

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.

March

Week 1 (3/10)

- Read: WCF 22.1-4

- Memorize: Ecclesiastes 5:2

Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.

- Study questions:

Section 1

1. Why do you think the authors of the Confession include a section on oaths and vows?

2. What is the purpose of an oath?

Section 2

3. When the time comes to swear an oath, by what name ought we to swear? Why?

4. Why should we not swear by another name?

5. What circumstances are inappropriate for an oath? What circumstances are appropriate for one?

Section 3

6. What can you swear to do?

7. What can you not swear to do?

Section 4

8. What should an oath not oblige?

9. In what circumstance could an oath be violated?

Week 2 (3/17)

- Read: WCF 22.5-7

- Memorize: Psalm 76:11

Make your vows to the LORD your God and perform them; let all around him bring gifts to him who is to be feared,

- Study questions:

Section 5

10. How are oaths and vows similar?

Section 6

11. What is the difference between an oath and a vow?

12. What stipulations do the Divines put on vows?

13. What is the purpose of a vow?

Section 7

14. What kind of vows are forbidden?

Monthly Discussion: Thursday, March 7 @ 7:00pm