


**HELLO
MY NAME IS**



New Hope Confirmation Class 2012

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Confirmation Class Schedule Spring 2012

Date	Class	Instructor
Jan. 22 10:30 -10:45am	Parent Meeting to go over Confirmation class info.	Bob Cline
Jan. 29 9:30-10:45am	Session 0 Class Intro & Overview (required) HW- Mentor Request Form due @ Session 1 - Service Activity worksheet and project due @ Session 11	Bob Cline, Elders & Instructors
Feb. 5	Session 1 9:30-10:45am How We Come to Know the Only God Due- Mentor Request Form HW- Parent Discussion Card (handed out in class) - Service Activity worksheet and project due @ Session 11	Rick Schuster
Feb. 12	Session 2 9:30-10:45am The Bible: How is it God's Word and What Makes it Unique? HW- Bible Scavenger Hunt - Parent Discussion Card (handed out in class) - Service Activity worksheet and project due @ Session 11	David Cooke
Feb. 19	YOUTH SUNDAY- <i>No Confirmation Classes</i>	
Feb. 26	Session 3 9:30-10:45am One God or Three? <i>the Trinity, deity of Christ and the Holy Spirit</i> Due- Bible Scavenger Hunt worksheet HW- Read the Trinity handout w/ your parents - Sign and return Mentor-Student Covenant - Service Activity worksheet and project due @ Session 11	Mark Dutton Meet Mentors @ 10:30-10:45
Mar. 4	Session 4 9:30-10:45am What's Wrong With This World? <i>creation, providence, the fall and sin</i> Due- Mentor-Student Covenant signed and returned HW- Parent Discussion Card (handed out in class) - Write "Your Story" - Service Activity worksheet and project due @ Session 11	Loretta Rolle
Mar. 11	Session 5 9:30-10:45am What if God Was One of Us? <i>the incarnation and nature of Christ</i> Due- "Your Story" to share with your mentor HW- Read the "Bridge Illustration" with your parents - Service Activity worksheet and project due @ Session 11	Stephanie Vermeer Meet w/ Mentors 9:30- 9:45
Mar. 18	Optional Review Session (Spring Break begins)	Bob Cline, Elders, & Mentors
Mar. 25	Session 6 9:30-10:45am Why Did Jesus Die? What Does it Mean to Me? <i>election, atonement, justification, & faith</i> HW- Begin to review the Oral Examination questions - Service Activity worksheet and project due @ Session 11	Jack Wiese
April 1	Session 7 9:30-10:45am So I Want to Follow Jesus <i>sanctification, law, Christ's intercession, prayer</i> HW- Practice praying this week with an example from class - Service Activity worksheet and project due @ Session 11	Rick Crossland

April 8	Easter Sunday- No Confirmation Classes HW -Continue to review Oral Examination questions - Service Activity worksheet and project due @ Session 11	
April 15	Session 9 9:30-10:45am What Are the Sacraments and Why Do We Celebrate Them? <i>Sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper</i> HW - Parent Discussion Card (handed out in class) Session 8 4:00-5:30pm Where Does the Church Fit in? <i>Holy Catholic Church, members, marks & gov. of the church, officers & discipline</i> HW - Service Activity worksheet and project due @ Session 11	Albert Newball Steve Norden
April 22	Session 10 9:30-10:45am What Happens When People Die? What is the Second Coming of Jesus? HW - Discuss your class notes with your parents - Continue to review Oral Examination questions - Service Activity worksheet and project due @ Session 11	Wes Mirick
April 29	Session 11 Retreat 3:00-6:00pm <i>What does it mean to out into the world to serve God, others and the church?</i> Due - Service Activity worksheet and project HW -Continue to review Oral Examination questions	Bob Cline, Elders, and Mentors
May 6	Session 12 Exam/ Meeting with the Elders 9:30-10:45am	Elders
May 13	<i>Mother's Day – No Classes</i>	
May 20	Confirmation Sunday	
May 27	<i>Memorial Weekend</i>	

New Hope Church

Confirmation Class Planner

Before you contact New Hope Church with questions about confirmation classes, please read through the Confirmation Class Planner. We've worked hard to anticipate what you will need to know and to be as thorough as possible.

If you still have questions after reading the planner, please contact Bob Cline at cline@newhopeworship.com.

You can also find the planner and course information online at: <http://newhopeworship.org/>

OVERVIEW

Confirmation: Confirming the promise made to you during your baptism by professing your faith in God.

Source: wyckoffreformed.org

During the Confirmation course, youth are presented with the Christian faith. This includes stories from the Bible, stories from the lives of people they know, and examining their own stories. It is a powerful experience when you realize for the first time that God has created you as a special and unique person, loves you, and promises you eternal life. Participants will have to wrestle with difficult issues, and make the decision for themselves. The course is difficult, but highly rewarding.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to help and encourage youth to develop a personal relationship with Christ. To provide spiritual guidance, fellowship, and opportunities to grow in faith.

What We Believe:

- The Bible is the Word of God and the final authority for faith and practice.
- Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of those who have faith in Him.
- We believe in the historic Christian faith as confessed in The Apostles' Creed.

Course Themes:

- How We Come to Know the Only God
- The Bible: How is it God's Word and What Makes it Unique?
- One God or Three? *the Trinity, deity of Christ and the Holy Spirit*
- What's Wrong With This World? *creation, providence, the fall and sin*
- What if God Was One of Us? *the incarnation and nature of Christ*
- Why Did Jesus Die? What Does it Mean to Me? *election, atonement, justification, and faith.*
- So I Want to Follow Jesus. *sanctification, law, Christ's intercession, prayer*
- Where Does the Church Fit in? *Holy Catholic Church, members, marks & gov. of the church, officers & discipline*
- What Are the Sacraments and Why Do We Celebrate Them? *Sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper*
- What Happens When People Die? What is the Second Coming of Jesus?

Key Texts:

- Heidelberg Catechism-
<http://images.rca.org/docs/aboutus/HeidelbergCatechism.pdf>
- Belgic Confession-
<http://images.rca.org/docs/aboutus/BelgicConfession.pdf>
- Canons of Dort-
<http://images.rca.org/docs/aboutus/CanonsOfDort.pdf>
- Apostles Creed
<http://www.rca.org/Page.aspx?pid=302>
- Nicene Creed
<http://www.rca.org/Page.aspx?pid=311>
- Creed of Athanasius
<http://www.rca.org/Page.aspx?pid=301>

Expectations:

Youth are expected to participate fully in the Confirmation classes. Participation involves being at classes on time, contributing to discussions, keeping up with the weekly assignment, coordinating discussions with a mentor, attending the retreat and completing the oral examination with the Elders. At the conclusion of the twelve classes, all youth will have the decision to make whether they are personally ready for confirmation.

Attendance:

All classes are mandatory. New Hope believes that the information presented in each class is of importance in understanding and declaring one's personal confirmation of faith. Attendance and participation in all classes is highly recommended. However, if circumstances necessitate an absence, youth must make up the session with their mentor, the instructor, or youth director to cover the class information. ***Youth will be permitted to make up no more than two missed sessions. The retreat and oral examination may not be missed or made up.***

Mentor Component:

Youth will be paired with a mentor to guide them through the twelve weeks of class and shepherd them in their personal journey. Each youth will meet a minimum of three times during the next three months. The role of the mentor is to promote personal growth by connecting the content of the course to the lives of the youth participants. Most of the youth/mentor meetings will take place at New Hope on Sunday mornings or evenings with Sunday School or youth group. The youth, their parents, and the mentors can determine additional times.

Retreat: (*Mandatory Attendance*)

Youth will participate in an afternoon retreat together with the Elders and mentors as a time to pray, worship, reflect, and prepare them to confirm the promise made to them during their baptism by professing their faith in God.

Service Project:

Service is an active part of Christian living. To instill in youth the value of serving others, youth will be asked to perform a service activity. Service activities could be completed at New Hope or other locations. Youth will also have the option to share a current service project they are involved in and how it meets the criteria for service. Mentors, Elders, and Bob Cline will be available to guide youth in this process. Possible service options may include assisting in worship, organizing or helping prepare for an event at church, or other options.

Oral Examination:

Confirmation classes include two areas of focus. First, youth gain knowledge of God and our beliefs: scripture, the Church, etc. Secondly, youth are asked to put their faith into action through service, prayer, celebrating the sacraments, being an active member in the church, etc. The oral examination will involve meeting with an Elder or group of Elders and discussing each participant's journey through confirmation classes, their understanding gained and their faith in action.

New Hope Church
Confirmation Class
Service Activity

Confirmation Youth,

Before you can begin a service activity, we must first examine what is “service”?

What is “Christian Service”?

- Sharing our gifts of *time*, *talent*, and *financial resources*

At New Hope Church, we give our gifts not in order to gain favor with God, but out of gratitude for the gift of our salvation in Jesus Christ, so that in our whole life we may show ourselves grateful to God for His many blessings. Our gifts include time, talents, and financial resources.

We believe that, in response to Christ's abundant giving to us, we should increasingly seek to submit our personal resources to Him, displaying a spirit of generosity and cheerfulness (Matthew 6:19-21 and 33; Matthew 23:23; Luke 6:38; Luke 21:1-4; Malachi 3:8-10; 2 Corinthians 8 and 9; Proverbs 3:9-10).

- Christian Service: Christian Service is a manifestation of the Spirit through the individual believer where we are accomplishing the good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do, utilizing the gifts that he has given.

What are my talents?

What talents? The first and greatest talent that we are speaking about is the talent, which is YOU. The person you are and the capacity you have to love others is your first and greatest talent. In addition, you have been blessed with other gifts such as academic, athletic or artistic abilities, the ability to communicate with the very old or the very young, patience and understanding, or other physical and/or non-material gifts. Any and all of these can be made available to others through a service project.

What are some of your talents? What are you good at? What were the highest scores on your spiritual gifts inventory? List some of your talents.

Planning a Service Project

Your individual schedule and your particular talents will predict what shape your service will take. You will have to examine your circumstances in order to determine this. But there is more to completing the requirement than just putting in the time! This commitment has a 1st, 2nd, and a 3rd step. ***You may be able to use a service project you have already completed. Can you connect it to “Christian Service”, explain your project, and reflect on your experience?***

1st Step - OBSERVE

Look at the world around you. What do you see that needs improvement? You may be drawn to a particular issue because of a personal connection or a strong belief. Maybe someone in your family has a health issue, such as breast cancer, that you would like to bring to the awareness of others. Perhaps you believe that the elderly are ignored and you would like to work with older people. The desire to face a new challenge could bring you to serve groups of people with whom you have had little or no previous contact. The Special Olympics, a soup kitchen or a nursing home might be a new experience for you. You may decide to help your parish and become an altar server. If the last time you went to the ocean or for a hike in the woods, it disturbed you to see so much litter, you may be interested in ecology and cleaning up our environment.

List some of your observations? What do you see that needs improvement?

2nd step- ACT

Once you have selected your area of service and a service site, you can start working! Some suggestions for service are on the list of opportunities at the end of this letter. Remember that the work is merely a vehicle for you to be present to another human being and/or to the need you have identified. You might listen to others and simply share yourself with them.

3rd step - REFLECT

Describe your service project.

How does your service project demonstrate service? (See “What is service?” above)

Who does your service project benefit?

As you are in the process of doing your work, take time to reflect on your service. As you complete your service, reflect on the service that you performed as well as what you are learned through the service.

REFLECTION:

Describe some outcomes/ benefits of your service.

What did you learn about yourself or others from your service project?

What could you do next or differently to continue serving and using your time, talents, or resources?

BUT WAIT...

...That's not the end...it's just the beginning... your reflections should lead you back to step 1... ***OBSERVE!***

Serving others is an ongoing commitment for us all! Hopefully you will take what you learn this year and apply it to the rest of your life!

Remember, there is no end to the good you can do!

Suggestions for Christian Service Learning Projects

You may be able to use a service project you have already completed. Can you connect it to “Christian Service”, explain your project, and reflect on your experience?

In-School Opportunities

Food Drive (help coordinate or play a role in the planning)
School service club or activities (help coordinate or play a role in the planning)
Etc...

Church Opportunities

Acolyte
Usher
Music
Technical Assistance
Babysitting for a church event
An activity that you played an active role or planning or serving
Etc...

Community Opportunities

Food Bank
Soup kitchen
Public Library
Nursing homes
Helping elderly neighbor with various chores
Walk-a-thons
Scout activities involving service
Etc...

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you have any questions concerning your service project, please contact Bob Cline

*** Service Activity forms are due back to Bob Cline by Session 11: The Retreat ***

GOOD

*For Five Minutes, write down everything you can think that is good in life.
Try to make it something that you have experienced.*

BAD

*For Five Minutes, write down everything you can think that is evil or bad in life.
Try to make it something that you have experienced, or this can be something you've read about.*

**Mom and/or Dad:
In Confirmation we talked about:**

Good and Evil. We were presented with the idea that everything good comes from God. Do you believe this?

What do you think about this?

New Hope Church Mentor Request Form

Each youth participant involved in Confirmation classes will be asked to select a mentor to guide them through the 12 weeks of classes and Shepard them in their personal journey. Each youth and mentor will meet a minimum of three times during the next 3 months. The role of the mentor is to promote personal growth by connecting the content of the class to the lives of the youth participants. Most of the youth/ mentor meetings will take place at New Hope on Sunday mornings or evenings with Sunday school or youth group. Any additional times or locations can be determined by the youth, their parents, and the mentors.

Bob Cline will do his best to match youth with appropriate mentors for a positive and meaningful experience. Please list your top 3 choices for adults to serve as your mentor.

If you have questions or need assistance, please talk with Bob Cline.
614-873-7924 or Cline_bob@mail.dublin.k12.oh.us

Youth's Name: _____

Mentor Request:

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

****Mentor Request forms are due back to Bob Cline by Session 1.****

Bible Scavenger Hunt

All you need is a Bible and a concordance to find the verse.

- _____ **A**-Ask and it shall be given unto you.
- _____ **B**-Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted forgiving one another.
- _____ **C**-Children obey your parents.
- _____ **D**-Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- _____ **E**-Every good gift and every perfect gift cometh from up above.
- _____ **F**-Fear not for I am with you always.
- _____ **G**-God giveth us richly all things to enjoy.
- _____ **H**-Honor thy father and thy mother.
- _____ **I**-In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- _____ **J**-Jesus went about doing good.
- _____ **K**-Knock and it shall be opened unto you.
- _____ **M**-Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.
- _____ **N**-Not my will but thine be done.
- _____ **O**-O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good.
- _____ **P**-Peace I leave with you always.
- _____ **Q**-Quench not the spirit.
- _____ **R**-Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
- _____ **S**-Serve the Lord with gladness.
- _____ **T**-Thou shall have no other Gods before me.
- _____ **U**-Unto you a Savior is born.
- _____ **V**-Verily Verily I say unto you except a man keeps my commandments he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
- _____ **W**-When I'm afraid I will put my trust in thee.
- _____ **X**-eXcept a man be born again he shall not enter the kingdom of God.
- _____ **Y**-Yea tho I walk thru the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil.
- _____ **Z**-Zacheus said, "Behold Lord half of my goods I will give to the poor."



***Complete the scavenger hunt and return next Sunday for a prize.

The Belgic Confession

Articles 3-7

Article 3: The Written Word of God

We confess that this Word of God was not sent nor delivered by “by human will,” but that “men and women moved by the Holy Spirit, spoke from God,” as Saint Peter says.¹ Afterward our God—because of a special care for us and our salvation—commanded the prophets and apostles, God’s servants, to commit this revealed Word to writing. The two tables of the law were written with God’s own finger. Therefore we call such writings holy and divine Scriptures.

Article 4: The Canonical Books

We include in the Holy Scripture the two volumes of the Old and New Testaments. They are canonical books with which there can be no quarrel at all. In the church of God the list is as follows: In the Old Testament, the five books of Moses—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy; the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth; the two books of Samuel, and two of Kings; the two books of Chronicles, called Paralipomenon; the first book of Ezra; Nehemiah, Esther; Job, the Psalms of David; the three books of Solomon—Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song; the four major prophets—Isaiah, Jeremiah,* Ezekiel, Daniel; and then the other twelve minor prophets—Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. In the New Testament, the four Gospels—Saint Matthew, Saint Mark, Saint Luke, and Saint John; the Acts of the Apostles; the fourteen letters of Saint Paul—to the Romans; the two letters to the Corinthians; to the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians; the two letters to the Thessalonians the two letters to Timothy; to Titus, Philemon, and to the Hebrews; the seven letters of the other apostle—one of Saint James; two of Saint Peter; three of Saint John; one of Saint Jude; and the Revelation of Saint John, the apostle.

* “Jeremiah” here includes the Book of Lamentations as well as the Book of Jeremiah.

Article 5: The Authority of Scripture

We receive all these books and these only as holy and canonical, for the regulating, founding, and establishing of our faith.

And we believe without a doubt all things contained in them—not so much because the church receives and approves them as such but above all because the Holy Spirit testifies in our hearts that they are from God, and also because they prove themselves to be from God.

For even the blind themselves are able to see that the things predicted in them do happen.

Article 6: The Difference Between Canonical and Apocryphal Books

We distinguish between these holy books and the apocryphal ones, which are the third and fourth books of Ezra; the books of Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Jesus Sirach, Baruch; what was added to the Story of Esther; the Song of the Three Children in the Furnace; the Story of Susannah; the Story of Bell and the Dragon; the Prayer of Manasseh; and the two books of Maccabees.

The church may certainly read these books and learn from them as far as they agree with the canonical books. But they do not have such power and virtue that one could confirm from their testimony any point of faith or of the Christian religion. Much less can they detract from the authority of the other holy books.

Article 7: The Sufficiency of Scripture

We believe that this Holy Scripture contains the will of God completely and that everything one must believe to be saved is sufficiently taught in it. For since the entire manner of service which God requires of us is described in it at great length, no one—even an apostle or an angel from heaven, as Saint Paul says—ought to teach other than what the Holy Scriptures have already taught us. For since it is forbidden to add to the Word of God, or take anything from it, it is plainly demonstrated that the teaching is perfect and complete in all respects.

Therefore we must not consider human writings—no matter how holy their authors may have been—equal to the divine writings; nor may we put custom, nor the majority, nor age, nor the passage of times nor of persons, nor councils, decrees, or official decisions above the truth of God, for truth is above everything else.

For all human beings are liars by nature and more vain than vanity itself.

Therefore we reject with all our hearts everything that does not agree with this infallible rule, as we are taught to do by the apostles when they say, “Test the spirits to see if they are from God,”⁴ and also, “Do not receive into the house or welcome anyone who comes to you and does not bring this teaching.”⁵

**Today in Confirmation class
we talked about:**

*The Bible has everything
we need to know.*

**What do you think about this?
Discuss examples of how the Bible has
what we need to know.**

**New Hope Church Confirmation Class
The Trinity Worksheet**

The Deity of Christ

Read Mark 8:27-30

Who did people say Jesus was? V.2 _____ or _____

Read Colossians 1:15 – 20

List qualities of the Holy Spirit

-
-
-
-
-
-

Jesus is _____ . God knows exactly what it is like to be human, to _____, to _____ and to _____

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

Read: John 16:4-15

What does John call the Holy Spirit? V.7 _____

What will the Holy Spirit do?

v.8

v. 13

v. 14

Ephesians 1:13-14

Why is the Holy Spirit referred to as a “seal”?

Acts 2:1-21

What are ways that the Spirit Acts in our lives?

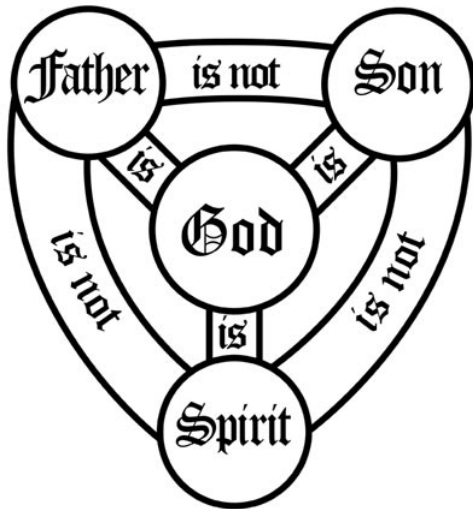
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The Holy Spirit is _____ . This means that God lives inside us and directs us. God gives us special power to do great things.

Questions to answer on your own

If somebody comes up to you and says, “Who is Jesus?” what do you say?

If that same person were to ask, “Why is Jesus important?” what do you say?



The Trinity:

Beliefs:

Who?

One God, who is one single essence, in which there are three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- The Father: Is the cause, origin, and source of all things (visible and invisible)
- The Son: Is the Word, the Wisdom, and the image of God
- The Spirit: Is the eternal power and might.

How Many?

God is not divided into three. Scripture teaches us that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit each have their own identity, yet each are only one God.

The Mystery:

These persons, distinct, are neither divided nor mixed together

Who's the most powerful?

There is no first or last. All three are one in truth and in power, in goodness and in mercy.

Trinity Analogy:

The Father is the Sun; the Son is the Light, and the Holy Spirit is Heat.

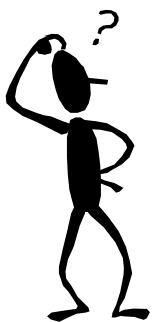
Has anybody seen the sun?

No not really, we have only seen the light from the sun.

Has anybody felt the sun?

Not really, we only feel the warmth of the sun.

Likewise, no one has seen the Father, the source, but we mankind has seen Jesus. We feel the Holy Spirit, dwelling in our hearts.



What questions do you have about the Trinity?
(Discuss them with your mentor)

In Confirmation we talked about:

- 1. Life is a gift from God. God also gave us free will. God created us to be in a relationship with Him.**
- 2. We sinned because we thought we could be equal to God. We became trapped in a horrible curse with no escape; we became slaves. God comes to us and pulls us out of the curse.**

HOMEWORK:

Write your own personal story.

Where are you at in your faith with God?

****Bring it with you next week to meet with your mentor****

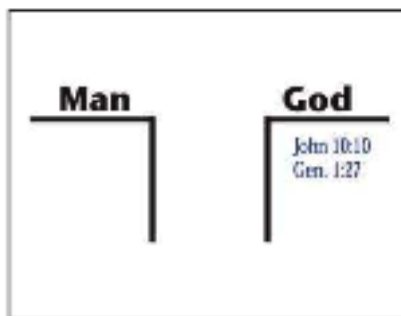
New Hope Church
Confirmation Class
Bridge Illustration

Review and discuss the following ideas questions with your parents.

I. God's Love

God created us in His own image to be His friend experience a full life assured of His love. But He make us robots- He gave us the freedom of

1. What do you think it means to really live life fullest?
2. How are God and mankind different?

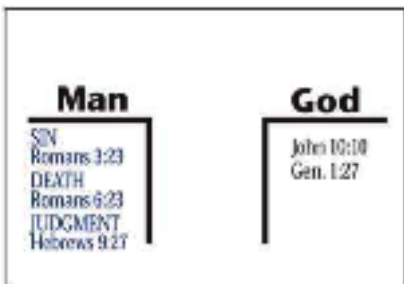


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II. Man's Problem

Mankind has chosen to disobey God and thus become separated from Him. This separation means the penalty of an eternal spiritual death.

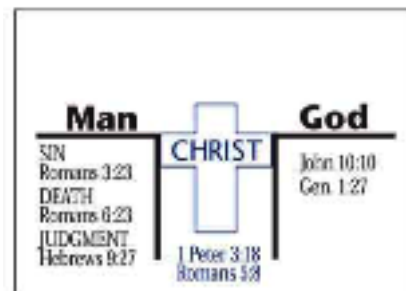


3. Have you ever wanted to talk to God but He seemed far away?
4. When you think of death, what do you think of?

III. God's Remedy

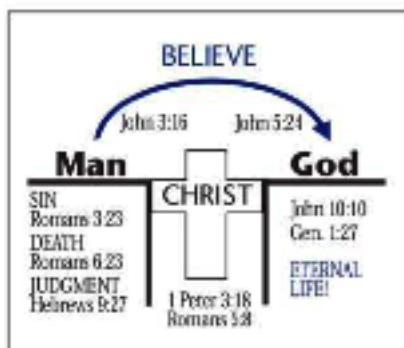
On our own, we cannot attain the perfection needed bridge the gap between mankind and God. Christ's alone is adequate for our sin and bridges the gap between God and man.

5. If death can be defined as separation from God, life?
6. Why did Christ die?



to
death

what is



IV. Man's Response

Believing means trust and commitment- acknowledging our sinfulness, trusting Christ's forgiveness, and letting Him control our life. Eternal life is a gift for us to receive.

7. Where would you place yourself in this illustration?

New Hope Church
Confirmation: Session 6 “Why Did Jesus Die and What Does That Mean for Me?”

We enter into this discussion admitting there is mystery in this subject, knowing that we will not figure everything out today.

Read and discuss John 16:12-15.

What does the “truth” refer to?

According to the verses, the Spirit will:

-
-
-

What parts of the Trinity are mentioned in the verses?

Read and discuss Romans 3:9-19

All are _____ before God. There is need for _____ by _____
apart from _____.

Why is this important?

Read and discuss Ephesians 1:3-12

How does it make you feel that God chose you before he created the world?

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 1:8-10

Not by _____, but by God’s _____.

Read and discuss John 15:12-17

Greater love has no one than this:

Does this mean we should die for our friends? Explain

Five Points of Calvinism:

T – _____

Romans 3:21-23

Main Point:

U – _____

John 3:16

Main Point:

L – _____

Matthew 22:1-14, John 10:11-16

Main Point:

I – _____

John 6:44

Main Point:

P – _____

1 John 2:1-6

Main Point:

Why did God choose us?

Atonement - Perfect Savior:

Suffering: Jesus endured the full range of human suffering.

Read Hebrews 2:9, 14-18

Jesus was fully _____ and fully _____

God's _____ and God's _____ meet at the _____

Discussion ?'s

What does it mean to have faith? How is faith criticized in our culture?

Why is having faith in Jesus Christ the key to salvation?

Why don't works save us? Can just coast without doing anything good? Why or why not?

Main Point: It's the best news ever that we don't have to live up to an impossible standard. All we have to do is believe, and we know that we are saved, and nothing can take that away from us.

New Hope Church Confirmation Class Oral Examination Questions

Youth Confirmation Participants,

It is so exciting to see you examining and exploring your faith. I hope you are enjoying this beginning to a life long journey of faith. As part of this journey, we want you to reflect on what you have learned and how you put your faith into action. We have focused on these two main themes; gaining knowledge of God and putting faith into action. You have learned what it means to be a Christian, and a member of Christ's church.

During the oral examination with the Elders, the focus will be on how God, Scripture, and faith play a real and practical role in your every day life. The focus should not be on names, or dates, or obscure facts. We want to see if you can apply what you learn to your every day life. It is our intention to focus on your "faith in action."

The format for the examination will be informal, lasting 15-20 minutes. Each youth will meet one-on-one with an elder to discuss their answers to the examination questions. This will take place as part of session 12 at New Hope during 9:30-10:45.

The following questions are a list that the elders will choose from during your time with them.

Part 1:

- How do you know God exists?
- How has the Bible helped you to understand, and believe in God?
- What is the difference between the Bible, and other helpful religious books?
- What has surprised you about the Bible?
- What helps you to understand the Trinity? Tell me a little about each person of the Trinity.
- How is God involved in our lives? Does God just watch from a distance, does God control our every action, or somewhere in between?
- If God created the world and people to be completely good, why isn't it that way? *Follow up:* Do you take responsibility for sin?
- How does the knowledge of your sin affect your relationship with God?
- Why has God chosen you to be a member of the Church? Reference Note: We have no idea why God appears to choose some and not others. This is a very mysterious and difficult topic. We can only testify that God has chosen us because God loves us so much. God created us for a reason, a purpose, to use our gifts. God loves us so much so, that the Father sacrificed the son for us.
- Why did God decide to become a poor, humble, human being? How does that help you relate to God?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus was both completely human, and completely God?

(continued on back)

- Why did Jesus die on the cross? What difference does it make in our lives?
- If God offers us complete forgiveness from all the sins we've committed, as well as the sins we will commit, what do we need to do to get this forgiveness? (Answer: All we need is faith, belief, trust.)
- When accept Jesus as our Lord, is the process over? Are we perfect Godly people right then and there?

Part 2:

- How do you communicate with God? What forms of prayer are helpful to you?
- What is the Church? What is your role as a member of the church?
- Why does the church have government structure? *Bonus Question: Which is the first body of our denomination's government that has the ability to fire Billy? (They liked that one.)*
- Who are the "officers of the church"? Explain some of the things that each position does.
- What does it mean to be both a citizen of the U.S.A. and also a citizen of the kingdom of God? Tell me about how you prioritize this.
- What does God promise us in baptism? What else have you learned about baptism?
- What is your understanding of the Lord's Supper?
- With the knowledge of your Spiritual gifts, and what it means to be a Christian, what do you think God is calling you to do?

The Heidelberg Catechism: The Lord's Prayer

Q 119. What is this prayer? A. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. Amen.¹ *

Q 120. Why did Christ command us to call God "our Father"? A. To awaken in us at the very beginning of our prayer what should be basic to our prayer—a childlike reverence and trust that through Christ God has become our Father, and that just as our parents do not refuse us the things of this life, even less will God our Father refuse to give us what we ask in faith.¹

Q 121. Why the words "in heaven"? A. These words teach us not to think of God's heavenly majesty as something earthly,¹ and to expect everything needed for body and soul from God's almighty power.²

Q 122. What does the first petition mean? A. "Hallowed be your name" means: Help us to truly know you,¹ to honor, glorify, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth.² And it means, Help us to direct all our living—what we think, say, and do—so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.³

Q 123. What does the second petition mean? A. "Your kingdom come" means: Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you.¹ Preserve your church and make it grow.² Destroy the devil's work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your holy Word.³ Do this until your kingdom fully comes, when you will be all in all.⁴

Q 124. What does the third petition mean? A. "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" means: Help us and all people to reject our own wills and to obey your will without any back talk. Your will alone is good.¹ Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to,² as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.³

Q 125. What does the fourth petition mean? A. "Give us this day our daily bread" means: Do take care of all our physical needs¹ so that we come to know that you are the only source of everything good,² and that neither our work and worry nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing;³ And so help us to give up our trust in creatures and trust in you alone.⁴

Q 126. What does the fifth petition mean? A. "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" means: Because of Christ's blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are, any of the sins we do or the evil that constantly clings to us.¹ Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors.²

Q 127. What does the sixth petition mean? A. "And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one" means: By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment.¹ And our sworn enemies—the devil,² the world,³ and our own flesh⁴—never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle,⁵ but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.⁶

Q 128. What does your conclusion to this prayer mean? A. "For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever" means: We have made all these petitions of you because, as our all-powerful king, you are both willing and able to give us all that is good;¹ and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.²

Q 129. What does that little word "Amen" express? A. "Amen" means: This shall truly and surely be! It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer than that I really desire what I pray for.¹

The Character of Christ

NH Session 7 Homework

Read 1 John 4:7

According to John, who should we love? _____

Where does love come from? _____

Read 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

According to Paul, What is love?

Love is _____, love is _____. It does not
_____, it does not _____, it is not
_____. It does not _____ others, it is not
_____, it is not _____, it
keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in _____ but
rejoices with the _____. It always _____, always
_____, always _____, always
_____.

* **Sanctification** means to make holy, to set apart as sacred.

Some scholars argue that Paul is actually describing the character of Christ. If we are to be Christ-like, we should be love.

* Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and replace “love” with “Christ”

* Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and replace “love” with “your name”

How is 1 Cor. 13: 4-7 related to sanctification?

New Hope Church
Confirmation Class Session 10

What Happens When We Die and What do We Believe About the Second Coming of Christ?

1. Write your own obituary:

Name:	<i>(What do you want your life to say?)</i>
	Examples of possible things to include
	Date of birth Place of birth Names of parents
<i>*Use the back of the page if you need to*</i>	LIFE Childhood: siblings, stories, schools, friends Marriage(s): date of, place, name of spouse Education: school, college, university and other Designations, awards, and other recognition Employment: jobs, activities, stories, colleagues, satisfactions, promotions, union activities, frustrations, Places of residence Hobbies, sports, interests, activities, and other enjoyment Charitable, religious, fraternal, political, and other affiliations; positions held Achievements Disappointments Unusual attributes, humour, other stories
	END Quotation or poem Three words that sum up the life

2. What does the Bible teach about what happens when we die?

Bible Verse	What does the Bible teach about what happens when we die?
John 11:25	
1 Corinthians 15:20-26	
1 Corinthians 15:40-48	
1 Corinthians 15:50-57	
Romans 14:7-9	
2 Corinthians 5:1-8	

3. What is our hope in death?

4. Our hope and comfort is best expressed in Revelation 21:1-4

What is our hope and comfort in the return of Christ?

