps has God taken to reclaim his world? What's the turning point in this war?

Day 2: What does it mean to be religious?

Day 3: Mention some things Christians do which show that the kingdom of God is an "upside-down" kingdom.

Day 4: Explain the secret of the kingdom found in Matthew 13:31-32.

Summary

Carefully complete the following statement, giving at least three specific responses:

I can be an active kingdom member by...

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 21 – THE CONSUMMATION

Vocabulary

79. *second coming*: the event at the end of history in which Jesus Christ returns in a special way to earth. In the second coming history comes to its climax.

80. *the consummation*: the second coming and the events attached to it: the resurrection of the dead, the last judgment, and the beginning of everlasting life.

81. *resurrection of the body*: a consummation event in which, at the second coming, dead people are reunited with their bodies. Those who belong to Christ shall have bodies like his.

82. *the last judgment*: a consummation even in which all the people of history are judged by God the Father and Jesus Christ according to whether they have done good or evil. Though many of our works may be judged evil, we face the same Christ who died to save us.

83. *everlasting life*: the eternal state of those who are judged. Some face everlasting punishment; others – because of the mercy of God – are given everlasting bliss.

Questions

Day 1: What do we know about Christ's return. What are some things we don't know?

Day 2: When will our bodies be resurrected? Where are we in the meantime? (See Phil. 1:21-23.)

Day 3: Who will be judged? By whom? According to what? Should Christians fear the final judgment? Why or why not?

Day 4: Describe the two forms of life everlasting. Why might heaven not sound so inviting right now?

Summary

Please write one question of your own that this week's readings raised in your mind.

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 22 – THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

Vocabulary

84. *new heaven and new earth*: the place of everlasting life. This present earth will be cleansed and renewed, and heaven will come down to it. The new earth will be filled with purified culture (civilization plus its goods and services).

Questions

Day 1: What are some of your "old portraits" of heaven? What important change does Revelation 21:1-2 (and this reading) suggest?

Day 2: Think of a couple of examples of twisted contemporary culture and suggest possible ways of turning these things to good use.

Day 3: Why do kings come into the new city? If they come in, do all of them - even Hitler - get to stay?

Day 4: Why is the holy city described as a city of *light*?

Summary

This week please read Revelation 21 a couple of times - slowly and carefully. Think about what it will be like to live in the new earth!

Parent Signature: _____

WEEK 23 – ON BEING REFORMED

Vocabulary

85. *Reformed*: To be Reformed is to confess the common Christian faith with a special accent. In particular, it means to accent such things as the authority of Scripture, the sovereignty of God, personal integrity in the life of holiness, and the need for a view of world integrity (sometimes called a “world-and-life-view” or “kingdom vision”).

Questions

Day 1: How is being Reformed like speaking English with an accent? What four things do Reformed Christians generally stress? Why is the authority of Scripture so important to us?

Day 2: How does stressing God's sovereignty affect the way we view and treat (a) the earth, (b) our neighbors, (c) our salvation?

Day 3: Explain how God's law and the Holy Spirit give us personal integrity.

Day 4: What is "world integrity" card why is it important to strive for? What's the point of the stories about John and Joyce?

Summary

Talk with other adults in your family about why it is important to know what it means to be a Reformed Christian. Jot down their ideas and your own

Parent Signature: _____

Name _____

WEEK 24 – LIVING FAITH

Vocabulary

No new words this time. You may want to review the words learned during this course.

Questions

Day 1: Why is the Christian faith so precious to us? In what ways is it "handed over in trust" to us?

Day 2: What helps you guard your faith? What are some of the things we have to guard our faith against?

Day 3: What does it take to make our faith "come alive"? Ask an adult how the meaning of a Christian truth that he or she had learned earlier actually "came alive" later.

Day 4: Explain: "Nothing in this course finally matters until you get up and open that door."

Summary

Look back over the table of contents of this course. Which reading or lesson or class activity was especially interesting or beneficial to you personally? Why?

Parent Signature: _____