



# Faith

DEVOTIONS TO LEVEL UP



## BUILDER

YOUR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP




## CATECHISM

AUTHORS

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*Faith*  
**BUILDER**  
**CATECHISM**



Devotions to Level Up Your  
Family Discipleship

BY KEVIN HIPPOLYTE, JARED KENNEDY, AND TREY KULLMAN

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# INTRODUCTION

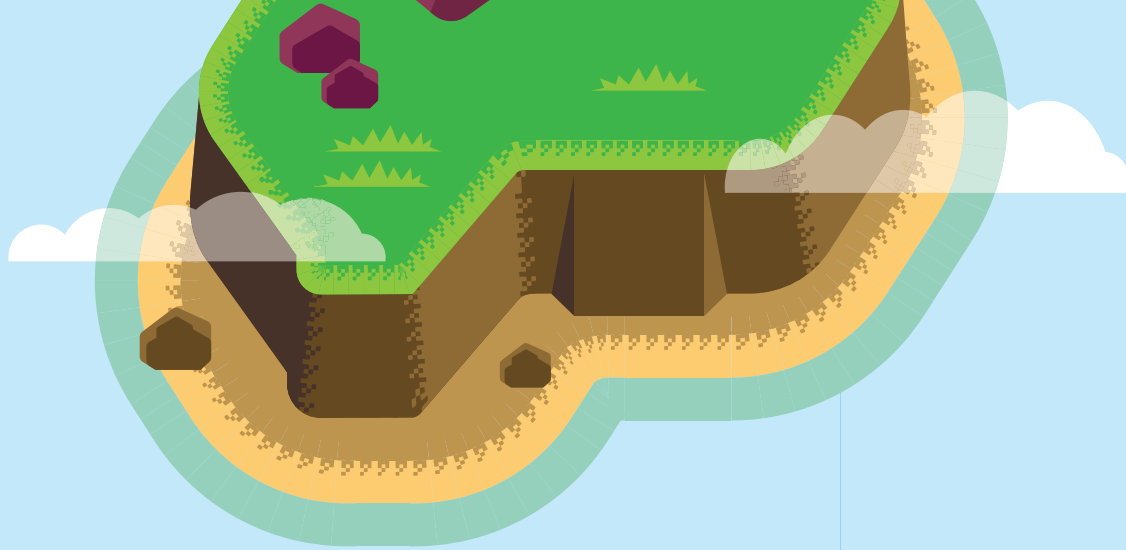
The most enthralling video games take place in elaborate kingdoms. They have characters we embody and root for, as well as stories we connect with. Whether you're rescuing princesses with *Super Mario Bros.*, scoring goals on the latest FIFA game, or slicing up flying objects with your beat saber, players learn—clumsily at first and then with greater ease—to inhabit a video game's world.

All learning works this way. A kid doesn't jump straight into quadratic equations in their first math class. They first learn to count, then add, subtract, multiply, and divide. Once they've mastered the basics, they'll encounter the complexities of algebra, geometry, and calculus.

The same is true with our faith. We don't dive into the complexities of the Trinity with preschoolers. When building a Christian worldview, we first introduce kids to the basics of the Christian life by telling simple Bible stories, memorizing short verses, and rehearsing bedtime prayers.

## Faith-Building through Catechism

One great tool that can help parents with the task of teaching the basics is a catechism. The word *catechism* comes from the Greek word *katācheō*, which means to teach or instruct. The Greek word is used for any kind of



teaching or instruction (Luke 1:4; Acts 18:25), but early in church history it came to refer to new converts being taught the basics of Christianity by memorizing questions and answers about church doctrine and practice. Catechisms as they're used today are just that—a series of questions and answers used to teach basic Bible truth.

The roots of this method go even further back than the early church. When God delivered Israel from Egypt, he gave them laws, ceremonies, and sacrifices to help them remember his great rescue. At the time, God was nation-building, and he had the children of the nation in mind when he gave the Law. We can see this in the way God anticipated children's questions. In passages like Exodus 12:26–27; 13:14–16; and Joshua 4:6–7; we find a pattern like this one: “When your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them . . .”

God created kids with curiosity and a sense of wonder. When they asked questions about his laws or the Passover celebration, God wanted Israelite parents to be prepared. In each of these passages, he gave them a simple script for answering their kids' questions. In Exodus 12:27 ESV, the answer went like this: “It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.” God instructed parents to put this script to memory, so they'd always be ready with an answer—one that explained to their children how the annual celebration was rooted in God's big redemption plan.


Throughout Christian history, the best catechisms have majored on Christian basics as outlined in the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer. Such truths help kids learn what Dorothy Sayers describes as the “grammar” of the faith. The devotionals in this book follow this pattern. Building on the foundation of Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* (1529), the *Heidelberg Catechism* (1576), the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* (1642–47), and the *Catechism for Young Children* (1840), this book focuses on basic building blocks of our historic faith: God's glory, God's kingdom, the gospel, God's church, and his mission.


If we're honest, our kids are often catechized by YouTube, video games, and online streaming. But God wants them to be catechized in the beauty of his good news. He wants them to be immersed in the wonder of his great adventure. We can do this by engaging and rehearsing his truth together with our kids. We can build a foundation of faith by teaching deep theological concepts that apply the truth to their tech-saturated world.


### Turn Off the Screens and Get Started


You may be a young parent taking first steps toward discipling your child, or you may be a seasoned pro who's already got weekly devotional rhythms in place. Whether the only spiritual direction you've given your kids is praying before meals, or even if you've never done that, this book is for you, and it couldn't be easier to use! Just set aside ten minutes once per week over a


meal or before bedtime. Turn off the screens, and then pick up a Bible and your imagination. Begin building these big truths about Jesus into your child’s life. Here are a few quick tips for how to make this time worthwhile.

 **Don’t be afraid to start early.** The video game theme and devotionals in this book are designed for older grade school children and pre-teens. But kids can learn answers to catechism questions as soon as they begin to talk. By doing so, they will add to their vocabulary words that reflect biblical truth. You can begin the Bible memorization as early as a child’s third birthday.

 **Memorize questions, answers, and verses.** It is helpful for kids to memorize the verses along with the questions and answers. This is a way of ensuring that catechism remains a gospel tool that can be used to point kids to Jesus and his redemptive story told in the Bible. Kids should learn that the Bible, not the catechism, is the foundation for our faith.

 **Teach it “when you sit down.”** The fifty-two devotionals that accompany the catechism are intended to aid in planned times with your family. The question sections in the devotionals are designed to cultivate conversations. Turn off screens and put devices away so you can be fully present with one another. Both conversation and memorization require everyone’s full attention.

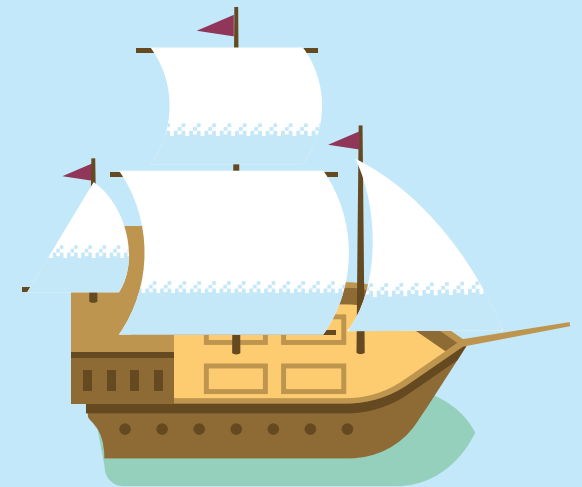
 **Teach it “along the road.”** The truth is that worldviews are often better caught than taught. That’s because we learn best in the context of a relationship. Parents should always be alert for teachable moments—opportunities to talk about how the doctrine learned in the catechism applies to everyday life. The catechism is really just a reference point, a script that parents and children have put to memory that can be explained and applied through informal conversations.

 **Learn it with your church community.** *Faith Builder Catechism* follows the pattern of the *Heidelberg Catechism*, providing one devotional that corresponds with each Sunday (or “Lord’s Day”) of the year. The questions, answers, and devotionals are organized into fifty-two divisions so a church community can work together to memorize short sections each week and repeat the full catechism annually.

Are you ready to move from screen time to deep discipleship? Gather your family and begin right now. Together, you will talk through many compelling truths. Each devotional includes discussion, reading, memorization, prayer, and review. Simply follow along and enjoy the journey.

*NOTE: At the back of the book are stickers to use to track your progress through the catechism.*

**Let’s get started!**





LEVEL 1

GOD'S

GLORY

1-1

1-2

1-4

1-3

1-5

1-6

1-7

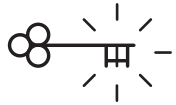
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# Who made you and everything?

God made everything and me.

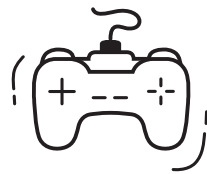


**MEMORY VERSE:**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

**Power-up Question:**

What is your favorite video game? Describe the world in which it takes place.



**>>> READ GENESIS 1:1-31**

**“**When a man builds a house, he must first have wood, nails, glass, and many other things. If he does not have something out of which to make it, he cannot build a house. But God made the world out of nothing at all. —Catherine Vos

**W**e see in Genesis 1 that God made everything. He made every kind of place—the mountains, rivers, forests, and oceans. He crafted every kind of plant—pine trees, bluegrass, rose bushes, and even the broccoli we eat (or avoid!). God made the seaweed that grows in the ocean. He made every kind of animal—giraffes, butterflies, aardvarks, and stingrays. And he made you and me.

When we make things, we use materials that we have on hand. If you want to make a piece of artwork, you use a blank piece of paper or a canvas. Then, you take crayons, markers, pencils, pens, or paint to create something on that blank page. You might even cut out clippings from a magazine and paste them into your masterpiece with glue. God didn't create that way. He didn't have any materials or supplies; there weren't any! Amazingly, God made everything out of nothing at all.

God made everything and us just by speaking words. The first day began because God said, "Let there be light." God spoke, and what God spoke happened. It's hard to imagine because we can't make things with just words. But, when God speaks, his Word creates new things.

**AMAZINGLY,  
GOD MADE  
EVERYTHING OUT  
OF NOTHING  
AT ALL.**



**THINK ABOUT IT**

- When you create something in a video game, what materials do you use? Who provides them? How is that different with God?
- If you could create things with just words, what would you make?

**>>> PRAY:** God, thank you for all the wonderful things you've made—ice cream, video games, grass and trees, animals, and even us. Amen.

# What is God like?

God is our loving and almighty Creator.

## Does God have a beginning?

No. He has no beginning and no end. He is forever.



**MEMORY VERSE:**

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.  
Psalm 8:1

**Power-up Question:**

If you could design a video game character, what would they be like? What's your inspiration?



**>>> READ PSALM 8**

“God, who does not need us, created heaven and earth and myself, of “sheer fatherly kindness and compassion, apart from any merit or worthiness of mine.” —Karl Barth (quoting Martin Luther)

People build rocket ships to fly above the atmosphere and to the moon and Mars. We send satellites to the edges of our solar system, and we build telescopes to see beyond our galaxy. People have never traveled to the edge of the universe, but, even if we could, God is still bigger. The Bible says, “O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens” (Psalm 8:1 NLT). Our majestic God is perfectly powerful. He’s not limited by time or space or ability. He sees what happened at the beginning of time, and he knows what will happen at the end. Because God is mighty and eternal, he doesn’t need us. God is perfect and full of joy—all by himself.

But God still thought about us. He carefully crafted us as characters in his big story. He chose to make us. He’s given us bodies and souls, eyes and ears, a brain to think, and hands to feel. He takes care of our daily needs—clothes to wear, a bed to sleep in, family and friends. Every good gift we have comes from God.



**EVERY GOOD GIFT YOU HAVE COMES FROM GOD.**

Why does the almighty God, who doesn’t need anything, give us so much? Do we earn or deserve his love? No way! God gives us all these mercies simply because he’s our loving and merciful Father. Because of this, we thank him, serve him, and obey him.

**THINK ABOUT IT**

- How do you feel when you remember the truth that the almighty God loves you and thinks about you?

**>>> PRAY:** God, you are big and mighty. Thank you for thinking about and loving us. Thank you for sharing your joy with us when you didn’t have to. Amen.

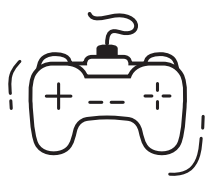
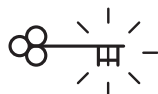
# Are there more gods than one?

No. There is only one true God.



## MEMORY VERSE:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Deuteronomy 6:4



## Power-up Question:

What is your favorite video gaming system? Why?

>>> READ 1 KINGS 18:16-46

“God is distinct in His deity . . . God says, “Don’t make any likeness of me, because anything you come up with will make me look bad.”  
—Tony Evans

There is only one God, and he is unlike any other. In 1 Kings 18, we read about a great showdown between the prophets of a pretend god, named Baal, and Elijah, the prophet of the one true God.

On Mount Carmel, Elijah issued a great challenge: Both he and the false prophets would build grand altars and then kill a bull to offer as a sacrifice on the altar. However, neither Elijah nor the prophets of Baal would light their offering on fire. Instead, they’d call upon their gods to light up the offering by sending fire from heaven.

The prophets of Baal went first. They prepared an offering and prayed to their gods for an entire morning. By noon, Elijah began to taunt and make fun of them: “Shout louder!” he said. “Your god must be deep in thought, or busy, or traveling, or in the bathroom! Maybe he’s asleep and you need to wake him up!”

When Elijah had enough, he and his helper poured barrels of water on their altar; they made it so that it would be even more difficult to light. Then, Elijah prayed to God, the one true God . . . and he answered. Boy did he answer! God sent fire from heaven that burned up the offering, the stones of the altar, and even some of the ground underneath.

God showed the people that he is the only God, greater than anything else they were tempted to love or worship. God alone is our almighty Creator, our standard of love, goodness, perfection, knowledge, and truth. No one is like him! That’s why in God’s law we are instructed not to let anything else come close to the kind of love and honor we give to God.

Not our families, or our favorite video games, or our Lego creations. Nothing we can love is as great as God. Even though we might show great devotion to our favorite things, they make bad gods. They can’t answer our prayers, and they won’t satisfy our deepest needs. There is only one God. He alone is worthy of our worship, honor, and praise.

## THINK ABOUT IT

- What are you tempted to love and honor more than God?

>>> **PRAY:** God, you alone are God, but we fail to love you best. Thank you for being faithful to us even when we are not faithful to you. Amen.