

# **A Faith to Live By**

An Independent Study of the  
Westminster Confession of Faith

How to use this study guide effectively each week:

1. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit would use the week's material to increase your knowledge of God and His Word. (see Psalm 119:1-8)
2. **Read the Confession of Faith** (WCF) sections listed. Read the proof texts too.
3. **Memorize the Scripture** verse(s) listed.  
(Sometimes they may not line up with the particular WCF sections, but they all build to give good memory references for the overall chapter.)
4. **Work through the discussion questions.**  
It is best to write down your answers.  
The questions may sometimes be difficult. Think, pray, ponder. Don't worry if you don't have answers to everything! We will discuss at our monthly meeting.  
Our main goal is thoughtfulness on the matters of God's Word, not getting everything right or clear the first time through.
5. **Come to the monthly discussion** prepared to interact with the material.

## April

### Week 1 (4/10) Creation

- Read: WCF 4.1-2

- Memorize: Psalm 33:6

*By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.*

- Study questions:

1. How is person of the Trinity involved in the work of Creation? (Hebrews 1:2, John 1:2-3, Job 33:4)
2. What are the five main points the Confession articulates about God's creating the world?
3. How does the creation account both humble and elevate humans?
4. According to the Confession, what are some ways that men and women are set apart from other creatures?
5. When the Confession explains the image of God, what four dimensions are given prominence? Why do you think they focused on these four in particular?

Week 2 (4/17)

- Read: WCF 5.1-3

- Memorize: Nehemiah 9:6

*You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.*

- Study questions:

1. Define God's Providence? (Use Larger Catechism 18 and Shorter Catechism 11 to help.)
  
2. How does the Confession describe the extent of God's providence?
  
3. When God's providence does not seem good to us, what Scripture passages might correct our perspective?
  
4. What do you think the Confession means when it calls God "the first cause"?
  
5. What do you think the Confession means when it says that God uses "second causes"?
  - a. What are the three types of second causes listed in section 2? (just name them)
  
  - b. If you feel up to it, use a dictionary to define these three terms and try to explain how they are "second causes".
  
6. How could studying God's providence help us to grow in contentment?

Week 3 (4/24)

- Read: WCF 5.4-5

- Memorize: Genesis 50:20

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*

- Study questions:

1. How does the Confession describe the relationship between God's providence and the fall (and other sins)?

2. What Scripture proof-texts on the providence-sin relationship stand out to you the most?

3. What are three reasons why God would leave His children in sin or suffering for a season?

Week 4 (5/1)

- Read: WCF 5.6-7

- Memorize: 1 Timothy 4:10

*For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.*

- Study questions:

1. Consider last week—section 5 in particular—and compare with section 6. Chad Van Dixhoorn writes, “The same event, action, or position can be used by one for their own good and by another for their destruction.”

a. How does God use withdrawal and suffering to benefit believers but to harden unbelievers?

2. What privileges does the Church experience in regard to God’s providence?

3. Why is section 7 very important?

**Monthly Discussion: Thursday, May 5 @ 7:00pm**