

Confirmation Creed Worksheet
For Confirmands and Sponsors
Based on the Apostles' Creed

The purpose of these program worksheets is to provide a format for casual conversation between sponsors and confirmands. They are designed to allow the sharing of faith experiences and seek to build a faith based relationship between a young person who is embarking upon the journey of faith, and a member of the congregation who has some experience in a journey of faith.

It is suggested that you spend time on each of the sections of the worksheet to begin compiling ideas for the confirmand's creed that is to be completed at the end of the class. Work at your own pace and give serious thought and effort into shaping a creed that is the personal beliefs of the confirmand. His or her creed is a statement of personal faith and not just a regurgitation of parent's, sponsor's or pastor's faith. This is something that they should own for themselves.

My God bless your time together and the conversation that comes from these pages.

The Apostle's Creed
(Ecumenical Version)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Topic 1: What we Believe About God

Read what the Apostle's Creed Says about God.

"I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

Discussion

1. "I believe in God" is one of the most basic statements of faith. We believe that God exists and that there is only one God. Even though we believe in the trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), they are not separate gods, but rather one God being made known in different ways.

Talk to one another about evidence of God's existence, giving examples of different ways God is made known to you. (Examples: nature, prayer, other people, worship)

2. By calling God "the Father", we are stating that a relationship exists between people and God. God loves and cares about us. As Father (or a loving parent) God has standards for our behavior. God wants us to live a moral and just life

List some of the attributes of the parent/child relationship that you have witnessed in your relationship with God. How is this relationship with God expressed in your everyday life?

3. The word "Almighty" means all powerful. God is in charge of the world. People can't control God. We can't force or trick God into doing our will. (Examples: conditional prayers to win a game or pass a test.)

Discuss ways to pray to God for help. Talk about times when God's power has helped you do difficult things that you thought you couldn't do, but with God you could.

4. God is the maker of Heaven and Earth. Our world is God's creation. God is not identified with part of creation (the sun or moon), nor can an image (idol) of God be created by human hands because God is spirit.

Talk to one another about how the idea of God influences you in stewardship of your material possessions, money, God-given talents, and time. How can we use these things to serve God's plan for the world?

Confirmand: Write your ideas about "what I believe in God"

Topic 2: What we Believe About Jesus

Read what the Apostle's Creed Says about Jesus.

"I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead."

Discussion

1. Jesus is the Son of God. He is both human and divine. He is the word incarnate, or "made flesh". Jesus has the characteristics of being human and also the spiritual nature of God. He is not part human and part God, but fully both.

Talk about how your belief in Jesus affects your personal relationship with God. Discuss how Jesus' life is a model for us to live our own lives.

2. Jesus is our Lord. By acknowledging Jesus as our Lord, we are saying we are one of his disciples.

Talk about how you have followed in the footsteps of Jesus as a disciple on your everyday life. Talk about how being a disciple is more than a personal belief, but a way of life.

3. Jesus' life here on earth. Jesus was born, suffered, died and rose so that we may have life.

Witness to one another about how these events in Jesus' life affect your belief in who Jesus is. Is one of these events more important than another?

4. Jesus will come again.

Discuss the importance about the understanding of future judgment (being held accountable for your life). What is the importance between what we say we believe versus our actions?

Confirmand: Write your ideas about "what I believe in Jesus"

Topic 3: What we Believe About Holy Spirit

Read what the Apostle's Creed Says about the Holy Spirit.

"I believe in the Holy Spirit"

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). The Holy Spirit is God known to us through our own hearts and minds. It is the part of God that lives in each of us.

Discussion

1. The Holy Spirit as Revealer of Truth

It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to understand and apply Bible truths. The Holy Spirit also enables us to truthfully examine ourselves, what we think, do and say, as compared to God's standard of righteous behavior he desires for each of us.

Discuss how a scripture or Bible story revealed a truth about your life or about yourself.

2. The Holy Spirit Empowers us to Change

It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to stop doing bad behavior. It also enables us to start or take on new tasks that may seem impossible or overwhelming.

Discuss how the Holy Spirit enabled you to overcome selfishness, fear, or lack of confidence to initiate a change in your life.

3. The Holy Spirit as Counselor

The Holy Spirit provides guidance for life's decisions.

Discuss how the Holy Spirit guided a decision.

4. The Holy Spirit as Comforter

The Holy Spirit provides inner peace during times of difficulty. It helps carry the heavy burdens of hurt, pain or confusion.

Discuss the situation and feelings of inner peace.

5. The Holy Spirit Develops "Fruit"

The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. This "fruit" is the natural result of having God living in our hearts.

Discuss how the Holy Spirit has developed one of these "fruits" in your life.

Confirmand: Write your ideas about "What I believe in the Holy Spirit"

Topic 4: What we Believe About the church

Read what the Apostle's Creed Says about the church

"I believe in...the holy catholic church, the communion of saints."

Discussion

1. The church is the community of believers. It is people, not the building.

Discuss the attributes of the MUMC community of believers which have been most important to you.

2. By defining the church as holy, we state our belief that the church is set apart for God's service. It is our purpose to be God's workers here on earth, implementing His plan and vision.

Discuss how you work to implement God's vision for our world.

3. The term "catholic" means universal. It does not refer to the Roman Catholic Church but rather to the whole Christian Church. The apostle Paul refers to the church as the "body of Christ". All believers are united in their common belief in Jesus Christ.

Discuss ways that MUMC is part of the body of Christ actively working in the community and world.

4. By referring to each person in the church as a saint, we again focus on our relationship with God and our calling to be His people. The communion of saints is our fellowship and sharing of what we have in common (worship).

Discuss how the celebration of you faith through worship with other of God's people strengthens you and encourages your efforts for work in His service.

Confirmand: Write your ideas about "what I believe about the Church"

Topic 5: What we Believe About Forgiveness

Read what the Apostle's Creed Says about the forgiveness.

"I believe in...the forgiveness of sins."

Discussion

1. People sin by stepping away from God's will. They choose to do things that are wrong. This results from sinful attitudes and thinking.

Discuss to each other how attitudes such as jealousy, covetousness or selfishness lead to acts of sin.

2. Forgiveness involves both repentance and atonement. Repentance is a commitment to change so the wrong will not happen again. Atonement is the willingness to give up or pay something to make up for the wrong committed. When we ask for forgiveness we are making this commitment.

Discuss the importance of the act of asking for forgiveness. What would it be like if we received forgiveness without asking?

3. Sin has consequences. One of the consequences of a sin is that a person alienates him/herself from God and breaks their relationship. The effect of God's forgiveness is that the relationship is restored. God's forgiveness will not erase other consequences of sin. Our relationship with God can be a source of strength and guidance to live through the consequences.

Discuss how forgiveness and a restored relationship with God helped a person handle other consequences of their sin.

4. When we forgive other people who have wronged us, we free ourselves from anger, hate, and the need to get back. Forgiveness is giving up the desire to punish or get even with someone who has done us wrong.

Discuss a personal or Biblical example of this statement.

5. As Christians we believe Jesus is our Savior or Deliverer from sin. Our salvation, freedom to love and serve God, is through Jesus.

Discuss how Jesus is your Savior.

Confirmand: Write your ideas about "what I believe about forgiveness."

Topic 6: What we Believe About Life Everlasting

Read what the Apostle's Creed Says about the life everlasting.

"I believe in...the resurrection of the body and life everlasting."

Discussion

1. Jesus was resurrected. He came to life again after having been dead. His disciples saw him, talked with him, and ate with him. The Jesus ascended into heaven to be united with God.

Discuss how you know the resurrection of Jesus to be true.

2. Even though Jesus is not physically on earth today, his life and teachings continue to impact people's lives.

Discuss how Jesus is alive in our world today.

3. We know from Jesus that death is not the end, that we have a life after death with God in heaven.

Discuss how your faith was a comfort in the death of a loved one.

4. Because of our faith, we can face our own death without fear. The future hope found in our salvation is that when we die, we will go to live with God in heaven.

Discuss how you feel about dying

Confirmand: Write your ideas about "what I believe about life everlasting". Now look at your thoughts about forgiveness and life everlasting and write, "what I believe about salvation".