

Confirmation: Questions for Mentors

Ch. 1: Baptism and Confirmation: Beginnings

+++++

What are your best memories growing up?
Did you attend church as a young person? What are your memories of church?
What is important to you about being a Christian? What is important about church?

What do you remember about your Baptism and Confirmation? Do you still have your baptismal and confirmation certificate and other items (such as baptismal gown, candle, pictures, etc.) from those events?

Read together Matthew 3:13-17 (Baptism of Jesus). What did God say when Jesus was baptized? Can you imagine God saying the same about you when you were baptized? What does it mean to hear that you are God's beloved (dearly loved)?

Confirmation: Questions for Mentors

Ch. 2: The Bible: Stories about Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

+++++

Read together Genesis 1:1-2:3 (first creation story). When God made humankind, he says, “Let us make humankind in our image.” Can you think of a reason why God is plural here? What does it mean to be made in God’s image and likeness? What is the relationship between humankind, creation, and God?

Share your favorite stories from the Jewish Scriptures and Christian Scriptures. How do these stories impact your faith and walk with God? Has reading the Bible ever changed the way you view Jesus? God?

What are some of your best memories and stories from your childhood? How do these stories affect you today? Are you able to connect your stories with stories from the Bible?

Confirmation: Questions for Mentors

Ch. 3: Knowing Our History

+++++

Read together Hebrews 11:1-12:3 (models of faith). When looking at the people of faith mentioned in this passage, what did they do that shows their faith? How does your faith affect what you do?

Look on page 19 of the Book of Common Prayer together. Look through the list of saints and identify any names you recognize. What do you know about them? The book *Holy Women, Holy Men* (available as a pdf online...the link is below at the bottom of the page) includes short biographies of each of the people (and other really cool ones not in the BCP!) along with appointed prayers and readings for each saint's day. Fr. Dorian also has a copy. Choose a saint together and read more about them (particularly their collect from HWHM).

Who has been important in your life? Note one quality that you admire in that person. Whom in your church do you identify as a leader? What is his or her ministry?

Confirmation: Questions for Mentors

Ch. 4: Faith: What Do We Believe?

+++++

Read together Mark 10:46-52. Did Bartimaeus have faith before he regained his sight? Can you think of a time when seeing something changed your belief? If you saw the movie *Santa Claus 2*, you may remember the line, “You have to believe to see.” Can you think of a time when believing in something made you “see” differently?

Which of the three persons (the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit) do you most often address in your prayers? Why do you think this is so? (This is no “right/wrong” answer)

When you pray or think about God, what image comes to mind? What are the characteristics of God the image reflects?

Look at the Apostles’ Creed together. Is there anything meaningful? Anything difficult? Why so? The first half of the Apostles Creed tells us what God has done for us. What new thing is God up to in the world today?

Confirmation: Questions for Mentors

Ch. 5: Worship: Responding to God's Blessings

+++++

Read together Genesis 12:1-9. What did Abram do immediately after receiving God's blessing of land? Name something good that has happened in your life. Thank God for that blessing.

What is your favorite part of the worship service? Or what part do you find the most powerful? Why?

Do you remember when you first received communion? What do you remember? How does communion nourish/bless you today?

The Eucharistic prayer has four actions in its structure: take, bless, break, and give. What do these actions mean to you? Do you see ways in which these actions play out in your daily life?

Confirmation: Questions for Mentors

Ch. 6: Sacraments: Signs of Grace

+++++

Read together John 13:1-17 (Jesus washing the feet of the disciples). What stands out to you in this story? Have you ever participated in a foot washing? What was that experience like? If a sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, how or why might the foot washing be a sacramental action? Can you think of an event in your life that was a sacramental moment?

If sacraments are “so what” encounters with the divine, what’s the “so what” of baptism?

What sacraments have you witnessed or experienced? What was important about that sacrament? What sacraments have you not experienced or are not familiar with? What do you wonder about those sacraments?

Jesus often talks of the kingdom of heaven as a banquet. The Eucharist is a foretaste of this heavenly banquet. What do you think this banquet is like? What is the inward and spiritual grace that you feel you receive in the Eucharist?

Confirmation: Questions for Mentors

Ch. 7: Spirituality: Created for Prayer

+++++

Read together John 21:1-14 (breakfast at the beach). How is sharing a meal prayer? What kind of prayer do you think it is (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, or supplication)? What makes a meal a time of prayer? How do you think the disciples felt eating breakfast with Jesus?

Share with each other how you pray. What have been the fruits of your prayers? What is your favorite time to pray or a favorite way to pray?

What spiritual practices sound appealing? Commit to trying a new spiritual practice for a week and reflect together on that experience.

What does it mean to have a relationship with God? How do you sustain that relationship? Have you ever felt that God was absent or distant? Have you ever felt that God was very close?

Confirmation: Questions for Mentors

Ch. 8: Navigating the Church

+++++

Read together 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (one body, many members). What issue could the Apostle Paul have been addressing with this passage? What does it mean for there to be one body with many members? What part of the body would you say you are – the hand, the ear, the eyes, the feet, or some other body part? Why?

What makes the Episcopal Church *Episcopal* for you? What are important issues facing the Church today? What could the Church be doing better?

What is the mission statement of St. Peter's? What does St. Peter's do to carry out this mission?

Imagine St. Peter's in 20 years? What do you hope stays the same? What do you hope changes?

Confirmation: Questions for Mentors

Ch. 9: The Mission of God: What's Your Ministry?

+++++

Read together Romans 12:4-8 (variety of gifts). What spiritual gifts does Paul list in this passage? What does *exhortation* mean? Which of these spiritual gifts do you think you have? What makes it a spiritual gift?

Read the Servant Song (Isaiah 42:1-3) on page 165 of *My Faith My Life* to each other, replacing "him" and "he" with each other's names. What could you do, or what are you already doing, to bring justice to the world?

What are various ways that Jesus served people? How does St. Peter's serve people outside the church? How do you serve others outside the church? What are ways that St. Peter's as a community and/or you individually could do better at serving outside the church?

Read the baptismal promises (page 304-305 in the BCP). Do you think one is more important than the others? Or is there one specifically that speaks to you? Why?

What does a world that is restored to wholeness look like?