Catechism Story 4 *The Third and Fourth Commandments*
Memory Verse and Catechism Prayers from Congregation at Prayer

BIBLE STORY: THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE
Luke 2:40-52

Central Thoughts

- Jesus fulfilled the Third Commandment by holding God's Word sacred and by rejoicing to gladly hear and learn it.
- Jesus honored His father and mother by doing the things they had taught Him to do as a faithful man and teacher of God's Word.
- Jesus honored His earthly father and mother by keeping the Third Commandment.
- Jesus honored His parents and was subject to them despite their sin and failings.

Discussion Questions

With what was the boy Jesus filled as he grew and became strong?
He was filled with wisdom.
What is the beginning of wisdom according to Psalm 111:10?
The fear of the Lord.
How is this expressed in the Catechism's explanations to the Ten Commandments?
We should fear and love God.
What rested upon the boy Jesus?
The grace and favor of God.
Note: From childhood into His ministry, Jesus is the fulfillment of the Catechism's explanation of the Law to "fear, love, and trust in God above all things."
What did His parents do every year?
They went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.
What were the three great pilgrim feasts of the Old Testament Church that all males and their families were to attend? (See Exodus 23:14-17)
Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread; Pentecost, the Feast of Harvest; and Tabernacles, the Feast of Ingathering.
What were Jesus' parents teaching Him year after year?
To keep the Sabbath holy by not despising preaching and God's Word but holding it sacred and gladly hearing it and learning it.
What was a boy of twelve years of age to begin to do?
To take on the responsibilities of manhood, which included the most important calling of being a teacher of God's Word.
Why did Jesus stay behind in Jerusalem?
To listen to the teachers of God's Word and to ask them questions.
What astonished the teachers about Jesus?
His understanding and His answers.
How did Jesus honor His earthly father and mother by being in the Temple?
He was doing the very things that they taught Him to do as a man and firstborn son.
How did Jesus sanctify or keep the day holy?
He gladly studied God's Word.

Why were Mary and Joseph anxious and then amazed when they found Jesus in the Temple?

They had forgotten the business that His heavenly Father had given Him: to teach the Word of God (3rd Commandment), even as He honored His earthly father and mother by doing the very things that they had taught Him to do (4th Commandment).

Did His parents understand what Jesus said to them?

No. We do not always understand all that the Lord says to us, but to hold God's Word sacred is to trust in it, even if we don't fully understand all the mysteries that it proclaims.

How did Jesus show honor for His earthly parents, even though they did not know everything about God's Word, and had shown themselves to be sinful and weak in faith?

He went down with them to Nazareth and was subject to them.

What did Mary do with what Jesus had said and done which serves as a pattern for all of us under the Third Commandment?

She kept all these things in her heart.

What did the study of God's Word do, even for Jesus?

He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Meditation on the Bible Story

To gladly hear and learn God's Word, and to willingly take up the responsibility from God to teach it to others is the highest honor we could receive. As soon as the boy Jesus reached the age of manhood, He began to take up the calling that He had received from His heavenly Father. He did not despise preaching and God's Word but delighted to study it with the teachers in the Temple that He might faithfully teach it to others. Jesus honored His father and mother by doing the very work that they had taught Him to do as they faithfully catechized Him by observing the weekly Sabbath Day and by journeying to Jerusalem each year for the three great feasts of the Old Testament Church. Mary and Joseph fulfilled their calling under the Fourth Commandment as Jesus' parents by giving Him the one thing needful through the example of worshipping the Lord and listening to His Word. Even though Mary and Joseph failed to understand many things and did not do everything right as Jesus' parents, Jesus still honored them and was subject to them. He trusted in His heavenly Father who had given Him these frail earthly parents to care for Him and to teach Him. He understood that He was about His heavenly Father's business both in the devotion He had toward God's Word and in the honor He showed to His earthly parents who stood in God's place. Jesus is not only a picture of a faithful child who loves God's Word and honors his father and mother despite their failings, but He is also the fulfillment of the Third and Fourth Commandments by doing what we could not do in His suffering and death upon the cross. He fulfilled every command and promise of God's Word as He suffered and died for us under the authority of the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate.

Prayer on the Bible Story

Heavenly Father, as Jesus learned the Word of God from Mary and Joseph and honored them despite their sins and failings, so teach us to gladly hear and learn Your holy Word and to live in honor and respect for the parents You have given us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Boy Jesus in the Temple
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