

CATECHISM LESSON 1.

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty (part 1)

Memorize Catechism Answers for Questions 1-3:

Q.1. Who is God?

A.1. God is the Supreme Being, the Creator of all things, and the Source of all being. One cannot imagine a being greater than God.

Q. 2. How many Gods are there?

A.2. There is one God only.

Q. 3. Why can't there be more than one God?

A.3. There can only be one supreme being. There is no way for there to be two or more supreme beings because it defies logic.

Consider:

1. God is defined as the Supreme Being. The word “supreme” means the highest above all. If God is the “highest above all,” can there be another being that is higher than God?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
2. If God is the “highest above all,” can there be another being that is equal in “height” to God?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
3. What do you think “being the highest” means? Is God just “higher” up in the air than we are? In Christian language, the “higher” means “better”. If something is the “highest,” that means it is the “best”. Nothing can be better than the best thing. The best thing is perfect. When we say that God is the highest, we are saying that He is totally and completely perfect. Do you understand this? (If not, reread it, or ask a parent to explain.)
 - a. yes
 - b. no
4. Using logic, we can figure out that there can only be one God. Divine Revelation as found in Holy Scripture also tells us. We can read it:

Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is _____ Lord.*

Isaiah 46:9 *Remember the former things of old; for _____, and there is no other; I am God and there is _____ like me.*

I Corinthians 8:5-6 *For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth— as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for us there is _____ God, the Father, from whom are _____ and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ through whom are all things and through whom we _____.*

5. Another part of the definition of God is that one cannot imagine a being greater than God (because the greatest being *is* God). So, can there be a person or an angel (or any being) who knows something that God does not know?

- a. yes
- b. no

*I hope you answered “no”. If God didn’t know something, we could imagine a God who *did* know it, and then God wouldn’t fit the definition of: ‘*One cannot imagine a being greater than God.*’

In the book of Acts, St. Paul tells us about God:

Acts 17:24-25 *The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*

6. What did God make?

_____ and _____

7. What does God give to all mankind, including you?

_____, _____, and _____

8. Look at everything around you. Everything you see has existence (being) at this moment in time. However, it will not always exist. In a hundred years or so, most of your toys, clothes, and school items will probably be gone and no longer exist. Your house might even be gone. People and pets you know will be gone. That is because these things and people do not have “existence” or “being” as part of their essence. Only God has “existence” or “being” as part of His essence. That means only God has always existed (had being) and will always exist. He did not have a beginning and will not have an end.

(put a check in this box if you understand)

9. Have you learned your “being verbs” in school yet? If not, I’ll give you a little reminder. There are two major kinds of verbs. The first kind is ACTION verbs. These verbs show an action such as running or tasting. The second kind is BEING verbs. These verbs don’t show an action, they just show that somebody or something *exists or existed*. There are eight being verbs. They are: am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been.

(put a check in this box if you understand)

10. Remember how it is part of God's essence to exist? In Holy Scripture we read about Moses encountering God in the burning bush. When Moses asks God what His name is, God gives a very interesting answer:

Exodus 13-14: Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you.'"



What does He call Himself? _____

What 'being verb' is used? _____

*Notice that this 'being verb' is in the present tense. God is outside time.

It is always the present time for Him

11. God is the _____ of all _____.

12. Holy Scripture tell us in St. John 1:3 that:

_____ things were made through him, and without him was not made any
_____ that was made.