

# Heidelberg Catechism

## Lord's Day 37

### Overview/Purpose

“In these two questions the doctrine respecting the oath is explained at large.

Concerning this we must enquire,

- What is an oath?
- By whom are we to swear?
- Is it lawful for Christians to make oath?
- What are the things concerning which we are to make oath?
- Are all oaths to be kept?”

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 549.

### Method

Following the Trivium, the grammar stage calls for rote memorization. Constant drilling and recitation is absolutely necessary and will require direct parental participation.

### Suggested Materials For Parents

See “The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pgs 549-556.

### Word Definitions

• Bear witness	• Calling upon God	• Confirm
• Creature	• Creatures	• Demand
• Due	• Fidelity	• Founded
• Glory of God	• God's word	• Heart
• Honor	• Justly	• Lawful oath
• Magistrates	• Name of God	• Necessity
• Neighbor	• New Testament	• Oath

• Old Testament	• Punish	• Religiously
• Requires	• Safety	• Saints
• Subjects	• Swear	• Swear falsely
• Truth		

### **Suggested Activities**

- Review word definitions
- Memory game to review word definitions and catechism questions
- Spelling test using the words in this catechism lesson
- Memorize key bible verses
- Service projects to reinforce the lessons found in the catechism questions
  
- Many opportunities for creativity!

# **Heidelberg Catechism**

## **LORD'S DAY 37**

Question 101. May we then swear religiously by the name of God?

**Answer.** Yes: either when the magistrates demand it of the subjects; or when necessity requires us thereby to confirm [a] fidelity and truth to the glory of God, and the safety of our neighbor: for such an oath is [b] founded on God's word, and therefore was justly [c] used by the saints, both in the Old and New Testament.

Question 102. May we also swear by saints or any other creatures?

**Answer.** No; for a lawful oath is calling upon God, as the only one who knows the heart, that he will bear witness to the truth, and punish me if I swear [d] falsely; which honor is [e] due to no creature.

[a]: Ex. 22:11; Neh. 13:25

[b]: Deut. 6:13; Heb. 6:16

[c]: Gen. 21:24; Jos. 9:15,19; 1Sam. 24:22; 2Cor. 1:23; Rom. 1:9

[d]: 2Cor. 1:23

[e]: Mat. 5:34,35