LUTHERAN UNDERGROUND



THE LUTHERAN HOUSEHOLD COMPANION

Twelve weeks in the Small Catechism

Prayer · Scripture · Confession · Christian vocation

UNDATED · PRINTABLE · REUSABLE

A Companion, Not a Replacement

Why this guide exists

Christian households need neither a perfect routine nor a new substitute for the Church. They need a practical way to return to the Word of God, learn the faith confessed in the Small Catechism, pray together, and receive Christ's Gospel as gift.

How to use it

Choose a consistent 10-15 minute time. Begin with the invocation, read the assigned Scripture in your own Bible, then read the named section of the 1921 Small Catechism. Ask the day's question. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer and the original weekly prayer provided here.

A note on church life

The family is not a replacement for the congregation, the preached Word, the office of the ministry, Holy Baptism, or the Lord's Supper. Worship with your congregation and consult your pastor for questions of doctrine, confession, and admission to Holy Communion.

Flexible by design

Start any week of the year. Repeat a week when needed. Younger children may answer in one sentence. Older students and adults may read the entire Scripture passage and study the Catechism explanation in detail.

About the text

The catechetical reference is the English Small Catechism in the 1921 Concordia Triglotta, public domain in the United States. We use its titles and references, plus a brief quotation. All prayers, questions, weekly teachings, and worksheets here are newly written; no modern copyrighted CPH exposition or hymn texts are included.

Source and Rights Record

Primary catechism translation

Concordia Triglotta: The Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, ed. F. Bente, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1921. The English text of Luther's Small Catechism is in the U.S. public domain by publication date. Read the source edition online: https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Luther%27s_Small_Catechism

Translation control

This guide uses the 1921 Triglotta English text, not modern publisher translations or explanations. Part V is titled "How the Unlearned Should Be Taught to Confess." The Office of the Keys is studied here from Scripture; it is not a separate section in that edition.

Scripture

Only Bible book, chapter, and verse references are supplied. Readers may use their preferred Bible edition. No copyrighted Bible translation is reproduced.

Original material

The 12-week plan, teaching paragraphs, study questions, prayers, layouts, and worksheets are original AI-assisted material prepared for Lutheran Underground. Review content against the published 1921 text and with a qualified confessional Lutheran reader before sale.

Important limits

The underlying public-domain catechism text remains free for everyone. Buyers purchase the new arrangement, printable worksheets, educational structure, and convenience--not exclusive rights to Luther's words. Public-domain status described here is for the United States; rights abroad may differ.

A Ten-Minute Household Order

1. **Invocation**

   In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. **Scripture**

   Read the assigned passage from your Bible. If time is short, read the focal verses carefully.

3. **Catechism**

   Read the matching section of Luther's Small Catechism aloud. Ask: "What does this mean?"

4. **Conversation**

   Use the day's question. Allow honest answers; do not turn family prayer into an examination.

5. **Intercession**

   Name one person in need and ask the Lord to help them.

6. **Prayer**

   Pray the Lord's Prayer, then the original prayer on your weekly review page.

7. **Blessing**

   Close with: "The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen."

The Twelve-Week Journey

Choose any week as your starting point; this cycle is not tied to a season or calendar year.

01 **The First Table of the Law**
The First, Second, and Third Commandments

02 **Love of Neighbor at Home**
The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments

03 **Our Neighbor's Goods and Name**
The Seventh through Tenth Commandments

04 **The Law, Sin, and the Gospel**
The Conclusion to the Commandments and the Promise of Forgiveness

05 **I Believe in God the Father**
The First Article of the Creed

06 **I Believe in Jesus Christ**
The Second Article of the Creed

07 **I Believe in the Holy Spirit**
The Third Article of the Creed

08 **Our Father: His Name and Kingdom**
The Introduction and First Three Petitions of the Lord's Prayer

09 **Our Father: Daily Bread and Deliverance**
The Fourth through Seventh Petitions and Amen

10 **Buried and Raised with Christ**
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

11 **Confession and Holy Absolution**
Confession and the Office of the Keys

12 **The Sacrament of the Altar**
The Holy Supper of Our Lord

WEEK 01

The First Table of the Law

The First, Second, and Third Commandments

THE CHIEF THING

God alone is worthy of our trust, His name is holy, and His Word is a gift to receive.

Read This Week

From Luther's Small Catechism (Concordia Triglotta English, 1921): The First, Second, and Third Commandments. Use the complete public-domain text at the link in the source record.

Christ at the Center

The Law identifies our misplaced trusts; Christ fulfills the Law and brings sinners to His forgiving Word.

Teaching in the Household

The first three commandments address our life before God. They expose the idols we construct, the careless ways we speak about God, and our neglect of His preaching and Word. In the household, the aim is not to manufacture perfect children or parents. We confess our failure, hear the Gospel, and learn to receive God's gifts with faith and thanksgiving.

An Exact Excerpt from the 1921 English Text

"Thou shalt have no other gods." "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things."

Week 01: Seven Days in the Word

Read the Scripture in your own Bible, then the named section of the public-domain Small Catechism. Choose the question for discussion.

DAY 1 — **Exodus 20:1–3**
First Commandment
What do I fear losing more than I fear God?

DAY 2 — **Matthew 6:24–34**
First Commandment
Where does worry reveal a rival master?

DAY 3 — **Exodus 20:7**
Second Commandment
When do my words misuse the Lord's name?

DAY 4 — **Psalm 50:14–15**
Second Commandment
For what trouble may we call on God today?

DAY 5 — **Exodus 20:8–11**
Third Commandment
What keeps our household from hearing God's Word?

DAY 6 — **Luke 10:38–42**
Third Commandment
What is the good portion Jesus gives?

DAY 7 — **Romans 3:19–24**
Review
How is righteousness given to sinners?

Review, Pray, and Live

Conversation

1. How are good things made into idols?

2. Why is hearing the preached Word more than a family productivity habit?

3. Where does Jesus give forgiveness to those who fall short?

A Prayer for the Week

Holy God, turn us from false trusts to Your Son. Keep Your name holy on our lips and gather us gladly around Your Word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Quiet Practice of Love

Choose one regular opportunity this week to hear or revisit the preached Word together.

Household Prayer Concerns

WEEK 02

Love of Neighbor at Home

The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments

THE CHIEF THING

Honor, protect life, and guard the gift of marriage.

Read This Week

From Luther's Small Catechism (Concordia Triglotta English, 1921): The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments. Use the complete public-domain text at the link in the source record.

Christ at the Center

Christ bears our selfishness and teaches redeemed people to serve their neighbors in concrete callings.

Teaching in the Household

The second table of the Law begins in the ordinary places where God has placed us: family, neighbor, and marriage. Honoring rightful authority never excuses abuse; protecting life includes helping a neighbor in need; faithfulness includes thoughts, words, and deeds. The baptized do not earn God's favor by these works. We are freed to serve actual people because Christ has already given us His mercy.