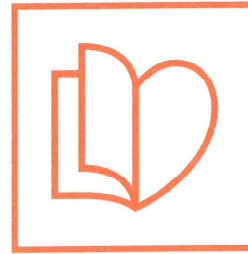


## Question 6

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# How can we glorify God?



## Answer

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By loving him and by obeying his commands and law.

### Big Idea

A right response to God is to glorify him with obedient, thankful, and trusting lives.

### Aim

To help the children understand that God longs to be glorified and that obedient lives bring great glory to God.

### Bible Passage

Deuteronomy 11:1–13

### Memory Verse

“You shall therefore love the LORD your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.” (Deut. 11:1)

### Virtue

Trust





## Leader's Notes

Children in the twenty-first century are used to seeing the created glorified, rather than the Creator! The children will be able to identify how the world gives glory and praise to celebrities, sport stars, and even politicians. The children will be less familiar with the concept of glorifying God. This lesson aims to help children to consider what a right response to God is. The lesson should help them to consider what it is to have their hearts and lives oriented fully toward God so that he might be number one in their lives. This question will explain to the children that one of the ways God is glorified is through obedient lives.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- Children are naturally inclined to legalism. Help them to clearly understand that glorifying God is a response to his grace in Jesus rather than a way to win favor with him.
- Be aware that the idea of glorifying something may be difficult for some children to comprehend. Try to explain it as clearly and concisely as you can.
- Be sure to challenge the children to put God first in their lives and to love and trust him above all else.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

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## Leader's Prayer

Almighty God, forgive me for the times that I fail to glorify you in my own life. Help me to have a heart that is oriented to you in love and obedience. May my life and witness help the children understand what it is to glorify

you. Grant the children in this lesson clear understanding and help them to know you as the One who deserves all the glory. In Jesus's name. Amen.

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## Leader's Tool Kit

- Balloons
- Paper
- Q6 Catechism Recap (DL), printed out and cut up
- Large sheet of paper
- Markers
- Pens or pencils
- Paper
- Jar

**Notes****10 Catechism Recap**

*Print and cut out the question, answer, and memory verse for questions one to five (DL). Fold the individual pieces of paper up very small, and place them inside individual balloons. Inflate and tie the balloons.*

Tell them children that the aim of the game is to burst the balloons and locate the pieces of papers enclosed within them. Once they

have a piece of paper, they should work together to form a group that contains the question, answer, and memory verse for each of the first five questions of the catechism. A small group should form as the various elements of each question are brought together. Ask each group to read out their question, answer, and memory verse.

**5 Introduction to Question 6**

Ask the children if any of them are fans of a sports team. Let them tell which teams they like, and ask if they are a “sort-of” fan or a “huge” fan. For those who consider themselves huge fans, ask if there are ways we would be able to tell this without asking. Some ways might be wearing fan gear, talking about the team with other fans, bragging about a win, and, of course, going to games.

Ask the children if they’ve ever been to a game in a large stadium or arena. How do fans act? Point out to the children that shouting, cheering, and singing songs and chants at a sports game are all ways that fans

glorify a team. We don’t ordinarily use that word, but being a huge fan and letting others know it is “glorifying” a team.

Explain to the children that to glorify people or things is to give them praise, to tell other people who they are and how great they are, and ultimately to love them. Introduce the children to Question 6: “How can we glorify God?” Explain that Question 6 will help them consider how they can glorify God in their lives. It won’t be exactly the way we glorify our favorite teams, but it will be by loving him, praising him, telling others about him, and serving him.

**10 Activity**

Give the children Bibles, and ask them to look up the following verses. Appoint four children to read aloud one verse each. Ask the class to notice what these verses all have in common.

Psalm 63:3

Psalm 95:6

Psalm 134:2

Psalm 34:8

Ask the children to think carefully about what each verse is saying and what it is teaching them about glorifying God. Did they notice that each verse refers to something they would do with their bodies (praise with lips, lift up hands, kneel, taste, and see)? Glorifying God is something that involves our minds, our hearts, and even our bodies.



**Teaching Outline**

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

Ask the children to consider carefully how often they think about God each day. Reassure them that you won't ask them to say anything out loud! Explain to the children that sometimes people become forgetful and forget God. Help the children to reflect briefly on who God is. Ask them to describe who God is and what he's like. You may like to write the children's answers on a large sheet of paper for them to see.

Discuss the greatness, majesty, power, and beauty of God. Ask the children if remembering all the wonderful things about God inclines them to praise him. To glorify him is to acknowledge his greatness and worship him. Explain to the children that God longs for his people to give him glory. Also explain that God is jealous and does not want anyone or anything else to receive glory (Isa. 42:8).

**Read Deuteronomy 11:1–13.** Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Invite the children to think about the passage, and ask them to identify the mighty acts of God. Help the children to see how God worked to care for, protect, and save his people, Israel. Show the children how, even in this short passage, God is amazing!

Explain that these words were spoken to God's people by Moses. He wanted them to understand that their love for God should be characterized by obedience, by telling others about him, and by commitment to one another. Moses wanted to teach the people how to glorify God. He wanted them to understand how awesome God is and to help them understand that he alone is worthy of their honor, glory, and praise.

Remind the children that we who have also been saved by God through Jesus are now a part of God's people. Invite the children to marvel at the greatness of God as one who continues to save disobedient and rebellious people.

Explain that one of the most effective ways to bring God glory is to obey him, just as Moses explained to the Israelites in the Bible passage.

Explain to the children that this obedience will not win them any favor with God or bring them closer to God; only Jesus can do that. Highlight that obedience to God is a worthy response to his greatness and beauty and that it brings glory to him.

Tell the children that obeying God shows thankful hearts. It also displays a trust in him, showing the world that God is great and his ways are good.

Encourage the children to consider once again whether they might need to remember God more in their day-to-day lives. Enquire whether they might be able to consider



how they might bring him glory day by day and hour by hour.

**Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 6 and the answer to memory.**

*(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)*

## Notes

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### Activity



Pass out pens and paper to each child.

Invite the children to write a personal prayer asking God to help them love and trust him each day, so that they might glorify him through obedient lives. Prompt them to

think of three things they love about God, and three ways they struggle to obey him.

Remind them that God loves to answer our prayers and wants to help us obey.

Encourage them to look at their prayer and pray it during the week.

### Discussion and Question Time

Some of the questions that might arise include:

#### ? Is it wrong to like celebrities or sports stars?

Explain to the children that it is appropriate to appreciate the different ways that God has gifted people in his world, and we can appreciate that. Highlight that God wants to be number one in his people's lives and longs to receive glory from his people.

#### ? I don't fully understand what it means to glorify God.

Remind the children that glorifying God is giving him praise and honor, it is telling him and others that he is great, and it is living trusting lives that reflect his goodness.

#### ? Why does God need to be glorified?

Explain to the children that God doesn't need to be glorified—God doesn't need anything! Glorifying God is part of being in a loving relationship with him, and that is what God longs for with those whom he has created. He knows it is good for us to give him glory.

Also use this opportunity to help the children to think about their own lives and how this catechism question and answer affects them personally.

- What would it look like to be more focused on glorifying God?
- Is it a struggle to give God glory, honor, and praise?
- Do you find it hard to be obedient to God?



## 10 Virtue Vision

### Trust

*Cut up paper so that each child has a slip to write on.*

Remind the children that you've been talking about how obedience glorifies God. We usually think of obedience as not doing bad things, but it also includes doing the good things God commands. God has commanded us to *trust* him. Invite someone to read Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding."

Ask the children to think of things in their lives that worry them. When they've thought

of something, ask them to write it on their slip of paper if they want to trust that worry to God. Then invite them to fold it up and put it in your jar.

Once all of the slips are put in the jar, point out that you now have their worry slips, and they don't have them any more. This illustrates that when we give our worries to God, he has them, and we don't have them anymore. That's what trust in God looks like! Ask them if the command to glorify God by trusting him is easy or difficult.



## 10 Memory Activity

Give every child a piece of paper and some markers. Have them write out the memory verse or catechism answer. Then have them make the words they consider more important bold. Encourage them to decorate

each word in a way that will help them remember it. After a few minutes, ask them to turn over their papers and see if they can remember the verse or answer.

## 5 Closing Prayer Time

Invite any of the children who would like to read out the prayers that they wrote during the lesson to do so. Conclude by praying that God might receive the glory that is due to him as people live thankful and obedient lives.