

CATECHISM 1993 PILGRIM CHURCH

is the title of a pamphlet Ken Powell gave me a few days ago in the UCC church (Sherborn, MA) of which he's senior minister. It's the product of a half-year children's-sermon process: each Sunday the chn. got a question they were to make a one-sentence response to, the next Sunday's chn.'s sermon to consist of Ken's reading the chn.'s response & then adding his own.

The pamphlet identifies the chn. by name; I'll do so only by K-8 level.
My selection is for your enjoyment, & more.

1 WHY DID GOD MAKE US? "God wanted to make something out of clay so he made us" (Gd.6). *Deus ludens* (God's inner child at play!)...."Because the world was too empty" (Gd.2)...."He needed someone to take care of the animals and the earth" (Gd.2)...."Because he wanted someone to love" (Gd.2)...."To follow Christ and to make a better world" (Gd.4)....The oldest, Gd.8: "Nobody really knows."

2 WHAT IS GOD LIKE? "God is like a rainbow and a cross" (Gd.K)...."God is like a beautiful flower" (Gd.1). Also Gd.1: "God is like a sunny day"; "a teacher"; "a loving dad."...."God is like a person" (Gd.K)...."God is like a circle, divided into three parts: Jesus, himself, and the Holy Spirit."

3 WHO IS JESUS? "He died and I hope he gets better. This is a letter to him" (age 3)...."Jesus is someone who had enough love to sacrifice his life for the world" (Gd.4)...."Jesus is a human replica of God" (Gd.8)...."Jesus is the son of God" (Gd.3); Gd. 4: "the son of God, a leader of religion, and brought back from the dead."...."...the person inside us that makes us love" (Gd.6)...."Jesus is a man that unites the world with his love" (Gd.6; accompanying drawing shows Jesus' circle-live circling the earth).

4 WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN? "Think about it, cry about it, talk about it, and if all else fails to cheer us up, pray" (Gd.5)...."Hide under the bed" (age 3)...."Run for your life" (Gd.6)...."...say you're sorry" (Gd.K)...."Do not go by; stop, help them" (Gd.K)...."...stick together (Gd.5-6)...."I try to figure out how to work to make it better or forget what happened and try to go on" (Gd.5)...."...deal with what happened so the bad thing may come out good if it is something you can fix" (Gd.5).

5 HOW DO WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR? "My friend has a bad cold and I give them medicine" (age 3!)...."...don't have fences....know exactly when to help each other, and know exactly when to leave" (Gd.8)...."...help them carry a heavy load" (Gd.3)...."making cakes when they feel bad" (Gd.K)...."...play...homework together...share toys" (Gd.3).

6 IN GOD'S EYES, WHAT IS THE WORSE THING WE COULD DO? "There are many different ways to betray God, but the very worst is to ignore him and forget him and to kill and hurt his people" (Gd.5)...."Talk to a stranger" (preK)...."Put the world to an end and it scares me" (Gd.1)...."Kill or hurt someone" (Gd.K)...."Not to believe in a prayer and to lie" (Gd.1).

7 HOW DO YOU SAY THANK YOU TO GOD? "You wait for the Lord's attention, then you tell him" (Gd.K)...."...telephone" (Gd.2)...."...fax" (Gd.4)...."...pray" (Gd.4)...."...doing good" (Gd.6)...."Say thank you by loving and taking good care of the earth" (Gd.1).

8 WHAT IS PRAYER? "You put your hands together" (Gd.2)...."Prayer is when we stop to give God our problems, so he can pull us out of the water" (Gd.5)...."Prayer is talking to God" (2 in Gd.1)...."...telling God I love him" (age 3)...."...when you speak to God with all your heart" (Gd.2; + elaborately-drawn heart).

9 WHY ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN? "Because you celebrate Christmas, and because you're not anything else!" (Gd.4)...."Because I was meant to be and was baptized to be" (Gd.1)...."Because my parents are! And I believe in Jesus and God" (Gd.6).

10 WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE PALMS ON PALM SUNDAY? "...wave them in the air and praise Jesus" (Gd.4)...."...kept the dirt from coming on to the Savior" (Gd.3)...."Lay them at the altar for the holy spirit" (Gd.K).

11 WHY DO WE SPRINKLE WATER ON A PERSON IN BAPTISM? "...from then on God watches us" (Gd.4)...."To welcome you in the church and to bless you" (Gd.2)...."To be part of God's family" (Gd.K; Gd.1, "...of Jesus' family")...."To make everybody take a bath" (preK).

12 WHY DID JESUS GIVE US BREAD AND WINE? "So we remember him" (Gd.1)...."As a going away party...arise from the dead in 3 days" (Gd.2).

13 WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? "...he took the bad things for us" (preK)...."Because the church people didn't like Jesus" (Gk.K)...."...for us" (age 2)...."...for our sins" (Gd.1)...."Because the people thought he was going to take over" (Gd.1)...."...to give his life to God" (Gd.2).

14 WHAT HAPPENED ON EASTER? "Jesus rose from the dead" (Gd.1)...."Jesus has risen on Easter so that he can prove that he is the savior" (Gd.3)...."Jesus was killed and put in a tube. The next day he rose from the dead, to live with his father, God" (G.2).

15 WHERE IS JESUS TODAY? "He is everywhere" (age 3)...."That's easy...up in heaven" (Gd.K)...."Jesus is watching everybody at one time. He has a million eyes" (Gd.2)...."In heaven playing with his friends" (preK)... "In my heart" (Gd.K).... "He is everywhere taking care of people..., and I love how he does it" (Gd.3)...."...in heaven, but his spirit lives on in us all" (Gd.5).

16 WHO, OR WHAT, IS AN ANGEL?...."...a messenger of the Lord" (Gd.5)...."...a servant of God" (Gd.3)...."A friend of God and my friend too" (Gd.1)...."My grandpa is an angel" (Gd.K).

17 WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE? "A place to be closer to God and his family" (Gd.3)...."...a garden of love" (Gd.2)...."A mixture of different shapes and colors that symbolize diversity" (Gd.8).

18 HOW IS GOD LIKE OUR MOTHER? "God in bed" (Gd.K)....He and mother made you (Gd.2)...."...faithful like a mother" (Gd.1)...."...takes care of you" (Gd.4).

19 NAME ONE GOOD WAY TO PRAISE GOD. "I hope God has a good time if he comes to our house" (Gd.K)...."Having a party for God" (Gd.3)....Grace at meals (Gd.1)...."Pray in the morning and at night. Go to church. And read the Bible" (Gd.unmentioned)...."...show God around" (Gd.1)...."Bring God back to earth" (age 3)...."Honor your father and mother and be nice to your brother" (Gd.4).

20 WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? "The Holy Spirit is God" (preK)....one of "the three things that God is made of" (Gd.2)...."...a moderator" centering things (Gd.5).

21 IF JESUS CAME TO EARTH TODAY, WHAT WOULD HE DO? "Color a picture" (age 3)...."...help people" (many chn.)...."Go out for ice cream. Go to church and pray. Teach us how to love each other and bring peace to the earth" (Gd.1).

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