

19 Minutes with Luther

52 Lessons Based on Martin Luther's Small Catechism

by

Tim H. Gumm

The Knowledge of God	1st Article (The Fall into Sin)	Baptism (Part 2)
Law and Gospel	2nd Article (Christ's Person)	Holy Communion (Part 1)
Introduction to the Law	2nd Article (Christ's Office)	Holy Communion (Part 2)
1st Commandment	2nd Article (Christ's Work)	Keys & Confession (Part 1)
2nd Commandment	2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)	Keys & Confession (Part 2)
3rd Commandment	2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)	Keys & Confession (Part 3)
4th Commandment	2nd Article (Christian Life)	Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
5th Commandment	2nd Article (Saved by Faith)	The Address
6th Commandment	3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)	1st Petition
7th Commandment	3rd Article (Calls)	2nd Petition
8th Commandment	3rd Article (Enlightens)	3rd Petition
9th & 10th Commandments	3rd Article (Sanctifies)	4th Petition
The Conclusion	3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)	5th Petition
The Gospel & the Nature of God	3rd Article (Invisible Church)	6th Petition
The Apostles' Creed (Faith)	3rd Article (Visible Church)	7th Petition
1st Article (Creation)	3rd Article (Forgiveness)	The Doxology
1st Article (Preservation)	3rd Article (Eternal Life)	
1st Article (Protection)	Baptism (Part 1)	

All rights reserved.

Purchase by a congregation: Purchase of these student copy masters by a congregation gives Bible study leaders of that congregation permission to copy this material for use in one or more groups within that congregation. (Dual parishes may purchase one copy for use in both congregations.)

Purchase by a pastor or other Bible study leader: Purchase of these student copy masters by an individual gives the buyer permission to copy this material for Bible classes he or she teaches or supervises.

Second printing, 2006

Northwestern Publishing House
1250 N. 113th St., Milwaukee, WI 53226-3284
© 2002 Northwestern Publishing House
Published 2002
Printed in the United States of America
ISBN 978-0-8100-1480-0

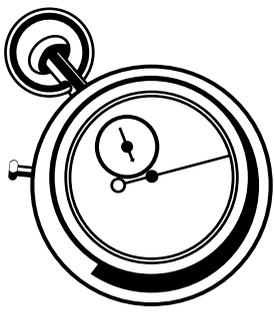
19 Minutes with Luther

To the Leader

These Bible studies were originally written to be used as Bible study material for the summer months. After the Sunday morning service, Pastor Tim Gumm would invite people to remain for 19 minutes, during which they would study a portion of Luther's Small Catechism. The leader used a timer to stop the class at 19 minutes. Questions not covered in the allotted time were left for members to work on at home.

Members are encouraged to memorize the catechism as they proceed through the lessons. Church leaders will be able to find additional uses for these studies. They can serve as general devotions for various groups in the congregation, even church councils and voters meetings.

However, their main purpose is to foster Bible study during the summer months. There are 52 studies, enough studies for four summers. We pray that these studies help your congregation members grow in their understanding of and faith in God's grace in Christ.



19 Minutes with Luther

The Knowledge of God

► The Knowledge of God

Law and Gospel
Introduction to the Law
1st Commandment
2nd Commandment
3rd Commandment
4th Commandment
5th Commandment
6th Commandment
7th Commandment
8th Commandment
9th & 10th Commandments
The Conclusion
The Gospel & the Nature of God
The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
1st Article (Creation)
1st Article (Preservation)
1st Article (Protection)
1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
2nd Article (Christ's Person)
2nd Article (Christ's Office)
2nd Article (Christ's Work)
2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
2nd Article (Christian Life)
2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
3rd Article (Calls)
3rd Article (Enlightens)
3rd Article (Sanctifies)
3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
3rd Article (Invisible Church)
3rd Article (Visible Church)
3rd Article (Forgiveness)
3rd Article (Eternal Life)
Baptism (Part 1)
Baptism (Part 2)
Holy Communion (Part 1)
Holy Communion (Part 2)
Keys & Confession (Part 1)
Keys & Confession (Part 2)
Keys & Confession (Part 3)
Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
The Address
1st Petition
2nd Petition
3rd Petition
4th Petition
5th Petition
6th Petition
7th Petition
The Doxology

"Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."
Romans 1:20

1. All people have a natural knowledge of the existence of God. According to the following passages, where do people receive this knowledge?

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1).

"When Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them" (Romans 2:14,15).

2. What do we understand about God the Creator by looking at an apple tree? at the Himalayas? at the human body? What do we know about God from our consciences?

3. According to 1 Corinthians 2:9, *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him,"* what can we never know about God from his creation or our consciences?

4. Evaluate: Every time the Gallup Organization polls Americans, it finds that the high majority of people in the United States believe in God.

5. God also reveals himself to people through the Bible. According to the following passage, what is the special value of this revelation?

"From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

6. The Bible has two parts: the Old Testament, which was written before the time of Christ, and the New Testament, which was written after Christ came. Fill in the following chart.

	Old Testament	New Testament
Writers	_____	_____
# of Books	_____	_____
Language	_____	_____
Time	_____	_____

7. What do the following three passages tell us about the Bible?

“When you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

“Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).

“All Scripture is God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16).

8. Of what can we be assured by the fact that the Bible is the Word of God?

9. Evaluate: Many churches today deny the doctrines of verbal inspiration and the inerrancy of Scripture. They claim that many of the events recorded in the Bible (for example, many of the miracles) never really happened, but that this fact shouldn't matter to Christians.

Luther said:

“God is everywhere. However, He does not want you to reach out for Him everywhere but only in the Word. Reach out for it, and you will grasp Him aright. Otherwise you are tempting God and setting up idolatry. That is why He has established a certain method for us. This teaches us how and where we are to look for Him and find Him, namely, in the Word.” (*What Luther Says: An Anthology*, Vol. 2, compiled by Ewald M. Plass, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1959, p. 545.)

Closing Prayer

Without you, Lord, we would surely be lost forever. We praise you for making yourself known, and we praise you especially for the revelation of your Son, Jesus, found in the pages of Scripture. In him we live today, tomorrow, and forever, and in his name we pray. Amen.

At home

Memorize in order the books of the Bible.

Helps

(1) All people have a natural knowledge of God from creation and from their consciences. (2) From the things that he created, we understand that God is wise, kind, almighty, divine, and eternal. Our consciences tell us that God is just and holy and that he punishes sin. (3) Creation and our consciences will never tell us who the true God is or what he has done for our salvation. (4) What the Gallup polls reveal is not surprising since all people have a natural knowledge of God. This natural knowledge, however, is not enough for salvation. (5) The Bible alone reveals God fully and tells us what he has done for our salvation. (6) Moses and the prophets wrote the 39 books of the Old Testament in Hebrew sometime between 1500 and 400 B.C. The apostles and evangelists wrote the 27 books of the New Testament in Greek sometime between A.D. 40 and 100. (7) The Bible is the *Word of God*. It was verbally inspired, that is, God the Holy Spirit “breathed into” the human writers the very thoughts and words they wrote. (8) Because the Bible is God’s Word, we can trust what it says, being confident that it is true throughout and that it contains no errors. (9) Some time should be spent on this point: A denial of these doctrines is not only sinful, in that it dishonors God and his Word, but it is dangerous as well. In denying these doctrines, a person is claiming that the Bible is a human writing and, as such, is subject to the whims and interpretation of men. Most important, perhaps, a denial of these doctrines means that we can not trust what the Bible says, including what it says about salvation through Jesus Christ alone.



19 Minutes with Luther

Law and Gospel

The Knowledge of God

► **Law and Gospel**

Introduction to the Law

1st Commandment

2nd Commandment

3rd Commandment

4th Commandment

5th Commandment

6th Commandment

7th Commandment

8th Commandment

9th & 10th Commandments

The Conclusion

The Gospel & the Nature of God

The Apostles' Creed (Faith)

1st Article (Creation)

1st Article (Preservation)

1st Article (Protection)

1st Article (The Fall into Sin)

2nd Article (Christ's Person)

2nd Article (Christ's Office)

2nd Article (Christ's Work)

2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)

2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)

2nd Article (Christian Life)

2nd Article (Saved by Faith)

3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)

3rd Article (Calls)

3rd Article (Enlightens)

3rd Article (Sanctifies)

3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)

3rd Article (Invisible Church)

3rd Article (Visible Church)

3rd Article (Forgiveness)

3rd Article (Eternal Life)

Baptism (Part 1)

Baptism (Part 2)

Holy Communion (Part 1)

Holy Communion (Part 2)

Keys & Confession (Part 1)

Keys & Confession (Part 2)

Keys & Confession (Part 3)

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

The Address

1st Petition

2nd Petition

3rd Petition

4th Petition

5th Petition

6th Petition

7th Petition

The Doxology

"The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

John 1:17

1. The two main doctrines in the Bible are the law and the gospel. These two doctrines differ fundamentally from each other and, in some sense, might even be called opposites. According to the following sets of passages, how do law and gospel differ?

"If you want to enter life, obey the commandments. . . 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 19:17-19).

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" (John 3:16).

The law tells us _____.

The gospel tells us _____.

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The law _____ righteousness.

The gospel _____ righteousness.

"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin" (Romans 3:20).

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29).

The law shows us _____.

The gospel shows us _____.

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

The law _____ us.

The gospel _____ us.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105).

"Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again" (2 Corinthians 5:14,15).

After conversion, the law _____ us in thankful living.

After conversion, the gospel _____ thankful living.