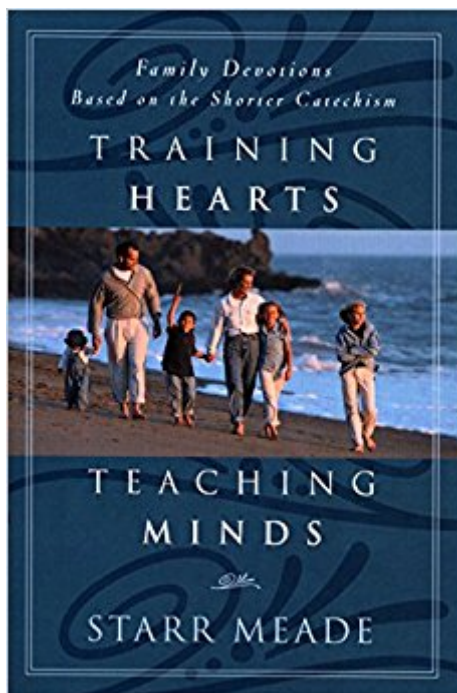




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# Training Hearts, Teaching Minds: Family Devotions Based On The Shorter Catechism



## Synopsis

This book of daily readings aids memorization by devoting six days and meditations to each question. It explains the catechism in simple language, includes key Scripture readings, and takes just a few moments each day, allowing time for discussion and review. Useful in the home, church, or classroom.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A superb, imaginative example of how to teach historic Christian faith to our children. This is a case of the right book coming at the right time." --David F. Wells  
"Provides the practical resources to infuse family devotions with meaning, purpose, and lively joy. This is a book that every family will want to have and use." --George Grant  
"An excellent tool for making the Shorter Catechism live in today's world. . . . a useful guide for home and church." --Charles Dunahoo

Starr Meade served for ten years as the director of children's ministries in a local church and has taught Bible and Latin classes in Christian Schools. She lives in Mesa, Arizona, where she is currently teaching classes to homeschoolers.

We purchased this book a few weeks back thanks to Voddie Baucham's recommendation in his book *Family-Driven Faith* (another wonderful book, I will add). If you aren't familiar with this book, it's based off the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and it's a family catechism that takes about 5-10

minutes (depending on if you discuss more) each day. Each week (yes, week) you go over ONE question (there are 104 questions... it's a 104 week devotional). Then from Monday to Saturday you have short devotions that deal directly with each question as well as other Scripture readings that support the Q&A. What I really appreciate about this catechism is it's meant for parents teaching children, so the language is really easy to understand even for younger children (my daughter is 4). It also helps comprehension of each Q&A because it's something that is discussed for an entire week. Sure, younger kids won't grasp the important concepts, I'm sure, but they surely do learn to memorize. Some people frown upon this, but I do not. Kids learn through repetition, and though we did have a concern with this at first, we are finding that our daughter is very much learning the concepts and applying them. No, she is young, so it isn't like she's the next great theologian, but she is making the connections. And really, if we want to REALLY make the argument about being afraid that the kids will just repeat and learn nothing, can we not apply this same concept to adults? Do adults not do the same in many situations? I don't think I really have to answer this question. (See: Catholic church masses.) My ONLY slight critique (nothing worth removing a star), is I really wish the Scripture proofs were included with the overall Q&A. I ended up buying a cheap pamphlet for the Scripture proofs that was \$1.50 here on with Prime Shipping. Let me explain: in most cases, the Scripture proofs ARE included, but they are included in the devotional sections, but they aren't actually linked to the questions; there is no place that points to that specific verse being the Scripture proof of the Q&A. This can easily be resolved through a quick Google search and a pencil, but I would've assumed that would be pretty standard. Of course, this book seems to be more of a devotional type of catechism, but would still love to see the proofs (labeled clearly AS proofs as well) included. Doesn't deter from the content, though. If you are serious about training your child in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, I highly, highly recommend this. It's one of our favorite resources we have found.

This book provides the guidance needed for consistent family devotions. The Shorter Catechism questions are broken down into daily, bite-size segments that are small enough to keep the attention of younger children, but meaty enough to engage older children and adults. The only thing that I would change is the updating of the language; we prefer the original. If you're looking for a devotional resource to use with your whole family, Starr Meade has written an excellent book that will keep your family in the word of God.

We have been using this book for our family devotions with our 6 and 7 year old girls and have

really enjoyed exploring the shorter catechism together. We usually end up looking up the question in the catechism however, instead of using the paraphrased ones in the book because we want our kids to know the original questions and answers. The explanations and examples work as a great catalyst for conversation.

I teach a Jr. High Sunday School class in a reform theology church. I have been using this book as a basis for teaching the Shorter Catechism to children who have grown up in this church and have no clue as to what I'm talking about. Starr Meade has simplified the discussion to a point that even the 12-14 year olds understand how these questions and answers form the building blocks from the Bible (which, of course, is our text book). As long as I use monosyllabic words to explain such Biblical concepts as predestination, justification, sanctification, et. al, we're okay. This book is a must to anyone who wants to teach the Shorter Catechism or even young believers to read as a devotional.

My bride and I were saved later in life and have been in a desperate scrambling to know the glories of Christ ever since! This book comes to us at a time in which our first grand child is being born and want to be able to communicate these truths in a simple and straight forward manner. We got one for each of our small group families as well as our children. If you wonder how this may play out with your family, read *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan and near the end you will see how wonderfully this can play out. The manner of studying one question per week with short, clear and relevant devotionals is exactly what is needed in this day in which time seems to be so short. We have covenanted each day to not turn on the TV even to watch the news until we have completed our devotional and it is working beautifully! We are on week four and have the first three down pat! Highly recommended for anyone of a like mind. If we can do it, anyone can! Hey, you teach your kids to memorize the ABC's and multiplication tables and historical dates - Why not the key points of our faith??? I do pray that this is used to raise a generation that brings much glory to Him!

This has been an incredible resource for a family new to the Reformed faith. The kids (ages 6-13) are eager to interact with the teachings. I am very pleased with the foundation this book presents--much more substantial (yet approachable) than expected. Would love for this to be available in a Kindle edition.

This is a fantastic book for walking your kids through the basic tenants of faith. It is well written and

organized well for daily discussion. This has been a great book for our Bible class in homeschool. Some deep and meaningful discussion has stemmed from the use of this book.

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