

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 13, "The Son of God and the children of God"

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1-18

Lesson Aim	To understand two things: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Who the Son of God is in distinction to us, the children of God2. How the Son is our Lord.
Steps to Learning	Read the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 13 and John 1:1-18 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>Did Jesus, the Son of God, come to exist when he was born of the virgin Mary? No, the Son of God has always existed because he is, in fact, God.</p> <p>What Scripture reveals that Jesus is the eternal, natural Son of God? John 1:1.</p> <p>Quote John 1:1 and discuss how it teaches that Jesus is the eternal, natural Son of God? John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word as God." John calls the Word, which we know from the rest of the passage is Jesus, "God." If Jesus is God, then he is eternal and he is the natural (of the same nature) Son of God.</p> <p>What text reveals that Jesus, God in the flesh, was with humanity on earth? John 1:14, which says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." Also, because of other passages like Matthew 28, which says that Jesus will be with his people to the end of the age, we know that Jesus is in fact with us by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ.</p> <p>What does it mean that we are the children of God? It means that we are children of God by adoption, through grace, for the sake of Christ. Every single person is a child of Adam, which means that all people are born as sinners and are enemies of God; they are not God's children. But through election and the work of God to apply the redemptive work of Christ through faith, including adoption, people become children of God</p> <p>What text in the Bible speaks of our adoption? Galatians 4:4-5.</p> <p>Why would we want to call Jesus "our Lord?" Because he redeemed us not with worldly wealth but with his own precious blood and in so doing, redeemed us (bought us back) from all the power of the devil who once ruled us and imprisoned us. It is gratitude for the work of Jesus on our behalf that motivates us to call Jesus Lord and follow him as Lord.</p>
Bible Reading	Psalms 9–21 (Reading through the Psalms)