



NEW CITY

Catechism

at St. Andrew's Church

This year as a whole church family we are doing the New City Catechism. A Catechism is just a way to learn truths about God together through questions and answers. You can access it through books (available at the back of church), or through Web and Mobile Apps. The website is www.newcitycatechism.com. Each question has a Bible verse, prayer, commentary (for adults) and song (aimed at kids) to accompany it.

Part 2: Christ, Redemption, Grace Question 24

Question:

Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?



Answer:

Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.

Atoning Saviour, thank you that you didn't turn back, but endured all the way to death on the cross, and beyond. Because of your death, we can live eternally. With this knowledge, help us face our own deaths with courage, faith, and hope. Amen.

For adults and teens:

- Why is it only through Christ's death on the cross that we can be saved?
- Why was Jesus punished even though he was sinless?
- How would you answer someone who asked you, "It's unfair that Jesus had to die for something he didn't do. God is not just"?

For families and children:

[for those with children at school] We need a rescuer.

Show your children a clip from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang which shows the children caught by the child catcher (scene starts at 2:13:08) or search on YouTube for the scene (beware the child catcher might be too scary for younger children!). Tell the children that in the film, the children need to be set free but they can't do it themselves! They need someone to release them. Ask them how they would feel if they if they were the children in the film. Tell them that we are all held captive by sin and death and need someone to pay the price to release us! This is what Jesus alone can do.

[for those with children at school] That's A-maze-ing! Give your child a maze and set a time limit to see if they can find their way through the maze before the time runs out. There are loads of free printable mazes if you google it, and you can get easier and harder ones depending on their age! Tell them that like there was only one way to complete the maze, there is only one way to be saved. Read John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

[for older children] Jesus our Redeemer.

Read Colossians 1:15-23. What does Paul tell us about how Jesus is fully God? How does Jesus reconcile us? What were we before Jesus died for us? What has Jesus done for those who trust in Jesus Christ for redemption?

Some children might think that it is unfair for someone who didn't do something wrong to be punished instead of us. Ask them if they've ever been told off for something a sibling or friend at school has done. How does it make them feel? A man called Maximilian Kolbe was willing to take someone's place at Auschwitz. The account is on the link below: (<https://www.biographyonline.net/spiritual/maximilian-kolbe.html>) Jesus has done this for us, because he was the only one who could!