

CONFIRMATION

Sponsor Session

Why does Jesus even matter? Saved from what?

GOD IS REDEEMER

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 need for a savior can be difficult for us to recognize. But until we recognize this need, Jesus will never really make sense to us. We all have a fallen nature, which God in His great love, goodness and mercy can transform. We are not made for sin, but instead, we are made to be united to God. Jesus invites us to say yes to this transformation. There is a fundamental choice we must make for Him and continue to make that choice each day in order to live a life with and inspired by him. This session focuses on the way Jesus transforms our lives amid our sin, our sufferings, our fears, and our weaknesses.

Theme Scripture

1 JOHN 1:8-9

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

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:

"Jesus, You are the source of our hope and our joy. Guide us in our time together. Help us to see our need for You and to invite You more fully into our hearts. Amen."

DISCOVER

3. Video

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

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

4. Reflection

Discuss:

Take a moment to invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation in the quiet of your heart, especially in any moments you may be unsure of how to respond to questions.

- 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:

We have a need for Jesus in our lives. On our own, we are like the burnt toast, seemingly stuck in being a mess that cannot fulfill the toasty goodness we were created to be. It is important that we understand what sin is. The YouCat defines it this way: "To sin means more than to violate some rules about which men had agreed. Sin turns freely and deliberately against God's love and ignores him... Just as sin burdens me with guilt, wounds me, and by its consequences ruins me, so too it poisons the world in which I live." (YouCat #315). With Jesus, we can enjoy a more glorious life than we ever could on our own.

Jesus has given His Body, His very life for us. He suffered and died that we might enjoy life with Him.

We have sinned but we do not need to be afraid of where our sin leaves us. Jesus wants us to turn to Him and be united to His love.

Jesus offers us this change we so deeply long for in our lives. He offers us eternal life. We are called to again and again choose Him.

There is great joy to be found in choosing this life with Jesus. Jesus matters in our lives because He desires so greatly for us to be in union with Him. He does not desire for us to be alone. Consider this quote from St. John Paul II: "Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ."

Discuss:

- What 3 things did you write down during the video?
- How would you summarize the analogy of the burnt toast to someone that did not see the video?
- What are general ways we can see ourselves in the "burnt toast" analogy?
- Why is it important to see our own sin? What difference does this really make?
- What are the obstacles to recognizing our sin? Can you see examples of obstacles in the world? What are those obstacles we can have in our own hearts/minds?
- There can be times in our lives when we are greatly discouraged by our own sin and weakness. How would you encourage someone overwhelmed by their own sin? How would you encourage them to have hope?
- The video quoted St. Augustine saying, "For God judged it better to bring good out of evil than not to permit any evil to exist." What does this mean? Are there any examples you can think of which demonstrate this quote?
- Can you think of any examples in your life of being forgiven for something you knew you did wrong; even a small example as a child? What was that experience like for you?
- What are practical ways we can come to grow in our relationship with Jesus each day? What does your life look like in a deep intimate relationship with Jesus?
- Who is someone in your life that is a good example of following Jesus? In what ways would you like to imitate them as they follow Jesus?

Read:

As you finish up this session, consider this quote from St. John Vianney: "Many say, 'I have done too much evil, the dear Lord cannot forgive me.' That is an outright blasphemy which sets limits to God's mercy. But it

has none; it is infinite. Nothing offends our dear Lord so much as to doubt his mercy.”

COMMIT

5. Closing

Read:

The point of all of this is that Jesus desires to be united to us. He wants to meet us in the midst of our sin and transform our lives. We need to acknowledge our sin and ask for His mercy.

This week, you have 2 challenges.

The **first** is to write down and pray with the theme verse. Print it or write it out and put it somewhere you'll look at it daily. Try to memorize it so when you need a reminder that God is merciful, you can recall the verse. Check in with each other in a week to see if you have memorized it yet.

The **second** is to spend some time reflecting on your day each night before bed this week. Invite God into these moments. Acknowledge your sins and ask for God's forgiveness. Then thank God for always showing you His love and mercy. You can pray something like this:

Jesus, thank You for being with me today. Help me to see the moments I have turned away from You and also those times I have not said “yes” to following You. (Take a few moments to reflect). Lord, forgive me for my sins and strengthen me to avoid anything which leads me away from You. I desire for my heart to be more and more like Your Heart. Amen.

Pray:

End with a closing prayer.