

Value the Church: *Confirmation*

LESSON AT A GLANCE	
Facilitator Notes:	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is confirmation? ➤ What am I vowing to? ➤ Why is a confirmation blessing important? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I am taking on the responsibility that my parents/guardians took on at my baptism and sealing. (Q&A question 663) ➤ I am vowing to renounce Satan and to be faithful to God. (Q&A question 667) ➤ The blessing strengthens me in my effort to keep my vow and to profess Jesus in word and deed. (Q&A question 666) <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IGNITE Bible ➤ Catechism Q&A ➤ Nametag for each student (see handout) ➤ Safety pin for each student ➤ "Confirmation" video from NAC USA YouTube channel <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bible: Galatians 5:22-23 ➤ Catechism Q&A questions: 472, 660-667, 675
PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
	<p>This week we will be discussing confirmation. For those who have been confirmed, what was it like? For those who will be confirmed in the future, what are you hoping it will be like? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.</p>
POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary. • Consider including the "Confirmation" video link in the post-discussion email and encourage families to watch it together 	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the "I Wonder..." questions were about confirmation – what it is, what vow we make at our confirmation, and why it is important. Talk with your student about your confirmation day. How did you celebrate it? What was it like? How has the blessing you received on that day strengthened and helped you remain faithful to God? As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders</p>

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday’s sermon? ➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn? ➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday? ➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
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HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. • The text of the Confirmation vow is included in Catechism Q&A question 667. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How are you and how are you feeling today? ➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week? <p>Have the students take a nametag. Next, ask them to choose a phrase from the confirmation vow that sticks out to them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ “I renounce Satan and all his work and ways, and surrender myself to You, O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful to You until my end. Amen.” <p>Once they have chosen their phrase, tell them to write it as a promise on their nametag. For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I promise to renounce Satan. ➤ I promise to surrender myself to God. ➤ I promise to be obedient to God. ➤ I promise to remain faithful to God until my end. <p>Tell the students: When we make promises, especially ones that we make to God, we want to take them seriously. Our actions and words should reflect the promises that we make because our promises define who we are, as much as our names define who we are.</p> <p>Have the students pin their nametags to their shirt for the rest of the day.</p>
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SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preview the “I wonder” questions with the students. 	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is confirmation? ➤ What am I vowing to? ➤ Why is a confirmation blessing important?
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LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- If you, as the facilitator, have been confirmed in the New Apostolic Church, consider bringing a picture from your Confirmation to share with the students.

Student Question #1 What is confirmation?

Read Catechism Q&A question 663 together.

Ask the students: Was there anything we read that you didn't know?

- If the students indicate something they didn't know previously (i.e. that making the confirmation vow also means they publicly profess the New Apostolic faith), make sure they understood it before moving on.

Tell the students: Through the baptism with water and Holy Spirit, each of us became a child of God, even if we don't remember our baptism or sealing. The promise to surrender ourselves to God in faith is linked to receiving these sacraments. Your parents/guardians promised to raise you as a Christian and guide you in your faith, so that on your confirmation day, you could take responsibility for your faith and make this confirmation vow to God. Confirmation isn't a "graduation" or just a celebration with a party; rather, it is a commitment to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

It is important to distinguish between an act of blessing and a sacrament.

- The sacraments are dispensed in the divine service, after the forgiveness of sins and the Eucharistic prayer. The acts of blessing generally take place after the celebration of Holy Communion. Since Confirmation has a direct relationship with the sacraments of Holy Baptism with water and Holy Sealing, this act of blessing is performed before the celebration of Holy Communion. (Catechism Q&A question 675)

Student Question #2 Why is it necessary/important for you to take responsibility for your faith?

- Some possible answers are:
 - It shows God that I believe in Him and want to follow Jesus.
 - It's proof to myself and others that I am serious about my faith.
 - My parents cannot always be responsible for me, especially as I become an adult.
- In answering this question, hopefully the students start to realize the significance of their confirmation, and come to look forward to it (if they have not already been confirmed) as they mature in their faith.

Student Question #3 What am I vowing to?

Tell the students: Let's read the confirmation vow again and list what we are promising to believe and do when we make that vow.

- "I renounce Satan and all his work and ways, and surrender myself to You, O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful to You until my end. Amen." (Catechism Q&A question 667)

- Make sure the students' answers include the following points. If they don't say them, make sure to summarize with these points:
 - I vow to renounce Satan and strive to do no evil.
 - I vow to completely entrust myself to God.
 - I vow to believe in the Trinity.
 - I vow to obey God's word/commands.
 - I vow to live according to His will and put it above my own.

Taking responsibility for your faith and subsequent actions can be intimidating. When making a vow, whether a marriage vow or Confirmation vow, it isn't a vow indicating that you know it all. Rather, it is a vow indicating that you are committing to the life-long process and journey of growth and development. In a marriage, it is a vow to grow and develop with someone else and to love them along the way (in the good and the bad). Similarly in Confirmation, you are making a vow to renounce Satan and surrender yourself to God and that you will continue to pursue an ongoing and deepening relationship with God throughout your life.

Consider the act of making a vow like the image of a starting line rather than a finish line of a race.

Student Question #4 Why is a confirmation blessing important?

Tell the students: At confirmation, we receive a blessing on our vow. When God grants this blessing, it means He offers us His help, grace, and compassion in upholding our vow (ref. Catechism Q&A question 661). This blessing is different from a sacrament in that sacraments are acts of God's grace through which we can attain salvation (ref. Catechism Q&A question 472).

Ask the students: With God's help in keeping your vow to Him, what qualities or values do you think will flourish inside of you as a result of the confirmation blessing?

- Some possible answers are:
 - Peace – this will help you to remain calm during times of difficulty you are likely to face in the future.
 - Love – this will help you to love your neighbor as yourself, which is one of Jesus' commands.
 - Joy – this will help you to continue living out your vow.
 - Wisdom – this will help you recognize and accept God's will in all situations, and respond appropriately.
 - Faith – this will help you to always turn to God and understand Him as the almighty and all-powerful God who created you.
- If the students have trouble answering, have them read Galatians 5:22-23 for inspiration.

- **Galatians 5:22-23:** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with what their confirmation day means to them.

Close with the "I Wonder...." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their confirmation day, they will make or have already made a vow to God that they have promised to keep for the rest of their lives.
- If there is time, consider showing the brief ["Confirmation" video](#) from the NAC USA YouTube channel.

I wonder...

- What is confirmation?
- What am I vowing to?
- Why is a confirmation blessing important?

I believe...

- I am taking on the responsibility that my parents/guardians took on at my baptism and sealing. (Catechism Q&A question 663)
- I am vowing to renounce Satan and to be faithful to God. (Catechism Q&A question 667)
- The blessing strengthens me in my effort to keep my vow and to profess Jesus in word and deed. (Catechism Q&A question 666)

Point to Ponder...

- A vow taken before God has greater significance than any other promise we will ever make. This vow may never be questioned, we often think about it, we endeavor to keep it, and we live our life in accordance with it. The resolution to remain faithful to God until our end needs to be deeply rooted in our hearts.

A Call to Action....

Speak with three members in the congregation about their confirmation and what it meant to them. Ask them how the blessing they received from God on their confirmation has helped them in their life to remain faithful to Him.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

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References: Galatians 5:22-23, Catechism Q&A question: 472, 661, 663, 675	

1. What is confirmation?

2. Why is it necessary/important for you to take responsibility for your faith?

3. What am I vowing to?

4. Why is a confirmation blessing important?

Point to Ponder: A vow taken before God has greater significance than any other promise we will ever make. This vow may never be questioned, we often think about it, we endeavor to keep it, and we live our life in accordance with it. The resolution to remain faithful to God until our end needs to be deeply rooted in our hearts.

Call to Action: Speak with three members in the congregation about their confirmation and what it meant to them. Ask them how the blessing they received from God on their confirmation has helped them in their life to remain faithful to Him.

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