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 **LUTHERAN BASICS JOURNAL**

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

**SC:** *Luther’s Small Catechism*,found on pages 13-40

**SCE:** *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, found on pages 43-350

**Q:** Question number in SCE

**DIRECTIONS**

Our *Lutheran Basics* class spans 5 weeks. Listen to the following podcasts and follow along in the journal accordingly *in preparation* for each class:

**Class 1: Introductions, no prep**

**Class 2: Lessons 1 and 2**

**Class 3: Lessons 3 and 4**

**Class 4: Lessons 5 and 6**

**Cass 5: no prep**
After you listen to the podcast, answer the Dig Deeper questions. We will use these and your questions and observations for discussion during class.

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| **Readings in *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017)***These readings are recommended for each podcast lesson. You are welcome to skim as needed.* **Lesson 2: The God Who Comes to Us: The Means of Grace**....................... **281-345****Lesson 3: The God Who Creates: The 1st Article**..........................................**128-163****Lesson 4: The God Who Redeems: The 2nd Article**…...............................…**164-194****Lesson 5: The God Who Re-Creates: The 3rd Article** …...............................**195-230****Lesson 6: Living in God’s Story: 10 Commandments** ……….......….....…..…**52-127** |

# Lesson 1: Christianity as the Story of Everything: The Bible & Lutheranism

*Jot down your questions and observations from the podcast!*

1. **Christianity as a religion is a true story of everything.**

* 1. A Christian is someone who has a particular way of  **,
	 ,** and  because Jesus’s death and resurrection atones for their sin and gives them eternal life.
	2. What is the Bible? How is the Bible *our* Story?

1. **Genesis 1-3 begins the story of everything.**
	1. **Read 1:1-5.** Was creation good or bad?

* 1. **Read 1:26-28.** What does it mean that Adam and Eve were made in God’s image?

* 1. **Read 2:15-17, 3:1-13.** Why were the trees placed in the Garden? What is sin?
	2. **Read 3:14-20.** What does God promise? What is cursed?
1. **What is Lutheranism?**
	1. God’s Word is  and  authoritatively for *you*.

* 1. Lutheranism practices the faith of  and the
	 as closely as we can.
	2. Luther’s Small Catechism is a summary of how God enters into relationship with us ( of ), what our faith is (the ), and how we live that faith out
	(the  and the ).

**DIG DEEPER**

*Prepare your thoughts and questions for discussion based on the following:*

1. **What is a “religion”? What good or bad things does the word “religion” bring to mind?**
2. **Why did God create the world? What is sin? What does Jesus come to do?**

**FOR LESSON 2 READ OR SKIM SCE 281-345**

# Lesson 2: The God Who Comes to Us: The Means of Grace

*Jot down your questions and observations from the podcast!*

1. **Our individual salvation is objective, accomplished about 2000 years ago at Jesus’s death and resurrection.**
	1. Jesus gave us the  of  to give us comfort and assurance of our salvation by connecting us to His death and resurrection.
	2. What 3 things make a Sacrament? **(SCE 282, Q293)**
	3. How many Sacraments are there? **(SCE 282, Q294)**
2. **Read Matthew 28:19. How does tell this us what Baptism is and how baptism defines who we are?**
	1. **Read SC 23-24.** What are the 2 things present in Baptism? Who baptizes us, and what happens to us at Baptism?
	2. **Read SCE 288, Q303.** Why should babies be baptized?
3. **Read John 20:19-23.** What special authority has Jesus given the Church?
	1. **Read SC 25.** What are the 2 parts of confession? Do you have to confess all your sins to be forgiven?
	2. **Read SC 21-22.** What do we pray for in the Fifth and Sixth Petitions of the Lord’s Prayer?
4. **Read Matthew 26:17-29. How does this tell us what Communion is and what it is for?**
	1. **Read SC 28.** What 4 things are present in The Lord’s Supper?
	2. **Read SCE 324-326, Q350 and Q353.** Is the Lord’s Supper *truly* Jesus’s Body and Blood?
	3. **Read SC 29 and SCE 342, Q374.** What makes us worthy to receive The Lord’s Supper? Who should *not* receive it?

**DIG DEEPER**

*Prepare your thoughts and questions for discussion based on the following:*

1. **How does baptism “rebirth” you to the story of God? How do we “use” our Baptism?**
2. **If Jesus accomplished forgiveness on the cross, why does He command the Church forgive sins? (SCE 315-316, Q334-337 and SCE 319, Q344-345)**
3. **Why should we receive Communion often?**

**FOR LESSON 3 READ OR SKIM SCE 128-163**

# Lesson 3: The God Who Creates: The 1st Article of the Apostles’ Creed

*Jot down your questions and observations from the podcast!*

1. **The Apostles’ Creed summarizes the Story of the Bible according to the work of each person of the Trinity: the
 who creates, the who redeems, and the
 who re-creates.**
2. **Read Psalm 104:10-30. Is creation fundamentally good or bad? Is it intentional or accidental?**
	1. How did God create everything? **(SCE 138, Q121)**
	2. Why did God make the world? **(SCE 157, Q141)**
3. **Read SC 19-20. Why do we call God “Father” in the Introduction to the Lord’s Prayer? Why does Jesus call God His “Father”?**
	1. **Read SC 16 and 21.** How does the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer describe God’s role in creation?
	2. **Read SCE 150-151, Q136-137.** Why do bad things happen? Why does suffering exist? What does God promise?
	3. **Read SC 22.** What do we pray in the Seventh Petition of the Lord’s Prayer?

**DIG DEEPER**

*Prepare your thoughts and questions for discussion based on the following:*

1. **How would you tell the Story of Christianity? What is a creed?**
2. **How does seeing myself as God’s creature shape my relationship to Him and to His world?**
3. **What is our calling in the world? (SCE 161, Q147)**

**FOR LESSON 4 READ OR SKIM SCE 164-194**

# Lesson 4: The God Who Redeems: The 2nd Article of the Apostles’ Creed

*Jot down your questions and observations from the podcast!*

1. **Read SC 17. As the God who entered , Jesus is both fully and fully .**
	1. Why did Jesus become man for us? **(SCE 171, Q159)**
	2. Why is it important that Jesus is God? **(SCE 172, Q160)**
2. **Why was Jesus crucified?**
	1. **Read John 19:16-30.** How did Jesus die? Why did He die in this way?
	2. What did Jesus accomplish on the cross? **(SCE 179, Q166)**
3. **Why did Jesus rise from the dead?**
	1. **Read John 20:1-18.** What does Jesus repair by His resurrection?
	2. What evidence is there for the resurrection of Jesus?
	**(SCE 192, Q181)**
4. **Read SC 20. How does the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus answer the Third Petition of the Lord’s Prayer?**
5. **Read Colossians 1:15-23.** What is Jesus’s role in the story of everything?

**DIG DEEPER**

*Prepare your thoughts and questions for discussion based on the following:*

1. **What is atonement? How do you know your sins are atoned for? What do you have to do to get that?**
2. **Why is Jesus’s resurrection the most important event in history and what does it mean for us? (SCE 181, Q169)**
3. **What does Jesus redeem by His resurrection?**

**FOR LESSON 5 READ OR SKIM SCE 195-230**

# Lesson 5: The God Who Re-Creates: The 3rd Article of the Apostles’ Creed

*Jot down your questions and observations from the podcast!*

1. **Apart from the Holy Spirit, sinners are spiritually and and thus cannot trust in Christ and the Gospel’s call to faith.**
	1. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation? What does this mean does ***not*** contribute to salvation? **(SCE 201, Q195)**
	2. What is justification? What is sanctification? Why is it important to know the difference? **(SCE 209, Q206 and SCE 198, Q190)**
	3. What is faith and why can you be confident in your salvation? **(SCE 210, Q208-209)**
2. **Read Romans 10:17, 1 Corinthians 10:16, and Matthew 18:20.** **What are the identifying characteristics of the Church?
(SCE 214, Q212)**
	1. **Read SC 20.** In what ways does the Holy Spirit answer the Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer though His work in the Church?
	2. What is the mission of the Church? **(SCE 215, Q214)**
	3. **Read Matthew 28:18-20, John 20:21-23, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, and 1 Timothy 3:1-7.** What is the role of the Pastor?
3. **Read Romans 8:19-23.** What is the hope of the Bible?
	1. What happens when we die? **(SCE 224, Q223)**
	2. What will happen at the return of Jesus?
	**(SCE 225-226, Q224-226)**

**DIG DEEPER**

*Prepare your thoughts and questions for discussion based on the following:*

1. **Read SC 18. Is salvation something that happens by us, or something that happens to us?**
2. **What is the role of Christians in the Church and world? Why are Christians called to be good stewards? (SCE 216-218, Q215-216)**
3. **How is the Church on earth a colony of the New Creation?**

**FOR LESSON 6 READ OR SKIM SCE 52-127**

# Lesson 6: Living in God’s Story: 10 Commandments

*Jot down your questions and observations from the podcast!*

1. **Christians live in God’s “left-hand” realm of the that strives for peace and order, and in God’s “right-hand” realm of the that strives for proclamation of the Gospel.**
2. **The Ten Commandments help paint a picture of God’s
 for an ideal world. Each of the Commandments acts as a “ ” protecting an institution of God’s good creation.**
	1. **Read SC13.** What does the 1st Commandment protect and promise? What is a god?
	2. **Read SC 13, 20.** What does the 2nd Commandment protect and promise? How do we apply this in the First Petition of the Lord’s Prayer?
	3. **Read Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12**. What does the 3rd Commandment protect and promise? **(SC 13)**
	4. **Read SC 14.** What does the 4th Commandment protect and promise? How does the 4th Commandment serve as a “bridge” between the 2 tables of the Law?
	5. **Read SC 14.** What does the 5th Commandment protect and promise? How is this applicable for us beyond simply not committing murder?
	6. **Read Ephesians 5:22-33**. What does the 6th Commandment protect and promise? What is the purpose of marriage? **(SC 14)**
	7. **Read SC 14.** does the 7th Commandment protect and promise? How does God want us to use our earthly goods?
	8. **Read SC 14.** What does the 8th Commandment protect and promise? How do we see this Commandment broken in our world?
	9. **Read SC 15.** What do the 9th and 10th Commandments protect and promise? How do Christians talk about dependence and satisfaction?

**DIG DEEPER**

*Prepare your thoughts and questions for discussion based on the following:*

1. **What are the three uses of God’s Law? What is repentance?
(SCE 54-55, Q18-19)**
2. **How is the Divine Service (worship) more than just a concert or classroom? (SCE 78-79, Q52-53)**
3. **How does Jesus fulfill each of these Commandments to save us?**