

CONFIRMATION

Sponsor Session

What does God even want from me?

GOD IS RELATIONAL

Instructions

Dear Confirmation Candidate and Sponsor, thank you for committing to growing closer to Christ together! These sponsor sessions are a great time for you to strengthen your relationship with each other and with God. Each session, you'll read some content, watch a short video, and engage in lots of discussion. For the reading portions, you can switch off reading each paragraph. Additionally, the discussion questions are for both of you to answer. I pray that these sponsor sessions will be transformative and fun for you both!

Overview

Read:

The heart of salvation history is an invitation from God to his people into a relationship. In any discussion of God, we have to remember that it is not just an intellectual or philosophical discussion, but that God has revealed himself to be personal and desirous of a relationship with us. This requires each person to make an intentional assent; to say yes or no to this invitation. This session will look at the basic gospel message, the Kerygma.

Theme Scripture

ISAIAH 43:1

"But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine."

CONNECT

1. Check-In

Discuss:

- What are your "highs and lows" of this week? (High - best part of your week; Low - worst part)
- How are you? How is your heart? (Are you happy, sad, depressed, anxious, excited, etc., and why?)
- What are you looking forward to doing? What are you excited about?
- What have you been frustrated with lately? What are you anxious about? What are you sad about?
- How have you been spiritually? Do you feel on fire for God... distant from Him... somewhere in between? Why do you think you feel this way?
- Where have you seen God at work in the world and/or your life lately?
- How can I pray for you this week?

2. Opening Prayer

Begin your prayer with the theme verse. Then, share prayer requests. Lastly, end with this prayer or your own prayer:

"Holy Spirit we ask you to be with us as we hear your good news proclaimed to us and share our experiences with each other. We give this time to you and ask you to direct our conversation. Amen."

DISCOVER

3. Video

Jot down 3 questions or things that stand out to you while watching the video.

Watch the "God is Relational" video. You can find it on the Confirmation page on mystelizabeth.com.

4. Reflection

Discuss:

- What is your first impression of the video? Did you like it or not? Was it clear or confusing? Why?
- What words or feelings come to mind?

Read:

The term kerygma is a Greek word meaning “proclamation,” or simply, “message.” Following Jesus can feel complicated, but the central message of the gospel is actually very simple:

-First and foremost, God loves us.

-But it often doesn't feel like it. We live divided from that love. Something is broken, and we call that brokenness, sin.

-No matter how hard we try, we cannot save ourselves. Jesus is the only one who can bridge the divide between us and God. He did so by sacrificing himself on the cross for our sins and then rising from the dead.

-If all of that is true, it demands a response from us. How do we respond?

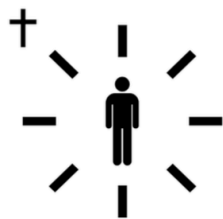
The ministry of Jesus proclaims restoration over human brokenness and an invitation to respond.

Discuss:

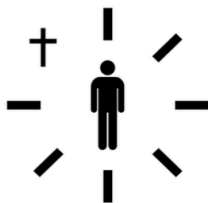
- What 3 things did you write down during the video?
- What does it mean that we are, as the video begins, "created out of an abundance of love"?
- What does separation from God look like in the world around us?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to recognize your own separation from God? Why do you think that is?
- What are some real-life examples of things that pull people away from God?

- What has pulled you farther from God?
- What are some practical ways you can draw closer to God?
- What has brought you closer to God?
- How have you experienced God's love in your own life?
- Have you experienced being "found" by God?
- Is there a person who has shared God's love with you? Tell about them and some of the ways they've shared this with you. How has their witness impacted your life?
- What do you think it looks like, for you personally, to receive and proclaim the Good News in your daily life (at home, at school, with friends, with teammates, etc.)?
- What are the unique challenges you face today in proclaiming the message of Jesus? (Social media, societal pressure, etc.)
- Do you think the disciples and other saints struggled in a similar way?
- The end of the video states, "I am meant to be in the garden." This refers to the paradise of the Garden of Eden described in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. Have you caught a glimpse of what "the garden" might be like? "The garden" refers to communion with God. Think of a place, a particular group of people, a time, or a relationship where God seems closest to you.
- What do you think God ultimately wants from us? (More than anything, scripture shows that God is constantly inviting his people into a relationship with him.)

- Which of these images below best represents God's place in your life right now? Are you content with where He is or do you want it to change?



OUTSIDE OF MY LIFE



PART OF MY LIFE



CENTER OF MY LIFE

COMMIT

5. Closing

Read:

The point of all of this is that God doesn't just love us in a distant, generic way but in a real and personal way. This great love demands a response from us.

This week, your challenge is to pray a simple prayer, responding to the gospel message and giving your life to Jesus. No one can do this for you. It has to be a personal choice and a personal commitment. It isn't a formula, but you can pray something like:

Jesus, I thank you for the love you have for me, and for dying for me on the Cross. I'm sorry for my sins, and any choice I've made that has separated me from you. I invite you into my heart and in my life and I choose you to be Lord of my life. Amen.