Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, marked by Martin Luther posting the '95 Theses' on the church door in Wittenburg, Germany, on the 31st of October 1517.

SAMPLE PRINTOUT of... The Daily Grace Catechism

A Systematic Theology in Song

by

Andrew J. Olsen

This book is the companion text to 'The Daily Grace Catechism' Songs.
This songs album and many free resources in various languages are available at DailyGraceCatechism.com

This book can be downloaded for free, or purchased in physical form from DailyGraceCatechism.com/book

CATECHISMS are BACK!... and this one SINGS!

At <u>DailyGraceCatechism.com</u> you can find 45 minutes of Question-&-Answer songs summarizing *all* the great doctrines of Christianity! This Workbook unpacks all the DGC songs for learners and for leaders.

This is not a normal book.

It seems too fat for starters. It has no paragraphs. The teaching points are just one juicy line, each followed by a trove of Scriptures to flame-test it against. What actually happens is powerful by surprise. The Scriptures prove the delicious claims – like a hammer proves a nail – but the reader is soon overwhelmed by a colourful world of nuances. You start as a detective and end up being found out. Gradually you discover the deep dramatic pattern hidden under each song and the whole catechism. The strange structure and the hunting challenge turn this scary thick book into an enthralling chase.

"As first editor of the DGC book, I decided that I would work through the exercises while I edited it. Pretty quickly it was the DGC that edited me. God hammered to dust a thousand half-conscious, half-baked, half-beliefs that have quietly robbed me of life and faith for decades. I cried so often – sometimes for sorrow, but more frequently for joy. I could not believe that I had for years skipped over so many thousands of subtle gems scattered through the Scriptures. No wonder catechisms and creeds have lasted for 2000 years! Lining Scriptures up to solve fundamental questions reveals many deep rivers and brings whole new realms of light. Together, the DGC and its partner, "The Seven Streams of Grace", are medicines that turned everything inside-out for me. I've learned more good things about God than I had dreamed were possible." - Roanne Autera

Like the DGC songs, the DGC book works for both adults and kids, home-schooling and sermons, home groups and seminaries, and across cultures. It also works as a topical encyclopaedia for many issues or questions that pop up daily in our lives, churches, media, governments, families, and so on. It shows how our core orthodox beliefs have literally *thousands* of Scriptures standing behind them.

The DGC is a 'sister' project to 'The Seven Streams of Grace' (SSoG). The DGC summarizes all the core bible doctrines; the SSoG connects all the core bible stories. The DGC is a whole Systematic Theology (ST) in song, and the SSoG is a whole Biblical Theology (BT) in art. They make up the two halves (BT and ST) of a theological education. Both schemes are so easy (using songs and art) that they can even be learned and taught by illiterates to illiterates, yet both can stretch a bible professor. Both have many free online resources. Best of all, both generate surprise, learning, delight, and worship in participants of all ages. They seed the world with rich, beautiful, God-centered theology.

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WELCOME TO THE 'DAILY GRACE CATECHISM'

"This book is too FAT!" If you cant stand waiting, go read the *core content* from pages 9-21! BUT... read back here if you ever want to USE the book or you will be clueless and go crazy without this MAP...

WHAT ON EARTH IS A CATECHISM?

People have taught from the Scriptures about God and the Christian faith in two main ways. The first is called 'Biblical Theology' (BT). This refers to teaching *straight from the bible* to discover *in the stories* things about God, the world, mankind, sin, salvation, the church and the future. The second is called 'Systematic Theology' (ST). This refers to teaching about *important topics* that we discover *across* the bible - topics like God, the world, mankind, sin, salvation, the church, and the future. BT explores stories; ST explores topics. BT is Theology as God unfolds it, whereas ST is Theology as man discovers and organizes it. BT reveals; ST describes. BT is the archaeologist digging on the site, or the exploration of a new continent; ST is the explorer's report, or the museum display. BT must be long and sometimes complicated (because the bible is both!); whereas ST, though it can go on forever if you want a PhD, can be fairly short and sharp!

Both BT and ST are excellent and complementary. ST obviously needs BT because museums need real artefacts to display! (Sometimes we are tempted to do ST about what we *wish* was in the museum and we ignore the bible itself!) On the other hand, the bible is huge and can be complex and confusing. Lots of things we find in the bible only make sense because we have a ST museum. ST is the explorer's *report*. It explains to us how the pieces fit together and helps us to make wise and consistent connections. So BT and ST dance together to keep us from error and to help us see the whole truth and beauty of God.

'The Seven Streams of Grace' uses 100 artworks to display a BT of the whole bible. More on that later. 'The Daily Grace Catechism' uses 26 songs to display a ST of the whole of theology.

A <u>catechism</u> is a summary of all the main topics in Systematic Theology (ST). The summary is achieved by using question-and-answer pairs. Question #1 in some catechisms is, "Who made you?" and Answer #1 is "God made me". Catechisms are big logically connected sets of questions about God, the world, man, sin, and so on, covering all the topics that are tackled in a Systematic Theology course. (Regarding BT, see further below.) Most big old denominations have a catechism – a Roman Catholic one, Luther's Shorter Catechism, the Westminster Catechism, the Heidelberg Catechism, and so on. These are all fairly similar because they are all Christian churches using the same Bible. Each language and denomination gives some slight unique tweaks. The non-Roman Catholic ones are about 99% in agreement.

Catechisms have been taught and treasured by Christians, even under great persecutions, almost since bible times. They can be taught in a boring way, and they can be boring to people who do not understand or trust

that the Scriptures are our only direct window from earth into heaven. However, they are certainly not boring! They contain sacred treasures that saints throughout all ages have been prepared to suffer and die for. Also, they pack it all in very, very, very tight! They are ST compressed into the smallest possible parcel. This makes them quick to learn, very easy to remember and highly nourishing.

WHAT IS DISTINCTIVE ABOUT THE DAILY GRACE CATECHISM?

The Daily Grace Catechism (DGC) is a combination and reshaping of many famous catechisms in a singable form. The recording can be downloaded *for free* from www.DailyGraceCatechism.com. Sheet music and guitar/ piano chord helps can be found on the DGC site. They are sung in a logical order by ST topics so that together they tell a flowing story. These are all echo songs so that participation and learning is *instant* for any group. They are strung tightly together like an opera or a Broadway musical so that it is easy to learn them all.

The DGC is an adaptation of the Children's Catechism, the Westminster Catechism, Luther's Smaller Catechism, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Pontopiddan Catechism and various others. These documents are all quite similar when translated into a single language. They have very little theological divergence. (Almost all differences relate to how they each attempt to handle the time-outside-time logic riddles associated with the profound and beautiful biblical doctrine of Predestination.) Some of their words were used directly (many folk will recognize the lines of many songs); some were re-shaped to rhyme for singing; and some songs were created to capture various ideas in a fresh way.

The theology of the DGC is entirely orthodox, historical Christianity and is consistent with all these catechisms. There is also a very deliberate emphasis on the drama, generosity and grandeur of the Triune God's parental and personal relationship with mankind. It's a 'Very Big God' catechism.

- In the DGC, the biblical doctrines of the beauty of God's heart and holiness, the heinousness of sin, and the mind-bending glory of grace are particularly emphasized.
- [This paragraph is for theologian types ;-)] In many catechisms, the notion of an implied 'Covenant of Works' in Eden is developed in order to create a bridge from the Eden topics through the topics of Moses and the Jewish Law to get to Jesus as the Christ. This theological invention is quite abstract, often misunderstood, and easily confuses. It is in the 'Covenant of Works' section where most students learning their catechism go glassy-eyed and lose interest in what is a quite clear and riveting tale up to this point. Many denominations have, without rejecting it, let it be set to the side, along with catechisms altogether. In the DGC, the difficulties and confusions associated with this legal device are avoided. In the DGC this 'Covenant of Works' segment of standard catechisms is *replaced* with a whole-of-the-Old-Testament-story-telling segment. This segment traces the big picture themes of Prophets, Sacrifice, Priests, and Kings from the Eden topics through Moses and many other OT characters and types to culminate in Jesus Christ. This replacement 'works' to make the whole catechism a single *story* string that even kids can follow. I argue that it functions more effectively to communicate what the 'Covenant of Works' approach was designed to achieve. The covenantal and legal nature of both Law and Gospel are still thoroughly supported in many places across the DGC.
- The Ten Commandments are covered in a unique way by showing that their power of command is rooted in Yahweh God's own heart and nature. That is, they not only function as instruction, but also as divine self-revelation, calling forth from man the kind of relations that exist in the Trinity, and also prophesying their consummation.
- The words, 'Daily Grace' in the title remind us that everything from the universe to our survival to our salvation to our daily sanctification to our resurrection and glory is all by God's grace.

You will get a clear idea of the orthodox content and unique dramatic flavor of the DGC by reading the song words and all teaching points condensed on pages 9-21.

HOW DOES THIS BOOK WORK WITH THE DGC SONGS ALBUM?

This book holds the study resources for the 'Daily Grace Catechism' songs in the order they are sung. The first chapter of the book shows the song lyrics with their echoes and repeats. The rest of the book shows each song with all its Scripture references.

This book unpacks the message of each Q-&-A component of each song into (usually) five dramatic sub-points for teaching. The usual format is as follows:

- 1. 'GOOD NEWS' states the doctrine;
- 2. 'CHALLENGE #1' presents a question to tackle a common but false understanding;
- 3. 'CHALLENGE #2' presents a question to tackle another common but false understanding;
- 4. 'GREAT NEWS' states the power of the doctrine; and,
- 5. 'GLORIOUS NEWS' states the beauty of the doctrine for us.

This sequence is designed to take the listener on a dramatic journey: we set out on a true path with a true bearing for a true destination (header 1); we weave past two dire 'dangers' (headers 2 & 3); we make our safe arrival (header 4); and finally we enjoy a wealthy celebration (header 5). The relevant song might be sung before the teaching in order to introduce it, and then sung after the end of the teaching journey to remember and reinforce it, and to join it to the exciting experience of the teaching journey. This dramatic pattern makes each teaching experience captivating and finally exhilarating. It also demonstrates and imprints a specific, God-centered framework for bible reading, teaching and preaching that can itself bring rich, longer-term blessings beyond just the DGC. (Theologians: The DGC teaching outline is a hermeneutics course embedded in a Systematic Theology course).

WHY IS THIS BOOK SO CRAZY FAT?

Every teaching sub-point is undergirded by many Scriptures. Some are proven by extremely long lists of Scriptures. As I put it together I discovered that the teaching points that are the hardest to believe or swallow are often the ones with the longest lists of Scriptures! All these Scripture references are printed in full. This saves a thousand hours of looking up the references, *but/and* it makes the DGC an enormous volume.

'This is unreadable! There is no end to these lists! Its like a telephone book! Why so much overkill? And isn't this all just 'proof-texting'?'

Yes, this is exactly proof-texting! Catechisms are attempts to distil an enormous range of teaching into the leanest possible expressions. Catechisms must be all gold, no ore. These songs, and creeds and catechisms in general, have to hold up through times of disaster, under persecution, in a prison, or on a deathbed. They have to be so chock-full and so trim and so watertight that they can be taught to children and new believers to establish them in the truths of the Scriptures for their whole lives. They are *designed* to provide a solid, integrated interpretive framework for all of life - for all our bible reading and prayers, for all our perceptions and attitudes, purposes and decisions, actions and habits. Their whole value depends upon them being clearly and repeatedly evidenced in Scripture.

The true value of all this 'overkill' is to give you the *direct experience* of *discovering* that the DGC catechism answers are firmly and abundantly established in the Scriptures. Even I, the author, was staggered to

discover how many Scriptures absolutely hammered home certain beliefs that I treasured but felt a touch unsure of. The first editor of the DGC said that working through the overwhelming flood of references to each claim in the DGC felt like a military training experience that beat to death a thousand unarticulated doubts and heresies that she did not know she had harboured. Similarly, her cynical middle-school son's first reaction to the great mass of the DGC text exclaimed, "Gosh, that looks *appalling!*" but within minutes he was reading page after page of Scriptures, noticing the nuance that each one brought to the test claim, nodding and smiling unawares. It is this repetitive 'test and see' *experience* that cements these truths into the mind and soul. This is a *comprehensive* aid for your own serious bible study. It is intended to be a Scripture storehouse used by the Spirit to break the dungeon gate, to lay the deep foundations, to fuel the holy fire, to fill the sail with God's breeze.

For this reason, the (usually) five-point teaching outline is provided for each Q&A but *actual teaching notes are missing!* The teacher must do some real work to *select* the texts and steps they want to use. This creates real buy-in and conviction in the teacher, and that will pay handsome dividends in the study environment. More on this below.

IS THE DGC FOR CHILDREN OR ADULTS?

The songs are quick and winsome so that they are easy to learn and remember. It is therefore likely that the DGC will most often be delivered to children rather than adults – especially in (lazy) Western cultures. However, a catechism is by no means a childish thing that adults don't need. Catechisms are summaries of the Systematic Theology (ST) that adults of faith have been taught for centuries and that make up much of a seminary degree. The DGC has more than enough material and breadth to deliver all the ST components in a seminary degree. The material in this book can be arranged for teaching at any level. Even university graduates and veteran preachers will find they can do some true heavy lifting here.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

When time is short or the listeners are very young, one may choose just to use a key verse or two. The Powerpoint slides select a few verses for each answer from across the bible (e.g., one each from Torah, Prophets, Gospels, Epistles). However, shallow ploughing does not make for deep planting. True knowledge and maturity always takes hard work and time. The vast extent of fully-printed Scripture in this book may look intimidating but will save you many hours of page flipping and will make learning and teaching from the book very efficient.

Teachers can teach from the book directly. In their preparation they might mark a subset of Scriptures to use to save some time in the class. Teachers certainly should pre-read the texts carefully to see if they truly match the claims of the songs! Imagine the shame if a student asks an obvious question about one of the Scriptures and it becomes clear that the teacher had not even read it! If the teacher believes that the students should study catechism, then the teacher needs to 'DIY' too! This book will not work well for the lazy teacher. They will be exposed, and so they should. This is serious material, and the Scripture says that bible teachers will be seriously judged (James 3:1).

HOW THIS BOOK WORKS ON THE READER/LEARNER

Imagine you were asked to respond to the following school task by writing responses (like those shown in *italics*):

Claim: 'Amy loves her red shoes.'

Test this Claim! Before reading further below, what are some ways you would know this claim to be true?

Amy might wear them a great deal in favor over her other shoes. Amy might show them off to her friends.

Here is a list of evidence suggesting that the claim about Amy loving her shoes is true. In each case, write in *italics* about *whether or how the evidence supports the claim*.

Evidence #1: Amy went shopping for shoes. At the mall she found a pair she adored. When she first saw them she exclaimed, 'They are perfect!'

Amy's reaction when she saw them was excitement and praise.

Evidence #2: She gladly handed over the \$250.00 to the cashier and hummed to herself happily all the way home.

Amy was happy to pay a lot for them.

Evidence #3: If you go to Amy's house you can see the shoes on a shelf in her closet. They are in a clear box to protect them from nicks and dings and dust.

Amy guards them and seems to have made a sort of shrine for them.

Evidence #4: Amy wore the pair so much that one day the heel broke off the left one. Amy cried and cried.

Amy was unusually sad over a failing in a piece of footwear.

Evidence #5: Amy told her friend that she was saving up for another pair, and had asked her boss to give her more hours at work.

This implies that she is strategically planning about these shoes, and also willing to work more toward possessing more of them.

Evidence #6: Even when Amy isn't wearing something the shoes would match she puts them on and walks around in the house so she can look down and admire them.

Amy is idolizing her shoes.

Evidence #7: She says her footwear reminds her of rubies.

Amy has created a poetic metaphor, implying emotional engagement. The one she picks is an association with the wealth of jewels.

What was reading that exercise like? What did it do to you?

- Did you notice that the exercise about Amy's shoes directly *engaged your scepticism* about the claim and yet, *paradoxically*, finally *increased your belief* in the claim?
- Did you notice that *you became convinced of the claim* not by arguments but entirely from the examination of evidence? There was no rhetoric, manipulation, or verbal persuasion.
- Did you also notice that you stepped out of time while you read through the evidence, forgetting that you were reading lots of text?

This exercise gives a little of the experience of working through the DGC. You become a detective lost in time solving the case. The core doctrines of the faith are found to hold up firmly under careful scrutiny against the

evidences of Scripture. The story of Amy's shoes follows a stripped-down format of the DGC exercises. The less-bare elements of the DGC learning process are now described:

Every teaching point has the following line printed beneath it:

'Test this Claim/Question: Before reading below, what Scriptures come to mind?'

This gets people to engage their minds in the challenge *before* they examine and critique the Scriptures provided. This is powerful for priming interest and focus, it increases the drama, and it switches people out of critic mode into investigator mode. People with more comprehensive bible knowledge can be honored for it, and people who might be tempted to snipe at the lesson might feel less haughty if their peers have already seen that they could not come up with any material for or against the claim themselves!

Every bible verse printed in the book has ' # ' printed after it. In the box readers can jot an *E, M* or *H* for *Easy/Medium/Hard* to rate how easily each verse shows and proves the teaching point. Alternatively, a 1/2/3 score could rate the power of the verse in supporting the teaching point. At very least, a w mark can be used. Next to the hash tag (#) they can jot a few 'tags' or 'tweets' – words or notes of their own - describing key points that catch their attention/ reaction from that Scripture.

After each set of Scriptures the word 'Pr@yers' is printed. Here the teaching points and Scriptures could be shaped by students or by the teacher into closing prayers for each study. The '@' in 'Pr@yers' can be understood to represent praying about 'where we are '@" (in modern lingo!) under the grace of these Scriptures.

These three interactive elements (the 'Test this Claim' question, the '\[\] # 'lines, and the '\[Pr@yers' \] line) are present in order to facilitate active engagement. Even the simplest circling, underlining, scoring, tick-checking, or 'tagging' makes mindless 'sleep reading' impossible. Each of these approaches can work just as well for self-education, home-schooling, devotions, etc. to awaken the mind and heart from our natural slumbers. Please do at least use a \(\vec{v} \) sign to 'pass' each reading because even the slightest active reading task will result in staggering improvements in retention and internalization.

Learners of different ages can tackle the book to different depths. The level of mining can be changed to match different settings and different schedules for teaching. For example:

- You might just pull out the 'best' verse for each song when presenting the songs or texts to a young audience or in a very short time-frame.
- Almost all users can be challenged at the beginning of every teaching point to respond to the line, 'Test this Claim/Question! Before reading below, what Scriptures come to mind?'
- Any age reader can tick-check, underline, circle, rate or tag each line.
- Teachers might allocate different verses to each student and ask them to explain "how on earth?" their verse connects to the bold print teaching point.
- Middle-schoolers might be required to classify the Scriptures under a given teaching point into two, three or more sub-categories.
- Any age students might be asked to explain which verses carry the most power for them, and why.
- Seminary/ College students might be required to do some mix of the above tasks and present it as an essay paper or class presentation.
- Anyone might be asked to photocopy and complete the worksheet on the last page of this book for each song.
- Anyone might be asked to write a responsive prayer for the '*Pr@yers*' section.

It was previously mentioned that the words, 'Test this Claim/Question!' are printed under each teaching point. Please be a Berean (Acts 17:11)! Engage a faith-founded scepticism and really 'flame-test' the songs and teaching points to see if they are true and good, rather than merely academic speculations with cute jingles. Stir up some intense 'scrutineering' drama in your own studies or your class over this. "Is this claim really true?!?" This discipline will not only result in people paying sharper attention, but should also result in you and your church families being able to more fully treasure the Scriptures, to trust and obey them more vigorously (especially when under fire), and rejoice more abundantly in the astounding abundance of Yahweh God.

In this same spirit of fire-testing and mutual blessing, readers are invited to submit improvements, corrections and more or better Scripture evidences on the www.DailyGraceCatechism.com website for use in improved future editions. (In doing this, it would be wise to suggest one deletion for every proposed addition in order to avoid the infinite expansion of the DGC!)

WHY ADD YET ANOTHER BOOK TO THE WORLD?

The 'Daily Grace Catechism' (DGC) is a 'sister' project to 'The Seven Streams of Grace' (SSoG) first published in 2010. The DGC is a whole Systematic Theology (ST) and the SSoG is a whole Biblical Theology (BT). The DGC delivers ST through song; the SSoG delivers BT through art. While these each stand alone and do not refer to each other, they can be used together as the two halves (BT and ST) of a comprehensive theological education. (Seminary curricula tend to be comprised of ~40% BT, ~40% ST, and the remainder as 'remainders' subjects like Hebrew/Greek, a Preaching class, Church History, etc.). Both schemes can be learned, mastered and even taught by uneducated people who cannot read or write. Both can be delivered to kindergarten level students, seminary level graduates, and everything in between. Both programs can be taught to children and adults in many formats for both individuals and groups. Both curricula can be enjoyed quickly in hours or delivered slowly across a year or more. Both have many free online resources in various languages. Best of all, both projects tend to generate surprise, learning, delight, and worship in participants of all ages. Both creations fulfill the author's desire and pleasure to seed the world with rich, beautiful, Godcentered theology.

Biblical Theology delivered in Art: www.SevenStreamsOfGrace.com

Systematic Theology delivered in Song: www.DailyGraceCatechism.com

THE DGC CURRICULUM The 26 SONGS and their TEACHING POINTS

The DGC songs are equally for adults and children. The songs are strung together lyrically and musically so that the end of each song moves quickly, logically and sometimes even melodically into the start of the next song. This makes the entire catechism singable and memorable as a single musical unit. Even children too young for school will find that they are soon able to remember and sing straight through all the songs without stopping. These features enable people to ingest and reproduce a whole treasure chest of beautiful theology almost without meaning to!

Song sheets, guitar/piano chord sheets, and Powerpoint slideshows of all the words can be downloaded for free at the DailyGraceCatechism.com website. Guitar chord demonstration videos for each song are there too. As the songs are translated into other languages they will be added there.

All lines in every song are repeated in an echo. The result is that even first-time listeners can sing with confidence for half of the time during their very first hearing. The bracketed letter '(R)' stands for 'Repeat' to show a line that is sung twice. The bracketed text '(R2)' means that those two lines are repeated, not just that one line. The text '(2xR3)' means to repeat the last three lines two times. (Relax, that sounds harder than it actually is!).

The format for all songs is as follows:

Song # - TITLE OF SONG

Lyrics of song – a question.

Lyrics of songs – an answer to the question.

[teaching points:]

- #A. GOOD NEWS declared by the doctrine.
- #B. CHALLENGE #1: A provocation arising from the doctrine.
- #C. CHALLENGE #2: Another provocation arising from the doctrine.
- **#**D. GREAT NEWS revealed by the doctrine.
- #E. GLORIOUS NEWS for sinners and saints in the doctrine.

Song 1 - WHO MADE YOU?

Who made you? That is the question: Who made you?

God made me. (R2)

And what else did God make?

God made all things. (R2)

Why, oh why did God make you and all things?

God made me and all things to share his glory. (R2)

- 1A. GOOD NEWS: Yahweh God is the creator of the universe and everything in it.
- 1B. CHALLENGE #1: Is God just some vague kind of force, dimension, quality or presence in the universe?
- 1C. CHALLENGE #2: Are we and the world just an accident of random matter and energy?
- 1D. GREAT NEWS: God's power, purposes and goodness are displayed by his whole creation.
- 1E. GLORIOUS NEWS: Yahweh God made everything in the universe to share his own glory and blessing.

Song 2. - HOW ARE WE?

How are we to glorify God? (R)

By loving Him, by loving Him, and doing what He commands. (R2) Why ought we to glorify God? (R)

Because He made me and takes care of me. (R)

- 2A. GOOD NEWS: We bring glory to God by our love, thanks, trust and obedience.
- 2B. CHALLENGE #1: Can we love God and yet not obey Him?
- 2C. CHALLENGE #2: Can we love God without loving people, and/or without loving Christians in particular?
- 2D. GREAT NEWS: God deserves our trust, obedience and worship because He blesses and cares for us so richly.
- 2E. GLORIOUS NEWS: God takes pleasure in our love, obedience, and trust in Him.

Song 3.1 - ARE THERE MORE?

Are there more Gods than one? (R)

There is only one God. (R)

- 3.1A. GOOD NEWS: There is only one God in and beyond the universe.
- 3.1B. CHALLENGE #1: Does God rule with or compete with other 'gods', or are other 'gods' really gods at all?
- 3.1C. CHALLENGE #2: Can any other 'gods' save us from our sin, let alone save us from Yahweh?
- 3.1D. GLORIOUS NEWS: It is most wonderfully true that we can totally trust ourselves to Yahweh God.

Song 3.2

In how many persons does this one God exist? (R)

In three persons, in three persons.

And who are they? And who are they?

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (R2)

- 3.2A. GOOD NEWS: God is a unique being: He is The Trinity one God in three persons a family–of–one–ness an image of which we see in how two persons become one in marriage.
- 3.2B. CHALLENGE #1: Is the Father a person who is God?
- 3.2C. CHALLENGE #2: Is Jesus Christ the Son of God, a person who is God?
- 3.2D. CHALLENGE #3: Is the Holy Spirit a person who is God?
- 3.2E. GLORIOUS NEWS: The Father, Son and Spirit ever live and work to bring salvation to mankind.

Song 4.1 - WHAT IS GOD?

What is God? What is God?

God is a Spirit and has not got a body like men. (R2)

Where is God?

Everywhere! (R2)

Can you see Him?

No I can't, (R2)

But He can always see me. (R)

Does God know all things? (R)

Yes – nothing can be hid from God. (R)

Can God do all things? (R)

Yes - God can do all His holy will. (R)

- 4A. GOOD NEWS: God is a Spirit who is in, beyond, over, before and after this universe.
- 4B. CHALLENGE #1: Can we or anything be hid from God?
- 4C. CHALLENGE #2: Can we or anything stop God from doing all His holy will or pleasure?
- 4D. GREAT NEWS: Even sad and bad things happen within His wise and good purposes.
- 4E. GLORIOUS NEWS: God's total knowledge and power mean that nothing whatsoever can come between us and His love.

Song 4.2

Where do we learn how to love and obey God?

We learn all these things in the Bible alone. (R2)

Who wrote the Bible? Who wrote the Bible?

The Holy Spirit, working in and though holy men. (R2)

- 4.2A. GOOD NEWS: The Scripture is the sacred Word of God Himself for us.
- 4.2B. CHALLENGE #1: Can God's word, the Bible, ever lie, fail or fade?
- 4.2C. CHALLENGE #2: Are our difficulties with understanding God's holy word more a problem of its clarity or of our willingness to hear it?
- 4.2D. GREAT NEWS: God's word delivers to us and creates for us every truth and blessing.
- 4.2E. GLORIOUS NEWS: God's powerful word breaks our chains and brings us to Jesus for salvation.

Song 5.1 - WHAT IS GOD'S NAME?

What is God's name? (R)

Israel called Him 'Yahweh'. (R) [R2]

- 5.1A. GOOD NEWS: God taught Israel that His personal name is 'Yahweh' which sounds like the Hebrew words, 'I-be' or 'I-am' [or even 'I-become-known'].
- 5.1B. GREAT NEWS: At different points in history Yahweh joined certain weighty words into His name to further reveal who he is to us.
- 5.1C. GLORIOUS NEWS: God gave Israel His personal name 'Yahweh' to bring us close to know, enjoy and be with Him.

Song 5.2

What is God like? (R)

Jesus calls Him 'Father'. (R) [R2]

What kind of father is God? What is there hid in his heart? [R]

Yahweh is all and only good and true and beautiful. (R)

- 5.2A. GOOD NEWS: Yahweh God was the loving Father of humanity, then of OT Israel, and is now the Father of His church in Christ.
- 5.2B. CHALLENGE #1: Does God have any of the flaws or evils of earthly fathers or cruel persons?
- 5.2C. CHALLENGE #2: Does God have any kind of nasty secret or evil purpose inside of Him for creating the world or shaping events?
- 5.2D. GREAT NEWS: Yahweh God our Father is the creator and measure of all goodness, truth and beauty.
- 5.2E. GLORIOUS NEWS: By His Spirit God unites us in His Son Jesus to the Father.

Song 5.3

Why does God love us? (R)

Because He made and chose us. (R)

Why did God choose us? (R)

Because He made and loves us. (R) [R4]

- 5.3A. GOOD NEWS: Yahweh God loves and chooses us because of His own heart and nature.
- 5.3B. CHALLENGE #1: Does God love us because we are righteous or do good deeds?
- 5.3C. CHALLENGE #2: Does God love us because we are loveable or have some intrinsic, independent worth?
- 5.3D. GLORIOUS NEWS: The God who made us loves us and has promised to love and rescue us.

Song 5.4

What does God want from us? What does God need from us? (R)

God wishes all of the wealth of His love to be with us and in us forever. (R)

- 5.4A. GOOD NEWS: God gives all good things because it delights Him to do so.
- 5.4B. CHALLENGE: Did God make us because He was empty, lonely or needed something?
- 5.4C. GLORIOUS NEWS: God is determined to make all His children infinitely happy and blessed together with and in Him.

Song 6 - WHO WERE OUR?

Who were our first parents?

Adam and Eve, Adam and Eve.

Of what were our first parents made?

God made the body of Adam out of the ground, out of the ground,

and He formed Eve from the body of Adam. (R5)

When God gave bodies to Adam and Eve what else did He give them? (R2)

He gave them souls that could never die. (R)

Have you a soul as well as a body? (R)

Yes I have a soul that can never die. (R)

How do you know that you have a soul?

Because the Bible tells me so. (R2)

- 6A. GOOD NEWS: Yahweh God created our first parents, Adam and Eve.
- 6B. CHALLENGE #1: Is mankind simply another animal without a spirit?
- 6C. CHALLENGE #2: Do we cease to exist when our bodies die?
- 6D. GREAT NEWS: Yahweh God made Adam and Eve glorious in dignity and capacities.
- 6E. GLORIOUS NEWS: Yahweh God made us for eternal life with Him.

Song 7 - IN WHAT CONDITION?

In what condition did God make Adam and Eve? (R)

He made them holy and happy (R)

That's how it was when God made Adam and Eve. (R3)

What work and gifts did God give to Adam and Eve? (R)

He gave His garden to tend; His creatures to rule;

His world to enjoy; and His own care and friendship. (R2)

7A. GOOD NEWS: Yahweh God made Adam and Eve holy and happy.

- 7B. CHALLENGE #1: Did God make man to be alone in the universe?
- 7C. CHALLENGE #2: Did God create work to be a burden or curse for us?
- 7D. GREAT NEWS: Yahweh God desired for Adam and Eve to live lives filled with blessings.
- 7E. GLORIOUS NEWS: Yahweh God gave His own care and friendship as their Father.

Song 8 - WHAT ONE THING?

What one thing did God forbid? (R)

God forbade them to sin against Him by eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowing Good and Evil. God forbade them to sin against Him by eating the fruit of that Tree. (R5)

What did God promise would follow this sin?

follow this sin? follow this sin?

God promised them that Death would come to them. (R3)

- 8A. GOOD NEWS: Yahweh God forbade Adam and Eve from eating fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- 8B. CHALLENGE #1: Was God keeping anything good from Adam and Eve?
- 8C. CHALLENGE #2: Was the forbidden tree the most important tree in the garden?
- 8D. GREAT NEWS: God seriously warned Adam and Eve that sin would bring them Death.
- 8E. HORRIFIC NEWS: The Death that Yahweh God had warned His children about came true.

Song 9 - MUST WE ALWAYS?

Must we always do what God commands?

Yes, we must keep all of His law. (R2)

May we ever do what God forbids?

No, we must never disobey. (R2)

No, we must never; No, we must never;

No! We must never disobey God. (R2) (R all)

- 9A. GOOD NEWS: We must always do what Yahweh God commands.
- 9B. CHALLENGE #1: Will Yahweh God's laws ever bend, change or disappear?
- 9C. CHALLENGE #2: Does the Gospel of grace somehow release us from obeying God's commands?
- 9D. GREAT NEWS: Yahweh God gives laws and commands because they embody His own heart and nature.
- 9E. CHALLENGE: Can the way God gives laws and commands that embody His own heart and nature be seen even in the TEN COMMANDMENTS?
- 9F. GLORIOUS NEWS: All of God's commands are beautiful and for our blessing.

Song 10 - WHAT IS SIN?

What is Sin?

Sin is not doing what God commands, and doing what God's Word forbids.

What is the root of sin?

Sin is our distrusting God; breaking our Father's law and trust; and turning all things to ourselves.

10A. GOOD NEWS: Sin is failing to do what God commands.

10B. CHALLENGE #1: Can we claim that we don't really know about sin or God's law?

- 10C. CHALLENGE #2: Does obeying God's commands on the outside impress God with our insides?
- 10D. DARK NEWS: Selfish pride and distrust in God are at the heart of all our sins.
- 10E. STARK NEWS: God will judge all men against His holy word and law.

Song 11 - WHAT WAS THE SIN?

What was the sin of our first parents?

Eating the forbidden fruit.

Who tempted them to this sin?

The devil tempted Eve and she gave the fruit to Adam. (R4)

What befell our first parents when they had sinned?

Instead of being holy and happy, they became sinful and miserable. (R2)

- 11A. TRAGIC NEWS: Our first parents disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit.
- 11B. CHALLENGE #1: Did Eve sin more than Adam, or did we sin less than Adam?
- 11C. CHALLENGE #2: Did the serpent tell Adam and Eve the plain truth?
- 11D. BLACK NEWS: The devil, Satan, the serpent, is the one behind this evil and all deception and destruction.
- 11E. SORROWFUL NEWS: Our first parents became sinful and miserable because they disobeyed their good Father.

Song 12 - DID OUR FATHER ADAM?

Did our father Adam act only for himself in this sin?

No, he acted for all mankind. (R2)

What effect did his sin then have upon all mankind since then?

All mankind are born in a state of sin and misery. (R2)

What does every sinner and every sin deserve from God?

We all deserve the wrath and curse of God. (R2)

- 12A. FEDERAL NEWS: We are 'in Adam' such that his sin is tied to every person's sin and sinfulness.
- 12B. CHALLENGE #1: Might we have done differently from Adam, or are we any different from Adam?
- 12C. CHALLENGE #2: Did God somehow create Adam with flaws or somehow cause Adam to sin?
- 12D. JUST NEWS: We are all deserving of the wrath and judgment of God.
- 12E. UNFATHOMABLE NEWS: Jesus, who was not born with Adam's sin, bound Himself tight to Adam's sin and to ours.

Song 13 - HOW ARE WE ALL?

How are we all now sinful by nature?

How are we all now sinful from birth? (R2)

We cannot bring ourselves to trust in God's goodness,

Recognize His beauty, nor listen to His truth. (R2)

We live for ourselves, we pride in ourselves;

We won't bow to God, nor thank, nor obey Him. (R2)

We can't escape our love for self and sin.

- 13A. BAD NEWS: We all prefer idols and wickedness to knowing and loving God.
- 13B. CHALLENGE #1: Are we born as 'blank slates' or sweet innocents with basically good hearts?
- 13C. CHALLENGE #2: Are we now sinners because we sin, or do we sin because we are sinners?
- 13D. WICKED NEWS: We will stop at nothing in our love for sin and hatred of God.

Song 14 - CAN ANYONE HOPE?

Can anyone hope to work free of their sin? (R)

No! Our working itself only adds to our sin;

It only adds to our sin. (R3)

Does anyone truly perceive their own sin? (R)

No! Our eyes are themselves stained and twisted with sin;

stained and twisted with sin. (R3)

Who will save me; who will save me,

Save me from this body of Death?! (R2)

- 14A. FEARSOME NEWS: We are entangled and enslaved by our own sin.
- 14B. CHALLENGE #1: Can we earn God's favor or do good works to pay off our sins?
- 14C. CHALLENGE #2: Can we understand the true extent and sinfulness of our own sin?
- 14D. CANCEROUS NEWS: Sin breeds more sin and disintegrates human life.

Song 15 - HOW DOES OUR SIN?

How does our sin enslave and condemn us? (R)

We are ignorant, guilty, separated and helpless in our sin. (R)

What must we have for our ignorance in sin? (R)

Oh, We must have a Prophet to teach us God's truth. (R)

What must we have for our guiltiness in sin? (R)

Oh, We must have a Sacrifice to remove our sin. (R)

What must we have for separation in sin? (R)

Oh, We must have a Priest to bring us to God. (R)

What must we have for our helplessness in sin? (R)

Oh, We must have a King to shepherd us home. (R)

- 15A1. DIAGNOSTIC NEWS #1: We are blindly ignorant about God, ourselves, our sin and our fate.
- 15A2. TREATMENT NEWS #1: We must have a Prophet to teach us all God's truth.
- 15B1. DIAGNOSTIC NEWS #2: We are totally guilty in sin and unable to pay in any way for our faithlessness.
- 15B2. TREATMENT NEWS #2: We must have a Sacrifice to remove our sin.
- 15C1. DIAGNOSTIC NEWS #3: We are entirely alienated and cut off from God because of our sin.
- 15C2. TREATMENT NEWS #3: We must have a Priest to bring us back to God.
- 15D1. DIAGNOSTIC NEWS #4: We are entirely lost and helpless in our sin.
- 15D2. TREATMENT NEWS #4: We must have a King to shepherd us back to God.

Song 16 - HOW HAS GOD?

How has God surprised us in His promised judgment? (R)

He has added mercies to His promised judgment. (R)

How has God shown mercies in His promised judgment? (R)

He delayed our Death and held back our due judgment. (R)

Who did God send us as agents of His mercy,

Who would save and teach and lead us home? (R2)

He sent Kings and Judges, Levites, Priests, and Prophets,

each to save, and teach, and lead us home. (R2)

each to save, and teach, and lead us home. (R2)

- 16A. GOOD NEWS: Throughout the Old Testament, Yahweh God often delayed, limited, deflected or averted the delivery of His righteous judgment because of his righteous mercy.
- 16B. GREAT NEWS: Yahweh God sent many agents to save, teach and lead us home.
- 16C. GLORIOUS PROPHET NEWS: Yahweh God appointed Prophets to proclaim His word to His people.
- 16D. GLORIOUS PRIESTLY NEWS: Yahweh God appointed Priests as mediators to teach His Word and to offer atonement sacrifices for man's sin against God.
- 16E. GLORIOUS KINGLY NEWS: Yahweh God anointed Kings to rescue and rule His people for Him.

Song 17 - WHO ARE SOME?

Who are some Prophets that God sent to us? (R)

Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah. (R)

Who are some Priests that God sent to us? (R)

Aaron, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Ezra. (R)

Who are some Kings that God sent to us? (R)

Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon. (R)

Who is the true Prophet, the true Priest and true King? (R)

Jesus is the Prophet, and the Priest, and true King, (4R)

He is God; He is Man; and God's Son; (R)

Jesus is the Christ.

- 17A. GREAT PROPHET NEWS: Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and Isaiah were some important prophets.
- 17B. GREAT PRIESTLY NEWS: Aaron, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Ezra were some important priests.
- 17C. GREAT KINGLY NEWS: Joseph, Moses, David and Solomon were some important rulers and kings.
- 17D. GLORIOUS NEWS: All Prophets, Priests and Kings were forerunners of Jesus the Christ.

Song 18.1 - WHAT KIND OF LIFE?

What kind of life did Christ live on this earth? (R)

A trusting life of obedience to His Father's will. (R)

What has Christ done that Adam could not do? (R)

He resisted the Devil and kept every Word of God. (R)

What kind of death did Christ die on this earth?

A painful and shameful death - hung on a cross. (R)

- 18A. VERY GOOD NEWS: Jesus always trusted God, His Father, and obeyed His Word.
- 18B. CHALLENGE #1: Was the temptation of Jesus by Satan in the wilderness somehow lighter or easier than Adam's?
- 18C. CHALLENGE #2: Was Jesus given any hope that by His pure, obedient, trusting life He might survive or at least avoid some measure of suffering?
- 18D. CHALLENGE #3: Did the miracles, family, friends or fortunes of Jesus give Him any advantages?
- 18E. CHALLENGE #4: Was Jesus spared any suffering of mind or body, or from the death and judgment of all men?
- 18F. FATHOMLESS MYSTERY NEWS: God the Son, Jesus, bore all of the wrath of sinful man against God.

Song 18.2

What has God done through this death of His Son?

God exchanged the Purity of Christ for our Sin. (R)

How has God exchanged Christ's Purity for our Sin? (R)

Christ bore the price of our sin in our place; God counts Christ's goodness for us; This is grace. (R2)

- 18.2A MIRACULOUS EXCHANGE NEWS #1: Christ died in exchange 'for us', as a blood sacrifice to atone for our sin.
- 18.2B. MIRACULOUS EXCHANGE NEWS #2: Christ died in exchange 'for us' as our ransom to redeem us.
- 18.2C. MIRACULOUS EXCHANGE NEWS #3: Christ died in exchange 'for us' to justify us as righteous before God.
- 18.2D. MIRACULOUS EXCHANGE NEWS #4: Christ died in exchange 'for us' to rescue and free us from the power and penalty of sin in and over us.
- 18.2E. MIRACULOUS EXCHANGE NEWS #5: Christ died in exchange 'for us' to reconcile us back to God.

Song 19 - DID CHRIST REMAIN

Did Christ remain in the tomb after death? (R)

No! He rose bodily from it. (R)

Was he a ghost, or a spirit, or dream? (R)

No! Even Thomas did touch him. (R2)

Where is Christ now that He rose from the earth? (R)

Christ is enthroned in His Heaven; praying for his family, sending the Spirit, ruling the world with His Father.

- 19A. RESURRECTION NEWS: Jesus Christ from the grave alive and well in His real human body.
- 19B. CHALLENGE #1: Was the resurrected Jesus merely a ghost, an imagination, a story, a myth or a spiritual/religious truth?
- 19C. CHALLENGE #2: Was the resurrected Jesus only seen by a few people or only at one 'sighting'?
- 19D. TRIUMPHAL NEWS: Jesus rose bodily to heaven to rule all things with his Father.
- 19E. ASTONISHING NEWS: The bodily resurrection of Jesus contains many staggering blessings for us now and forever.

Song 20 - HOW THEN IS CHRIST?

How then is Christ the true Prophet we need

because we are ignorant in sin? (R2)

Christ is the only true Prophet we need

for He teaches and shows us the whole truth of God. (R2)

How then is Christ the true Sacrifice we need

because of the guilt of our sin? (R2)

Christ is the only true Sacrifice we need

For his cleansing blood covers o'er all our sin. (R2)

How then is Christ the true Priest that we need

for our separation in sin? (R2)

Christ is the only true Priest that we need

for He brings God to us and he brings us to God. (R2)

How then is Christ the true King that we need

because we are helpless in sin? (R2)

Christ is the only true King that we need

for He rescues us, protects us, and shepherds us home. (R2)

- 20A. GREAT PROPHET NEWS: Christ is the true and final divine Prophet who teaches us and shows us the whole truth of God.
- 20B. GREAT SACRIFICE NEWS: Christ is the true and final divine Sacrifice whose blood covers over all our sin.
- 20C. GREAT PRIESTLY NEWS: Christ is the true and final divine Priest who intercedes between God and man, reconciling all separations.
- 20D. GREAT KINGLY NEWS: Christ is the true and final divine Shepherd-King who brings us safely home.

Song 21 - WHO WILL BE SAVED?

Who will be saved?

Those will be saved who are called by God,

who repent of their sin, trust all to Christ, and so lead holy lives.

What does it mean to repent?

To be sorry for sin, and to hate it and leave it

because it brings sorrow to God.

What does it mean to believe or have faith?

To trust that Jesus has saved and will keep me

Forgiven and loved with the Father.

- 21A. GOOD NEWS: God calls and commands all people everywhere to turn from all sin and trust only in Christ.
- 21B. CHALLENGE #1: Will all people be saved?
- 21C. CHALLENGE #2: Can even the most disgusting wicked sinners be saved?
- 21D. GLORIOUS NEWS: God saves us by working a complete transformation in every aspect of our lives and being.

Song 22 - CAN YOU BELIEVE?

Can you believe, and so be saved?

By serving stay secure? (R2)

I cannot by my human strength believe in Christ at all,

Nor by man's reason come to him – this work is of the Lord. (R2)

Can you by decision, commitment or will,

Make your hand and mind and heart pure? (R2)

All these escape my grasp, I find they cannot be found within,

But gazing at the bounteous Christ we find all these things in Him. (R2)

- 22A. GOOD NEWS: Our salvation arises entirely from within God Himself.
- 22B. CHALLENGE #1: Does being 'saved by faith' mean we are saved by trusting ('faith') in the trusting ('faith') of Jesus Himself?
- 22C. CHALLENGE #2: Is even the faith (Greek 'pistis', trust) to hear, believe, repent and obey itself also a gift from God?
- 22D. GLORIOUS NEWS: It is God Himself who seeds, plants, nurtures and bears fruit in us.

Song 23 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

What does it mean to be justified? (R)

It is God's forgiveness at work for us, counting us righteous before Him. (R)

What does it mean to be sanctified? (R)

It is God's forgiveness at work in us, making us holy and like Him. (R)

What will it mean to be glorified? (R)

It is God's forgiveness completing us, joyful and pure to be with Him. (R)

- 23A. GLORIOUS NEWS #1: Those who trust in Jesus are already Justified that is, declared right, just, true, good, guiltless and pure before God by God Himself.
- 23B. GLORIOUS NEWS #2: Those who trust in Jesus are being Sanctified that is, being purified, taught, disciplined, guided, supplied, made holy and made fruitful by God Himself, until death.
- 23C. GLORIOUS NEWS #3: Those who trust in Jesus will be Glorified that is, resurrected and transformed in glory to be with him at the Last Day by God Himself.

Song 24 - HOW DO WE RIGHTLY?

How do we rightly interpret the Scriptures

now that we live in two kingdoms at once? (R2)

God by his Word speaks to us in two voices,

but we all hear these two words in two ways. (R2)

What are the two words of God through the Scriptures? (R)

His Law and Gospel, Command and Promise,

Justice and Mercy, Rule and Grace, (R)

Righteousness and Peace, Imperative/Indicative,

God is Light and God is Love. (R2)

How are the two words of God heard two ways?

Each of us listens both in Adam and in Christ. (R2)

In Adam we hear the Law of God as rules, demands and judgments,

In Adam we hear the Gospel of God as license and lies; (R2)

In Christ we hear the Law of God as righteous, wise and beautiful,

In Christ we hear the Gospel of God as promise and life. (R2)

- 24A. DISTINCTIVE NEWS: God's holy just LAW and God's merciful forgiving GOSPEL are perfectly united in Him throughout Scripture, but for sinners they are experienced as if conflicting opposites the LAW as our crushing curse and the GOSPEL as our miraculous rescue.
- 24B. CHALLENGE #1: Does God's perfect love (GOSPEL) makes him weak in holy justice (LAW)?
- 24C. CHALLENGE #2: Does God's holy justice (LAW) makes him weak in perfect love (GOSPEL)?
- 24D. CHALLENGE #3: Since Christians always live with two natures ('in Adam/ flesh/ sin' and 'in Christ') in two kingdoms ('in this world' and 'in the Kingdom of Heaven') at the same time until death, does this mean they are still owned and enslaved by the sinful nature?
- 24E. CLARIFYING NEWS: God convicts us of sin by His beautiful LAW and only then sets men free by His beautiful GOSPEL [see 24A]. Confusing LAW and GOSPEL in Scripture can lead to terrible ends.
- 24F. GLORIOUS NEWS: It is by the preaching of all of God's Word both good LAW and then good GOSPEL that God delivers all His mercies to mankind.

Song 25 - HOW DO WE NOW LIVE?

How do we now live and grow in grace and holy virtues? (R)

By daily grace He wins our hearts to thanks and hope and joy, to hate of sin, to love of God and walking by his word, (R2)

By future grace He stirs our souls to persevere in faith,

to share his work and sacrifice, and so to see His face. (R2)

And soon we'll see his face. (R)

25A. GOOD NEWS: God saves us and then shapes us to become like Jesus.

25B. CHALLENGE #1: Are we called to flee from the world?

- 25C. CHALLENGE #2: Are we called to engage with to the world?
- 25D. GLORIOUS NEWS: God promises us lavish rewards to encourage us in obedience, love and perseverance.

Song 26 - WILL CHRIST JESUS COME AGAIN?

Will Christ Jesus come again? (R)

Yes! At the last day Christ will come to judge the world. (R)

What becomes of us after death? (R)

The body returns to dust, and our souls go to either Heaven or Hell. (R)

Will the bodies of the dead be raised to life again? (R)

Yes! "The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised." (R)

What will become of the wicked at the judgement? (R)

They shall be cast into Hell; A place of dreadful and endless torment. (R)

What shall become of the righteous? (R)

They shall be taken to Heaven, A glorious and happy place, (R)

where the righteous, where the righteous (R)

Where the righteous shall be forever with the Lord, forever with the Lord,

Where the righteous shall be forever with the Lord!

- 26A. COSMIC NEWS: This world will end and a new world will begin.
- 26B. CHALLENGE #1: Will our death be the end of our story?
- 26C. CHALLENGE #2: Shall anyone escape God's perfect judgment?
- 26D. GRACIOUS NEWS: God's faithful children will inherit the richest of blessings forevermore.
- 26E. GLORIOUS NEWS: The Scriptures reveal that God will finally be glorified in all things, in every way, forever and ever.

And now for just the first bit of the first song unpacked...

THE DGC SONGS EXPLORED:

From this page forward the book is designed for *teaching/learning* from the songs. Each song is broken into its Q&A components and each of these is explained and proven from Scripture. The repeated lines in the songs are trimmed out.

BE SURE TO READ pp.1-21 OR ALL THIS WILL DRIVE YOU CRAZY!

;-)

NOTE: THIS SAMPLE PRINTOUT ONLY HAS PART OF THE FIRST SONG UNPACKED!!!

The whole 345 page book can be printed for free from DailyGraceCatechism.com

Song 1 - WHO MADE YOU?

Who made you? That is the question: Who made you?

God made me. (R2)

And what else did God make?

God made all things. (R2)

Why, oh why did God make you and all things?

God made me and all things to share his glory. (R2)

- 1A. GOOD NEWS: Yahweh God is the creator of the universe and everything in it.
- 1B. CHALLENGE #1: Is God just some vague kind of force, dimension, quality or presence in the universe?
- 1C. CHALLENGE #2: Are we and the world just an accident of random matter and energy?
- 1D. GREAT NEWS: God's power, purposes and goodness are displayed by his whole creation.
- 1E. GLORIOUS NEWS: Yahweh God made everything in the universe to share his own glory and blessing.

1A. GOOD NEWS: God is the creator of the universe and everything in it.

Test this Claim! Before reading below, what Scriptures come to mind?

z

- Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ____#
- Genesis 1:31 God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. 2:1 The heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 On the seventh day God finished his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made... 4 This is the history of the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that Yahweh God made earth and the heavens.
- Exodus 20:11 for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day, and made it holy. ____#
- Psalm 33:6 By the word of Yahweh were the heavens made; all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap. He lays up the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear Yahweh. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. 9 For he spoke, and it was done. He commanded, and it stood firm. ____#
- Psalm 100:3 Know that Yahweh, he is God. It is he who has made us, and we are his. We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ___#
- Psalm 104:24 Yahweh, how many are your works! In wisdom have you made them all. The earth is full of your riches. ____#
- Isaiah 44: 24 Thus says Yahweh, your Redeemer, and he who
 formed you from the womb: I am Yahweh, who makes all things;
 who stretches forth the heavens alone; who spreads abroad the
 earth. ____#
- Isaiah 45:6 I am Yahweh, and there is no one else. 7 I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil [calamity]. I am Yahweh, who does all these things. 12 I have made the earth, and created man on it: I, even my hands, have

stretched out the heavens; and all their host have I commanded.
___#

- Nehemiah 9:5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, [and] Pethahiah, said, Stand up and bless Yahweh your God from everlasting to everlasting; and blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. 6 You are Yahweh, even you alone; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things that are thereon, the seas and all that is in them, and you preserve them all; and the host of heaven worships you. ___#
- Jeremiah 23:24 Can any hide himself in secret places so that I shall not see him? says Yahweh. Don't I fill heaven and earth? says Yahweh. ___#
- Matthew19:4/Mark 10:6 "But from the beginning of the creation,
 'God made them male and female.'" ___#
- Matthew 23:35/ Luke 11:50 "The blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zachariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary.' Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation." ____#
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him. Without him was not anything made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ____#
- Colossians 1:16: For by him [Christ Jesus] all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. ____#

Pr@yers:

1B. CHALLENGE #1: Is God just some vague kind of force, dimension, quality or presence in the universe?

Test this Question! Before reading below, what Scriptures come to mind?

- Job 38:4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measures, if you know? Or who stretched the line on it? 6 Whereupon were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? 8 "Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it broke out of the womb, 9 when I made clouds its garment, and wrapped it in thick darkness, 10 marked out for it my bound, set bars and doors, 11 and said, 'Here you may come, but no further. Here your proud waves shall be stayed?' ____#
- Psalm 33:6 By Yahweh's word, the heavens were made; all their army by the breath of his mouth. ____#
- Isaiah 45:18 For Yahweh who created the heavens, the God who formed the earth and made it, who established it and didn't create it a waste, who formed it to be inhabited says: "I am Yahweh; and there is no other."
- Jeremiah 10:12 He has made the earth by his power, he has established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding has he stretched out the heavens.: ____#
- Acts 14:15 "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men
 of like passions with you, and bring you good news, that you should
 turn from these vain things to the living God, who made the sky and

- the earth and the sea, and all that is in them; 16 who in the generations gone by allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Yet he didn't leave himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you rains from the sky and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." ____#
- Acts 17:24-25 The God who made the world and all things in it, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, ... he himself gives to all life and breath, and all things. ____#
- Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. ___#
- Hebrews 11:3 By trust, we understand that the universe has been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen has not been made out of things which are visible.

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1C. CHALLENGE #2: Are we and the world just an accident of random matter, energy and time?

Test this Question! Before reading below, what Scriptures come to mind?

- heavenly places in Christ; 4 even as he chose us in him before the Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and without blemish Almighty gives me life. ____# before him in love; ____# Psalm 8:3 "I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created, in the heavens moon and the stars, which you have ordained." ____# and on the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have Psalm 139:13 For you formed my inmost being. You knit me been created through him, and for him. ____# together in my mother's womb. 14 I will give thanks to you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful. My Revelation 13:8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone soul knows that very well. 15 My frame wasn't hidden from you, when I was made in secret, woven together in the depths of the whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. ____# earth. 16 Your eyes saw my body. In your book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there were none of them. ____# Pr<u>@yers:</u> Acts 17:26 He made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the surface of the earth, having determined appointed seasons, and the boundaries of their dwellings. ____# Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the 1D. GREAT NEWS: It is absolutely true that God's power, purposes and goodness are displayed by His whole creation.
- Deuteronomy 10:14 Behold, to Yahweh your God belongs heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth, with all that is therein.

Test this Claim! Before reading below, what Scriptures come to mind?

- Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God. The expanse shows his handiwork. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech, And night after night they display knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, Where their voice is not heard. 4 Their voice has gone out through all the earth, Their words to the end of the world.
- Psalm 8:1 Yahweh, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth, who has set your glory above the heavens! ____#
- Psalm 24:1 The earth is Yahweh's, with its fullness; the world, and those who dwell therein. ____#
- Psalm 97:6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory. ____#
- Proverbs 16:4 Yahweh has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble. ____#
- Isaiah 6:3 One cried to another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is Yahweh of Hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. ____#
- Isaiah 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and marked off the sky with his span, and calculated the

dust of the earth in a measuring basket, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? 13 Who has directed Yahweh's Spirit, or has taught him as his counselor? 14 Who did he take counsel with, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop in a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on a balance. Behold, he lifts up the islands like a very little thing. 16 Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its animals sufficient for a burnt offering. 17 All the nations are like nothing before him. They are regarded by him as less than nothing, and vanity. 18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to him? ...21 Haven't you known? Haven't you heard, yet? Haven't you been told from the beginning? Haven't you understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in; 23 who brings princes to nothing; who makes the judges of the earth like meaningless. 24 They are planted scarcely. They are sown scarcely. Their stock has scarcely taken root in the ground. He merely blows on them, and they wither, and the whirlwind takes them away as stubble. 25 "To whom then will you liken me? Who is my equal?" says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these start, who brings out their army by number. He calls them all by name, by the greatness

of his might, and because he is strong in power, Not one is lacking. 27 Why do you say, Jacob, and speak, Israel, "My way is hidden from Yahweh, and the justice due me is disregarded by my God?" 28 Haven't you known? Haven't you heard? The everlasting God, Yahweh, The Creator of the ends of the earth, doesn't faint. He isn't weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak. He increases the strength of him who has no might. ____#

- Isaiah 43:7 everyone who is called by my name, and whom I have created for my glory, whom I have formed, yes, whom I have made.
- Luke 19:35 They threw their cloaks on the colt, and set Jesus on them. 36 As he went, they spread their cloaks in the way. 37 As he was now getting near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works which they had seen, 38 saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!" 39 Some of the Pharisees from the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" 40 He answered them, "I tell you that if these were silent, the stones would cry out." ____#
- Acts 14: 17 Yet He [God] didn't leave himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you rains from the sky and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."
- Romans 1:19 That which is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. 20 For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through

- the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse. ____#
- Romans 11:36 For from him, and through him, and to him are all things. ____#
- Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. ____#
- Hebrews 1:8 "Your throne, God, is forever and ever; ... 10 "You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the foundation of the earth. The heavens are the works of your hands. 11 They will perish, but you continue. They all will grow old like a garment does. 12 As a mantle you will roll them up. And they will be changed. But you are the same. Your years will have no end." ___#
- Revelation 4:11 "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, the Holy One, to receive the glory, the honor, and the power, for you created all things, and because of your desire they existed, and were created!" ____#
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1E. GLORIOUS NEWS: God made everything in the universe to share His own glory and blessing.

Test this Claim! Before reading below, what Scriptures come to mind?

- Genesis 1:26 God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
- Genesis 3:8 They heard the voice of Yahweh God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahweh God among the trees of the garden. 9 Yahweh God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ____#
- Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the
 day that God created man, he made him in God's likeness. 2 He
 created them male and female, and blessed them, and called their
 name Adam, in the day when they were created. 3 Adam lived one

- hundred thirty years, and became the father of a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. ____#
- Exodus 4:22 You shall tell Pharaoh, 'Thus says Yahweh, Israel is my son, my firstborn, ____#
- Exodus 6:7 and I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God; and you shall know that I am Yahweh your God, who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ____#
- Psalm 16:11 You will show me the path of life. In your presence is fullness of joy. In your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.
- Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in Yahweh, and he will give you the desires of your heart. ____#

Psalm 73:25 Who do I have in heaven? There is no one on earth Romans 8:10 If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, who I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart fails, but God but the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ____# is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. ____# Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time Isaiah 43: 6 I will tell the north, Give up; and to the south, Don't are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be keep back; bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the revealed toward us. 19 For the creation waits with eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ____# end of the earth; 7 everyone who is called by my name, and whom I have created for my glory, whom I have formed, yes, whom I have made. ____# Romans 8:29 For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be Jeremiah 9:23 Thus says Yahweh, Don't let the wise man glory in conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 Whom he foreordained, them he also his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, don't let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 but let him who glories glory in called. Whom he called, them he also justified. Whom he justified, this, that he has understanding, and knows me, that I am Yahweh them he also glorified. ____# who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness, in the 1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the earth: for in these things I delight, says Yahweh. ____# wisdom that has been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds to our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this world has Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of known. For had they known it, they wouldn't have crucified the Yahweh's glory, as the waters cover the sea. ____# Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, "Things which eye didn't see, and ear didn't hear, Which didn't enter into the heart of man, Whatever things God prepared for those who love him." ____#... ... John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name: 13 who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the 1 Corinthians 15:49 As we have borne the image of those made of will of man, but of God. ____# dust, so also we shall bear the image of the heavenly. ____# John 6:56 He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I in him. ____# 2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image John 15:9 Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love. ____# from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit. ____# John 16:27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have Ephesians 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of loved me, and have believed that I came forth from God. ____# the knowledge of the Son of God, to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only Ephesians 4:24 and put on the new man, that like God has been true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ. ____# created in righteousness and holiness of truth. ____# John 17:8 for the words which you have given me I have given to Philippians 3:21 who will change the body of our humiliation to be them, and they received them, and knew for sure that I came forth conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working from you, and they believed that you sent me... 11 I am no more whereby he is able even to subject all things to himself. ____# in the world, and these are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them through your name which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are. ____# Colossians 3:4 When Christ, our life, is revealed, then you will also be revealed with him in glory. ____# 2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to always give thanks to John 17:20 "I pray..." that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us ... God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because God chose you 22 The glory which you have given me, I have given to them; that from the beginning for salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. ____# they may be one, even as we are one; 23 I in them, and you in me, that they may be perfected into one; that the world may know that 2 Timothy 1:9 who saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not you sent me, and loved them, even as you loved me. 24 Father, I according to our works, but according to his own purpose and desire that they also whom you have given me be with me where I grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before times eternal. am, that they may see my glory, which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 Righteous Hebrews 12:10 For they indeed, for a few days, punished us as Father... 26 I made known to them your name, and will make it seemed good to them; but he for our profit, that we may be known; that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and partakers of his holiness. ____# I in them." ____#

1 Peter 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, to obedience and sprinkling of the blood

of Jesus	Christ:	Grace	to you	and	peace	be	multiplied.	#

- 2 Peter 1:4 whereby he has granted to us his precious and exceedingly great promises; that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust. ____#
- 1 John 3:1 Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!... 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it is not yet revealed what we will be. But we know that, when he is revealed, we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is. ____#
- 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. 8 He who doesn't love doesn't know God, for God is love. 9 By this was God's love revealed in us, that God has sent his only born Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God loved us so, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has

been perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever will confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God. 16 We know and have trusted in the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. 17 In this love has been made perfect with us, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is, even so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment. He who fears is not made perfect in love. 19 We love Him, because he first loved us. ____#

Revelation 3:9 Behold, I give of the synagogue of Satan, of those who say they are lews, and they are not, but lie. Behold, I will make them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. ____#

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THAT'S THE END OF THE SAMPLE BOOK.
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