



Session One: Introduction to the Catechism

Why Study the Catechism?

From Luther's Preface to the Large Catechism:

1. **God's Instruction** - *"I cannot master the catechism as I wish. But I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism."*
2. **God's Aid** - *"Catechism study is a most effective help against the devil, the world, the flesh, and all evil thoughts. It helps to be occupied with God's Word, to speak it, and to meditate on it."*
3. **God's Command** - *"We should feel bound well enough by God's command alone."*

"Can we finish learning in one hour what God Himself cannot finish teaching? He is engaged in teaching this from the beginning to the end of the world."

Contents

Medieval Church	Luther
Lord's Prayer	Ten Commandments
Creed	Creed
Ten Commandments	Lord's Prayer
	Baptism
	Absolution
	Lord's Supper

Presuppositions

Law	Gospel
Kingdom of the Left Hand	Kingdom of the Right Hand
Active Righteousness	Passive Righteousness
Love for Neighbor	Love for God
Sanctification/Mortification	Justification
Theology of the Cross	

Approach

From Preface to Small Catechism:

1. Texts – Use same format
2. Explanations – "Was ist das?" "Antwort"
3. Large Catechism

Who does the teaching: "Hausvater"

For Next Session:

Purchase copy of *Small Catechism with Explanation* OR *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*
Read The Ten Commandments