Catechetical Sermon, March 8, 2026
Belgic Confession, Articles 4-6: "The Canon and Authority of Scripture"
Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2

Lesson Aim	To understand three things: First, that the Bible is a covenantal book. Second, that the Bible is a canonical book and third, that the Bible is authoritative.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Articles 4-6 and 1 Corinthians chapter 2. Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may work best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	**What do we mean when we say that the Bible is a covenantal book?** We mean that the Bible contains two testaments, the Old and the New, in which the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, are discussed respectively. **What is a biblical covenant?** To oversimplify, it refers to a stated, legal relationship people have to God either directly (e.g. the covenant of works in the Garden of Eden) or through a mediator (e.g. Moses in the Old Covenant or Christ in the New Covenant). **What do we mean by the "canon of Scripture?"** The word "canon" simply refers to a rule or standard. The "canon of Scripture" is represented by the Protestant Bible, which is the standard of authority in our lives. **What are the two ways in which we know that the Scriptures (Bible) are God's Word according to article 5 of the Belgic Confession?** First, because the Holy Spirit witnesses in our hearts that they are from God. Second, because they carry the evidence thereof in themselves. **When the Belgic says that we know the Scriptures are God's Word because the Holy Spirit witnesses in our hearts that they are from God, does that refer to a certain feeling we will have?** No. The Belgic is teaching us that the work of the Holy Spirit is necessary to convince us that the Scriptures are the Word of God. **How does the Bible have authority in our lives?** The Bible itself reveals that it is the Word of God. It reveals that all people need to serve God as servants to God the King. This is possible only by confessing sin and confessing faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
Bible Reading	Numbers 11-14 (Reading the great stories of the Old Testament)