

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 38

Overview/Purpose

“The ultimate ends for which the Sabbath was instituted are chiefly these:

1. The public worship of God in the church.
2. The preservation of the ecclesiastical ministry, which is an office divinely instituted to give instruction to the church concerning God and his will, out of the holy Scriptures, delivered by the prophets and Apostles, and to administer the sacraments according to divine appointment.
3. That it might be in the Old Testament a type signifying the spiritual and eternal Sabbath.
4. That the circumstance of the seventh day might remind and admonish men of the creation of the world, and of the duty of mediating upon the works which God made in six days.
5. That works of charity, liberality and kindness might especially be performed towards our neighbor on this day.
6. For the sake of bodily rest both to man and beasts: to beasts for the sake of man.
7. That men might by their example provoke one another to piety and the worship of God.
8. That the church might by this means be visible in the world, and be distinguished from idolators and blasphemers, so that those who are yet out of the church may know to what communion they ought to attach themselves.”

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 566.

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 557-574.

Word Definitions

• Becomes	• Begin	• Call upon the Lord
• Cease	• Christian	• Church of God
• Contribute	• Day of rest	• Days of my life
• Diligently	• Especially	• Eternal Sabbath
• Evil works	• Fourth Commandment	• Frequent
• God	• Hear his word	• Holy Spirit
• Lord	• Maintained	• Ministry of the Gospel
• Poor	• Publicly	• Relief
• Require	• Sabbath	• Schools
• Use the Sacraments	• Work	• Yield

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 38

Question 103. What doth God require in the fourth commandment?

Answer. First, that the ministry of the gospel and the schools be [a] maintained; and that I, especially on the sabbath, [b] that is, on the day of rest, [c] diligently frequent [d] the church of God, to hear his word, to use the sacraments, [e] publicly to call upon the Lord, and contribute to the relief of the [f] poor, as becomes a christian. Secondly, that all the days of my life I cease from my evil works, and yield myself to the Lord, to work by his Holy Spirit in me: and thus [g] begin in this life the eternal sabbath.

[a]: Deut. 12:19; Tit. 1:5; 1Tim. 3:14,15; 1Cor. 9:11; 2Tim. 2:2; 1Tim. 3:15

[b]: Lev. 23:3

[c]: Acts 2:42,46; 1Cor. 14:19,29,31

[d]: 1Cor. 11:33

[e]: 1Tim. 2:1

[f]: 1Cor. 16:2

[g]: Isa. 66:23