

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 51

Overview/Purpose

“Cyprian correctly and piously observes, respecting the order and argument of this fifth petition, that we pray for the pardon and forgiveness of our sins, after praying for a supply of food, that he who is fed by God, may live in God; nor do we merely have regard for this present, temporal life, but also for that which is eternal, to which all those attain whose sins are pardoned. This same Father likewise observes, that this petition is a remarkable and free confession of the church, in which she acknowledges and deplures her sins, and is at the same time a comfort that the church shall receive the forgiveness of sins according to the promise of Christ; and also binds us to extend forgiveness to our neighbor. Christ, therefore, by this petition wills, 1. That we acknowledge our sins. 2. That we thirst and long after the forgiveness of sins, inasmuch as this is granted to none but such as desire it, and who do not trample under foot the blood of the Son of God. 3. That our faith may be exercised, seeing that this petition springs from faith, and also confirms faith. For faith is the cause of prayer, and prayer is the cause of faith as it respects the increase thereof.”

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 648.

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 648-652.

Word Definitions

• Always	• Christ's blood	• Cleaves
• Debtors	• Debts	• Depravity
• Evidence	• Feel	• Fifth

• Firm resolution	• Forgive	• Grace
• Heart	• Impute	• Neighbor
• Pleased	• Poor	• Sinners
• Transgressions	•	•

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!

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LORD'S DAY 51

Question 126. What is the fifth petition?

Answer. [a] "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors"; that is, be pleased for the sake of Christ's blood, [b] not to impute to us poor sinners, our transgressions, nor that depravity, which always cleaves to us; even as we feel this evidence of thy grace in us, that it is our firm resolution from the heart to [c] forgive our neighbor.

[a]: Mat. 6:12

[b]: Psa. 51:1; 1John 2:1,2

[c]: Mat. 6:14,15