

A S M A L L
H E L P,
O F F E R E D

To Heads of Families,

F O R

Instructing Children and Servants.

By J. G.

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.

Solomon.

FROM A CHILD THOU HAST KNOWN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE THEE WISE UNTO SALVATION.

Paul to Timotby.

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'**T**IS supposed that Heads of Families, who have any Regard to Religion, call their Families together (especially the younger ones) and instruct them in the Principles of Religion; and this ordinarily once a Week at least.

There are many Things already wrote for their Assistance,—the following, without any Apology, is offer'd for the same Purpose.

As some Questions are much easier than others, Parents will use Discretion in asking the youngest Children the easiest Questions; and they may ask more or less of these Questions at a Time, as they think proper, sometimes missing a Question or two as they proceed, especially if they are above the Child's Capacity.

These Questions left thus unanswered, will exercise the Invention of the Child, and it may be, sometimes of the Parent too. I would not have Parents confine themselves to these or any other Set of Questions, but ask others as they occur to their Minds.



FIRST PART.

SECT. I.

Concerning G O D.

1. **D**O you believe there is a GOD?
2. What is GOD?
3. Where is he?
4. Does GOD know all Things?
5. Does GOD ever alter his Mind?
6. Can he be ignorant of any Thing?
7. Has he a Body? 8. Can he be seen?
9. Did GOD ever begin to exist? or was there ever a Time when there was no GOD?
10. Can GOD do wrong?
11. Can Creatures make GOD unhappy?
12. Is not GOD very good, and to be loved?
13. How do you know there is a GOD?
14. Is it eno' to believe there is a GOD, because we are told by others that there is?
15. Are there more GODS than one?
16. Should we be glad there is such a GOD?
17. Should we be glad that we are in his Hand?
18. Can GOD see Persons every where; in the Dark as well as in the Light?

When Children answer these Questions, the Parents will approve, or disapprove; make Observations, and talk upon the Subject as they think proper.

I hope Parents will ask Questions upon many Subjects that are not here drawn out at large. The following are proper Heads for them to ask a Number of Questions upon.

1. The Soul. 2. A future State. 3. Our Sin and Misery. 4. Christ the Saviour. 5. Conversion. 6. The Sabbath. 7. Baptism. 8. The Sins and Snares of Youth. 9. Prayer.

I shall exemplify several of these, leaving the others to exercise the Invention and Discretion of Instructors.

SECT.

S E C T. II.

Of the S O U L.

1. **D**O you know that you have a Soul?
2. What is the Difference between the Soul and the Body?
3. Can the Body think and know?
4. Is it the Soul or the Body that is glad and sorry?
5. Will the Soul ever die?
6. What becomes of the Soul when the Body dies?
7. Do all Souls go to one Place after Death?
8. Will the Soul ever live in the Body again?
9. Is the Soul the best Part of a Person?
10. Should we take more Care for the Soul than for the Body?
11. Is the Soul worth more than all the World?

S E C T. III.

Of a future State.

1. **W**ILL this World ever come to an End?
2. Does any Body know when it will be?
3. May it not be very soon?
4. What will become of this Earth?
5. Will the Fire that burns the World, kill the People that live in it?
6. Will all Mankind then come together?
7. For what?
8. Who will judge them?
9. Must People then give Account of all they had done in this World?
10. Where must the wicked go when they are judged?
11. What Place is Hell?
12. Will that Fire kill Sinners?
13. Will they wish to die?
14. Will they ever come out of that Fire?
15. Is there no End of Eternity?
16. Will that Punishment be greater than Sinners deserve?

17. Will Sinners have any Hope of ever being in a better Condition ?
18. Will they then think of what they have done in this World ?
19. Where will good People go after they are judged ?
20. Is Heaven a better Place than the best in this World ?
21. What will the Saints do in Heaven ?
22. Will there be any Pain or Sorrow there ?
23. Will the Saints be as happy as they desire to be ?

S E C T. IV.

Of Repentance, Conversion, &c.

1. **W**ILL Christ save all Mankind ?
2. Will he save all that repent and believe ?
3. Will any be saved without a new Nature ?
4. Is not Conversion a great Change ?
5. Does any good Person live in allowed Sin ?
6. Do not Persons need GOD's Help in order to be converted ?
7. Does the Spirit strive with Persons under the Light of the Gospel ?
8. Is it not very dangerous to grieve the Spirit ?
9. Will GOD forgive great Sinners if they repent ?
10. What is true Repentance ?
11. What is saving Faith ?
12. Can any after Death repent with a saving Repentance ?
13. Is it common for Persons truly to repent upon a sick Bed ?
14. Is it not very dangerous to neglect Repentance in hopes of a better Opportunity ?
15. Does true Repentance rise chiefly from a Sight of our Danger, or from a Sense of the Evil of Sin as 'tis against GOD ?
16. Is there great Pleasure and Satisfaction in Religion ?
17. What are the most common Means that GOD uses for Sinners Conversion ?
18. Is it not great Sin to neglect Means ?

S E C T. V.

Of Baptism and the Care of baptised Children.

1. **W**H O appointed Persons to be baptised ?
2. Are all Sorts of Persons to be baptised ?
3. Are all Children to be baptised ?
4. Whose Children should not be baptised ?
5. Whose Children should be baptised ?
6. Will all baptised Persons be saved ?
7. Does Baptism lay Children under Obligation ?
8. What Obligation lies upon baptised Children more than upon others ?
9. What do Parents promise when they have their Children baptised ?
10. What is the Design of baptising Children ?
11. What is meant by the washing of Water in Baptism ?
12. What is meant by its being done in the Name of the Father ?
13. What by its being in the Name of the Son ?
14. What by being in the Name of the Holy Ghost ?
15. How should young Persons improve their Baptism ?
16. Are not the Sins of baptised Children more aggravated than the Sins of others ?
17. Must not Children, in the Day of Judgment, give account how they have improved their Baptism ?
18. Ought not the Church to watch over the Conduct of baptised Children.
19. Is it not a Benefit for Children to be restrained and kept from evil Practice ?
20. When Persons do wrong, is it not a Privilege to be called to account, and admonished ?
21. Why is the Discipline of baptised Children so much neglected ?
22. Should not Minister, Parents, and Children, do more to promote it ?

S E C T. VI.

*Miscellaneous Questions, that have little or no
Connexion.*

1. **W**HAT are the Advantages of early Piety ?
2. What should be the highest End and aim of every rational Creature ?
3. Can a Person have any good Hope of being saved, if he does not make Restitution when in his Power ?
4. Will the Damnation of Sinners glorify GOD ?
5. Does GOD ever answer the Prayers of the unregenerate ?
6. What are the unregenerate chiefly to pray for ?
7. Does GOD ever require us to act for his Glory, where it does not tend to our own Happiness ?
8. What was that Image of GOD in which Man was created ?
9. What is the difference between Justification and Sanctification ?
10. What is the difference between Faith and Repentance ?
11. What is the difference between the first and second Commandment ?
12. What is the Difference between the eighth and tenth Commandments ?
13. What was the Sin of *Moses* for which he was excluded *Canaan* ?
14. Does any graceless Person love GOD or Holiness ?
15. Is it true to say that all unregenerate Persons hate GOD and Holiness ?
16. Can GOD punish Sin, without punishing the Person that commits it ?
17. Is GOD's Holiness, Justice and Hatred of Sin, manifest as much in those that are saved, as in those that are damned ?
18. Will some sinners Punishment in Hell be greater than others ?
19. How can Persons be said to be Partakers of the Divine Nature ?

'Tis supposed that this Method of Catechising will not prevent learning the Assemblies Catechism in a proper Manner ; but to learn any Catechism by Heart is not so useful for Children, as to make them answer Questions from their own Judgment, and then for the Instructor to converse upon the Point.

S E C O N D P A R T.

Questions upon the Holy Scriptures.

S E C T. I.

Of the Creation of the World, of Adam, &c.

1. **H**OW came the World in Being ?
2. Did GOD make all Things Good ?
3. Did GOD make the Devils ?
4. Can any Creature, create something out of nothing ?
5. How long was GOD in making the World ?
6. Could he not have made it in a Moment ?
7. What did GOD make *Adam* of ?
8. What did he make *Eve* of ?
9. Was *Eve* made the sixth Day ?
10. Where were *Adam* and *Eve* put ?
11. Were they to do any Work ?
12. What were they to eat ?
13. Why was one Tree called the Tree of Knowledge ?
14. What did the Tree of Life signify ?
15. Did *Adam* continue in that State ?
16. How came he to fall ?
17. Which sin'd first, *Adam* or *Eve* ?
18. Who tempted *Eve* ?
19. Was that any thing more than a Common Serpent ?
20. What was threatened in Case they eat the forbidden Fruit ?
21. What did that Death mean ?
22. Did *Adam* die immediately ?
23. Did *Adam's* Sin do his Posterity any hurt ?
24. What hurt ?
25. What Punishment did GOD inflict upon *Adam* and *Eve* after they fell ?
26. What Promise did he give them ?
27. Who was meant by the Seed of the Woman ?
28. What was meant by bruising the Serpent's Head ?
29. Who were *Adam's* first Children ?
30. What was their Employment ?

31. What Evil did *Cain* ?
32. Why did he kill *Abel* ?
33. How was *Cain* punished for it ?
34. Had *Cain* any Children ?
35. How long was it from the Fall to the Flood ?
36. What became of *Enoch* ?
37. Did he prophecy ?
38. Who was the oldest Man ?
39. How long did he live ?
40. Were Men generally good or bad before the Flood ?

In some such Way as this, Parents may go thro' the Scriptures with their Children that have read their Bibles. They may proceed Part of the Way in one Week, and Part in another. There might be a Number of Questions asked upon *Noah's* Family and the Flood.

Others upon *Abraham* and what occurred in his Time. Others upon *Jacob* and his Family. Others upon *Moses* and *Israel* in *Egypt* and the Wilderness ---And so on thro' the historical Part of the Scripture. I shall give two Specimens more in the Old Testament, leaving others for Parents to exercise their Invention and Judgment about.

S E C T. II.

Of Jacob and his Family.

1. **W**HAT were the Names of *Isaac's* two Sons ?
2. Which was the Oldest ?
3. Whose was the Birthright ?
4. Did he sell it ?
5. For what ?
6. Which of his Sons did *Isaac* design to bless ?
7. How did *Jacob* get the blessing ?
8. Was it right for him to do so ?
9. Did he tell a Lye ?
10. Did God punish him for his Sin ?
11. How many Wives had *Jacob* ?
12. How did he obtain them ?
13. What other Name had *Jacob* given him ?

14. Why

14. Why was this Name given him ?
15. How many Years did he live with *Laban* ?
16. Did *Laban* fend him away ?
17. Was *Jacob* afraid of *Esau* many Years ?
18. How many Sons had *Jacob* ?
19. How many Daughters ?
20. What became of *Dinah* ?
21. Which of *Jacob's* Sons has most said of him ?
22. Who was his Mother ?
23. Did *Joseph's* Brethren love him ?
24. What did they do to him ?
25. Into what Country was he sold ?
26. From what Motive did he avoid his Mistress's Temptation ?
27. Did *Jacob's* other Sons go into *Egypt* ?
28. Why did they go ?
29. Did *Jacob* ever go into *Egypt* ?
30. How far was *Egypt* from *Canaan* ?
31. Did *Jacob* die in *Egypt* ?
32. Was he buried there ?
33. Why not ?
34. Which was *Jacob's* oldest Son ?
35. Which of his Sons had the Birthright ?
36. What was the Birthright ?
37. Did *Jacob* bless all his Sons ?

S E C T. III.

Of ELIJAH.

1. WERE the twelve Tribes of *Israel* in one Kingdom, or divided into two, in *Elijah's* Time ?
2. Which of those Kingdoms did *Elijah* live and act chiefly in ?
3. What King reign'd in *Israel* when *Elijah* made his Appearance ?
4. Was *Ahab* a good or wicked King ?
5. What was his Wife's Name ?
6. Was she a good Woman ?
7. Was there a Famine in *Elijah's* Time ?

8. How

8. How long were they without Rain ?
9. How did *Elijah* live in that Time ?
10. Did *Elijah* ever raise a dead Person to life ?
11. Who ?
12. Did ever any Body before *Elijah* raise a dead Person to life ?
13. Did *Jezebel* try to kill *Elijah* ?
14. Did she kill many of the Lord's Prophets ?
15. Who hid some of them in a Cave ?
16. Did *Elijah* cause *Baal's* Prophets to be slain ?
17. How did he convince the People that *Jehovah* was the true GOD, and *Baal* a false God ?
18. Was it right for *Elijah* to put *Baal's* Prophets to death ?
19. How did *Jezebel* threaten him for this ?
20. Where did *Elijah* then go ?
21. Did he wish to die ?
22. Was that right ?
23. Did *Jezebel* kill all the good People in *Israel* ?
24. Whose Vineyard did *Ahab* covet ?
25. How did he get it ?
26. How was *Ahab* and *Jezebel* threatened for this ?
27. How did *Ahab* come to his End ?
28. How was the threatening accomplished ?
29. In what Manner did *Jezebel* come to her End ?
30. Who destroyed *Ahab's* Family ?
31. Did *Elijah* pray for Fire from Heaven to consume any Persons ?
32. Was this right ?
33. What Prophet did he anoint in his Room ?
34. Have we an Account of *Elijah's* Death ?
35. In what Manner was he carried to Heaven ?
36. Did any body see him go ?
37. Did he go to Heaven Body and Soul ?
38. Has he ever been to this Earth since ?

It will be easy for Parents to make religious Observations to their Children, upon these or such like Questions as they proceed, and thereby lead them to consider the Hand of God, his Providence, his Justice, or Goodness in what occurs, &c.

Parents might easily ask a few Questions upon each of the Prophets. *Daniel* and *Jonah* especially would afford Matter for a Number of Questions.

In the New Testament, Questions might be asked upon *John* Baptist; upon the Ministry of *Christ*; upon his Sufferings, Death, Resurrection and Ascension: Also upon the Conduct of the Apostles after *Christ's* Ascension, &c.

I shall give one or two Specimens from the New Testament.

S E C T. IV.

Of JOHN the Baptist.

1. **W**H O was the Forerunner of *Jesus Christ*?
2. Why was he called the *Baptist*?
3. Which was born first, he or *Jesus Christ*?
4. Whose Son was *John*?
5. What Character or Office did *Zacharias* sustain?
6. Was it revealed to *Zacharias* that he should have a Son?
7. By what Sign was it confirmed?
8. How long was he dumb?
9. Upon what Occasion did he again begin to speak?
10. Where was *John* bro't up?
11. What Advice did he give to the common People that asked what they should do?
12. What Advice did he give to the Publicans?
13. What to the Soldiers?
14. Did the *Jews* ask *John* if he was the *Christ*?
15. What Answer did he give?
16. Did they ask him if he was *Elias*?
17. Why did they ask that?
18. Did *John* deny that he was *Elias*?
19. Did not *Christ* say that *John* was *Elias*?
20. How are these reconciled?
21. Wherein was *John* like *Elias*?
22. Did *John* point out *Christ* to the People?

23. How came *John* to know *Christ* ?
24. Why did *John* send two of his Disciples to ask *Christ* if he was the *Christ* ?
25. Did *John* go on preaching without Hindrance ?
26. Who obstructed him ?
27. Why did he ?
28. Did *Herod* hear *John* preach ?
29. What Death did *John* die ?
30. Why did *Herod* behead him ?
31. Was *Herod* bound by his Oath ?
32. What became of *John's* Body ?

S E C T. V.

Of the Burial, Resurrection and Ascension of
CHRIST.

1. **W**HAT Day of the Week was *Christ* crucified ?
2. What Time of the Day was he taken from the Cross ?
3. Who took him down and buried him ?
4. What Sort of Tomb was he put in ?
5. Whose was it ?
6. Who saw him buried ?
7. Did the Chief Priests think any Thing about his rising again ?
8. What did they do to prevent his Disciples taking away the Body ?
9. What Account did the Soldiers give when he had risen ?
10. What made them say as they did ?
11. Why did not the *Jews* believe that he was risen ?
12. What Day of the Week did *Christ* rise ?
13. What Time of the Day ?
14. How long was he in the Grave ?
15. To whom did he appear first after his Resurrection ?
16. Which of the Twelve Disciples was most unwilling to believe he was risen ?
17. How

17. How long after his Resurrection was his Ascension to Heaven ?
18. Did his Disciples see him ascend ?
19. Did he send down his Spirit on his Disciples as he promised he would ?
20. Was not this a full Evidence that he was risen, and that he was the Saviour that he said he was ?

Such a Method of asking Questions upon Scripture, is designed to try young Persons Knowledge in the Scripture, encourage them to read, and give Parents Opportunity to make Observations upon any Thing that may occur, and inculcate Truths upon the Children.

Parents may sometime go thro' the whole Bible at one Catechising, only asking here and there a few general Questions.

F I N I S.
