

Unit 1: Our Journey

The Confirmation journey is about equipping you with the information, tools, and resources you need to make an informed decision about committing to follow Christ. The first step in that journey is helping you understand the facets of Christian community.

To that end, the first lessons of this journey is acclimating you with one another and your teachers and mentors. The subsequent lessons will explore the importance of belonging and participation in the Christian community and challenge you to start practicing what it means to live in Christian community. The final lesson of this section will connect you with a Biblical understanding of belonging.

Unit 1: Our Journey

Lesson 1: Traveling Together

Welcome to Confirmation Class

Confirm Series: Lessons 1-4

As we wait to begin, take a moment to review our goals and expectations for class:

Lesson Goals  As a result of this lesson, I will be able to... • Better understand who is a part of the confirmation journey • Develop my understanding of the confirmation process • Learn more about each other • Discuss what it means to be a Christian • Explore the New Commandment • Discover ways that we are God's children	Class Expectations  • Participate • Be respectful • Listen when others are speaking • No phones out <i>(unless instructed to use them)</i> • Stay on topic	Today's Warm-Up  Think about: • What does Confirmation mean? • Why do you want to be confirmed? • What do you hope to learn or accomplish this year in Confirmation?
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- Share the format to the start of all classes...when they come in they can start talking about the warm-up and get ready for the day
- Have them share their name, grade, and one of the responses to the warm-up to get started


“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation
has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

Tentative Agenda

Welcome/Opening Prayer

Lessons 1-2: Introductions

Break/Snack

Lessons 3-4: Traveling Together

Wrap Up/Closing

Opening Prayer

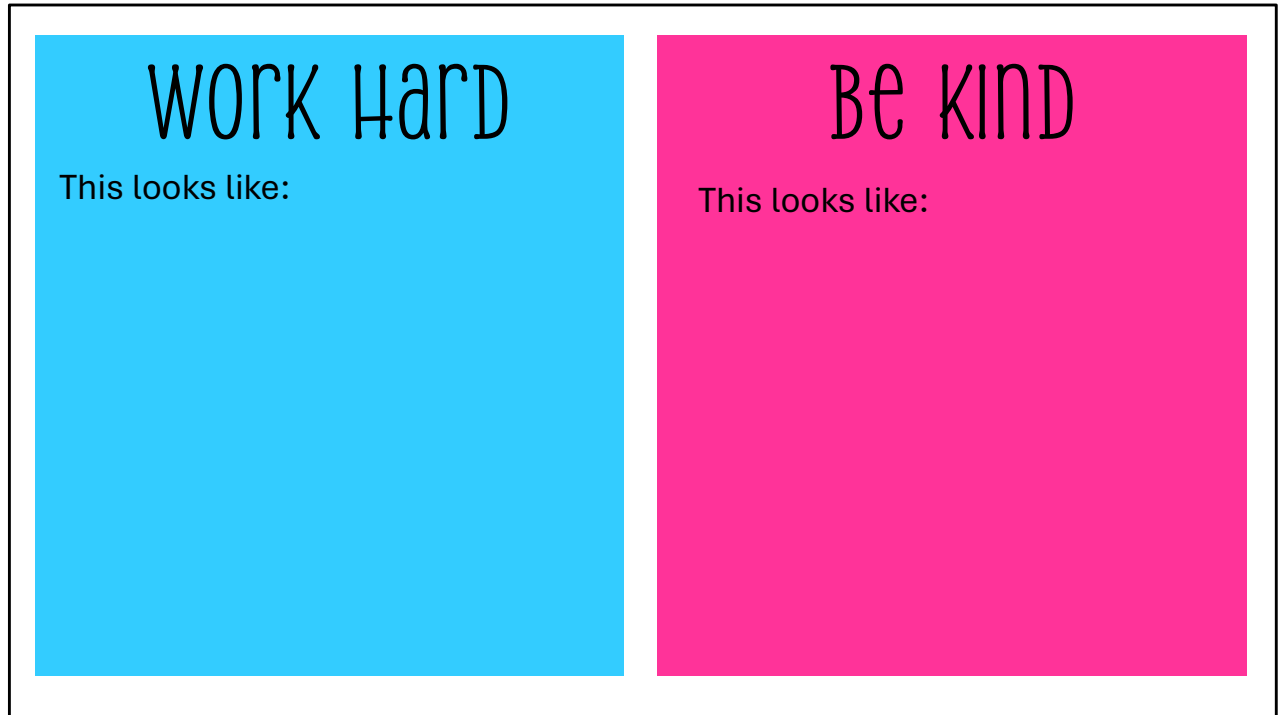
Heavenly Father,

As we gather here on this first day of Confirmation, we thank You for bringing us together. Bless our time of getting to know one another and guide us as we begin this new journey. Open our hearts and minds to Your wisdom and love. May this year be filled with growth, understanding, and deepening faith.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

- Go through the verse, agenda, and have a student lead us in the opening prayer



- Take a few moments to write all of the rules/expectations/wants/needs for a group to function well
- Reveal the words “Work Hard” and “Be Kind” and have each student put their post-its on the whiteboard in the category they think it best fits into
- Share that this covers all rules and expectations for class



1. Take a few minutes to complete the question page
2. Pick one response per section to share with the group

- Take about 5 minutes to complete their questionnaires (can be found as an attachment in your Confirmation Class Notes email or on the Confirmation website)

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Lesson 2: Living Together



- Watch (3:40m) Confirmation (Chuck Knows Church)
https://youtu.be/WKaG10BzsXs?si=_eh0BUmhUyu9TDG

CONFIRMATION IS A RITUAL WITHOUT PERSONAL MEANING. **IS NOT**

CONFIRMATION IS A COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF FAITH. **IS**

CONFIRMATION IS A GUARANTEE OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY. **IS NOT**

CONFIRMATION IS A STEP IN THE LIFELONG JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP. **IS**

CONFIRMATION IS A GRADUATION FROM CHURCH. **IS NOT**

CONFIRMATION IS A TIME FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND LEARNING. **IS**

CONFIRMATION IS A REPLACEMENT FOR PERSONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT. **IS NOT**

CONFIRMATION IS A PERSONAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH. **IS**

CONFIRMATION IS A SOLITARY DECISION. **IS NOT**

CONFIRMATION IS A CONTINUATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT. **IS**

- Review the list

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Lesson 3: Loving Together



- Think about the following...
 - Look like= what they wear, how they present themselves, their style/aesthetic (example: a cross necklace because they want to show others that they love Jesus)
 - Sound like= the types of things they say (example: Can I pray for you? Because they care for you)
 - Act like= the way they behave, what they do (example: prayer before meals because they want to thank God for the food)
 - Post like= what they share on social media and in texts (example: Christian music because they like those songs)
- Oftentimes we are quick to categorize, or define people by how they look, what they say, or even how they act.
 - If this is the world that we live in, where our appearance, words, actions, and posts are used to classify and define us, then how can we tell whether someone is a follower of Christ?
 - How are we showing others that we are followers of Christ?
- For thousands of years before Jesus, the people of God lived by a set of rules—called commands and laws—that set them apart from the rest of the world.
 - You would know someone was a follower of God if the person lived by these commands.

- Did anyone list qualities of themselves? Do you identify as a Christian? How do you look, sound, act, and post?
- Christians are not perfect.
 - In fact, that is one thing that defines us, our sin is why God sent his only Son to Earth to save us from our sins.
 - God knows that we make mistakes, we have faults, we may dress, talk, act, or post in ways that aren't always aligning with the teachings of Jesus, but if we come to Him in for forgiveness, He freely gives it to us.
 - In Jesus's time, when came, He refocused everyone on God's way of life and summed up all of the laws and commands in what was considered a "New Commandment."

LOVE/LOVED= pink...13 mentions

COMMAND/COMMANDMENT= yellow...6 mentions

John 13:34-35

34 I give you a new **commandment**, that you **love** one another. Just as I have **loved** you, you also should **love** one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love** for one another."

John 15:9-17

9 As the Father has **loved** me, so I have **loved** you; abide in my **love**. 10 If you keep my **commandments**, you will abide in my **love**, just as I have kept my Father's **commandments** and abide in his **love**. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my **commandment**, that you **love** one another as I have **loved** you. 13 No one has greater **love** than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I **command** you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these **commands** so that you may **love** one another.

Email Kate Your Responses:

1. How does "love each other just as I have loved you" provide an outline for what Christians should look, sound, act, and post like?
2. How do LOVE and COMMANDS balance each other out?

- Review the "Think About" questions based on the two Scriptures and where "Love" and "Command" appear and how often



What would Jesus post?

2 min [Kate]

- It's most often easy for us to love those who love us, even when they annoy us. It's more difficult to love people we don't know or who we don't like. However, this is the kind of love that Jesus had for others and what He calls his followers to exhibit. So, when you think of a Christian, start with Jesus...emulate His way of life (just maybe not his looks, I'm not sure desert-chic is in right now). The point is, we should be able to be identified as Christians because of our love for others.
- Stop and think as you go through your day...
 - What would Jesus say?
 - What would Jesus do?
 - What would Jesus post?

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Lesson 4: Belonging Together



As you know, there is more to being a Christian than belonging to a church.

- The most profound part of being a Christian is that you belong to God.
- It's not something that you earn; you are a child of God by the very fact that God created you and loves you.
- Watch a video about belonging to God.
 - 3:16m video
 - YouTube version of the video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epe1hWmGxHE>
- As we have learned, part of the responsibility of being in a community of believers is practicing Christ-like love toward one another.
 - We have the power to live like this because we are created in the image of a loving and grace-filled God.
 - We just saw several of the Scripture passages that talk about our belonging to God.
 - Let's look more closely at a few to see if we can get a better understanding of what it means to be a child of God.



Confirm Series: Lessons 1-4

As we wrap up class, let's go over a few things together:

Objective

The objective of class today was...

Application

Today's lesson is important to me because...

Closing Prayer

One confirmand will lead us in a closing prayer.

Upcoming Dates

- September 20
 - Sunday Night Live (5-7p)
- September 27
 - Mentor Meet Up
 - Confirmation Class
- October 4
 - Sunday Night Live (5-7p)
- October 11
 - Confirmation Class
- October 17
 - HarvestFest volunteer opportunity (10-2p)
- October 18
 - Sunday Night Live (5-7p)
- October 24-25
 - Youth Fall Retreat
- October 25
 - Mentor Meet Up
 - Confirmation Class

- Wrap up, clean up, dismiss
- Every student must say "Today's lesson is important to me because..."