



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 27

Question:

Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?



Answer:

No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith.

Sovereign Saviour, there is salvation in no one but you, and you save everyone who calls upon your name. We would never have called upon you if you had not brought us from death to life. We do not fully understand your electing love, but we confess that neither we nor anyone else deserves it. Amen.

For adults and teens:

- Why is it wonderful that God has chosen Christians to be saved? (Read Ephesians 1:3-12 for encouragement!)
- How would you answer someone who said it's unfair that not everyone gets to be saved?

For families and children:

[for children at school] Team selection! Show a picture of a sports team. Ask the children if they've ever played a sport or a game in which the team captains chose the team members. Ask them what kind of things make a team captain want to choose a player for his or her team. Agree with the children that captains usually want the most athletic, coordinated players on their teams. They want the quickest and the strongest—those who will be able to score points!

Ask the children how God picks the members of his family. Does he do it the way that a team captain chooses team members? Help them to see that, according to the Bible, God does choose the members of his family, but he does not choose us based on our ability, intelligence, beauty, or goodness. When we talk about God's choosing, we call it election. It is done purely by his own will, not because of anything in us.

[for children at school] Adoption

[optional - show a video of adoptive parents meeting their baby/child for the first time] Ask the children if they know what adoption is. Ask them how parents decide what child they will adopt. Do they choose the baby whom they think will be the smartest or the prettiest or the fastest? How could you even tell what people will be like when they are only a baby or young child? Explain to the children that they are going to learn from today's Bible passage that all who trust Christ for salvation have been adopted by God. They were chosen to be in Christ before the world was even made! We are not chosen based on anything special about us, but because God freely decides to bestow his love on us.

[for older children] By God's Grace

Read Ephesians 1:3-12

What does it say how God saves people? (Look for the words chosen, adopted, predestined). Ask what they mean. Look at verse 6 - why it is important that it's because of God's grace he chooses us? Unlike the team captain picking the "best" - none of us deserve salvation - it's because of God's grace we're saved.