

Confirmation: Purpose

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

Purpose Wednesday 1: What is Confirmation?

Lesson themes:

- 1) What makes me happy?
- 2) Why and how am I *chosen* by God in my Catholic faith and in the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- 3) Why should I want to be Catholic?

Scripture Verses for Reference and Reflection:

“Blessed the people so fortunate; blessed the people whose God is the LORD.” Psalm 144:15

“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.” John 15:16

“But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

“Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours.” 2 Thessalonians 2:15

Purpose Wednesday 1 Lesson Plan:

6 – 6:10 PM: Candidate check-in, Nametags, Paperwork drop-off

6:10 – 6:15 PM: Opening Prayer

6:15 – 6:25 PM: Icebreaker 1: Mentimeter Trivia

6:25 – 6:40 PM: Teaching 1: Happiness

6:40 – 6:55 PM: ***Large Group Survey 1: The big question: What do I want out of life?***

6:55 – 7:05 PM: Break

7:05 – 7:10 PM: Icebreaker 2: Happiness Meter/Happiness Twin

7:10 – 7:30 PM: Teaching 2: Guided and Strengthened by the Holy Spirit

7:30 – 7:50 PM: ***Large Group Survey 2: The big question: Why should I be Catholic?***

Purpose Wednesday 1 Lesson Reference Material

Key Questions:

- 1) Who are you and who is I AM?**
- 2) Who is the Holy Spirit and what is Confirmation?**
- 3) What does it mean to be Catholic?**

Goals & Objectives: The goal of this session is to assist the teens in examining their lives and how God is calling them to be Confirmed. Additionally, teens will consider their relationship

with God, and how God chooses relationship with them through the Church and her Sacraments in order to make them happy.

Lesson References

God created each of us with human desires, with needs. But what does that mean? It is a calling deep within us, a hearkening back to the way in which we were made and who made us. As we prepare for Confirmation, we will be exploring what these desires are and how we fulfill them.

“The human person: with his openness to truth and beauty, his sense of moral goodness, his freedom and the voice of his conscience, with his longings for the infinite and for happiness, man questions himself about God's existence. In all this he discerns signs of his spiritual soul. the soul, the "seed of eternity we bear in ourselves, irreducible to the merely material", can have its origin only in God.” CCC 33

It is even difficult for us to discern our own needs and wants at times. If we cannot figure out what we want, how are we supposed to figure out what God wants? Our true desires are written on our hearts, woven into the very fabric of our creation. But do we know our own heart? Can we hear what it is calling out to?

“The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for: The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator.” CCC 27

As we grow and mature, so do our desires and longings. Think of what you wanted as a kid versus now. As life is a journey of maturity, so too is your faith. What you needed as a kid is not the same as what you need in your faith now. The time you invested in your faith as a child is not the time it needs now. When you were young, your parents stood before the Church and declared that they would raise you in the faith. You were plunged into the water and rose a new creation. But that was their choice, their decision. When you are young, your parents decide how to fulfill your needs and desires. But as you grow, you get to decide for yourself.

“This sacrament is called Baptism, after the central rite by which it is carried out: to baptize (Greek baptizein) means to "plunge" or "immerse"; the "plunge" into the water symbolizes the catechumen's burial into Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as "a new creature.”” CCC 1214

Confirmation is just the beginning of your faith journey. It is the moment that you stand up, as a fully initiated member of the Church, and take ownership of your faith. It is no longer the faith of your parents, but your own. It is the beginning of your journey toward true happiness, fulfilling those desires in a way that lasts, and chasing not what is fleeting but what is eternal.

“Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal

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grace. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." CCC 1285

In preparation for and understanding of the importance of Confirmation, it is helpful to realize that we are taken, or chosen, by God. To get in touch with your chosenness, remind yourself that the world tells many lies about you, but the truth is "that I am the chosen child of God"; keep looking for the people and places where your truth is spoken, and spend time with those people and in those places; and be grateful for your chosenness.

"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God." 1 John 3:1

". . . as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will. . ." Ephesians 1:4-5

At-home/Make-up Lesson Instructions:

Parents and/or Sponsors: Please read through the provided reference material above and discuss with your candidate. Talk with them through the questions below. After your discussion, have your candidate complete the short answer questions on the next page.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Where do you see God working in your life?*
- 2) *What does it mean to you to be happy?*
- 3) *Can you think of a moment when you experienced Communion with God either sacramentally or outside of the sacraments? What was that moment like?*

Short Answer Questions:

- 1) What mission or vocation is God calling you to in life right now? What is your current role or responsibility in your family and the Church? What makes you feel this way?**

- 2) How does it feel to be “chosen” by God in Baptism and Confirmation? Does learning about your "chosen-ness" change the way you approach the Sacrament of Confirmation or Confirmation Prep?**

- 3) Confirmation is only the beginning of your faith journey. As you look forward in your life, in what ways is God calling you to share your gifts with the Church and others? How is He calling you to serve Him?**

- 4) What does it mean to you to be Catholic?**
