



Parish-Based Sacramental Preparation Program

CONFIRMATION

PARENT SESSION A

Salvation History

SESSION OUTLINE

Parish-Based Sacramental Preparation

PARENT SESSION for Confirmation Sacramental Preparation

Session A – Salvation History

OPENING PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray: **O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations.**

Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

OVERVIEW OF CONFIRMATION – SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

- To assist the children in their spiritual growth;
- To encourage faith discussions at home; and
- To encourage adults within the faith community to engage in discussions about their faith.

WELCOME

Tell us a little bit about memories you have of your own Confirmation or from a Confirmation you attended.

CATECHESIS

Outline the 5 key points which will be covered in the DVD:

FIVE KEY POINTS

- God who is all powerful and all loving has a plan for all things. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...” Gen. 1.1.
- The story begins with God. Creation is the foundation of all God’s saving plans, the beginning of the history of salvation” that culminates in Christ. It is a story of never-ending love.
- God is God and God is love. Creation is the common work of the Holy Trinity. “There exists but one God... he is the Father, God, the creator, the author, the giver of order...” (#292)
- God wants to share his love, so he creates the human person. “To human beings, God grants the ability to cooperate freely with his plans.” (#323)
- Even after the fall of Adam and Eve, our first parents, God does not abandon us. He promises to send a savior.

Notes for the Catechist:

These are not points to be taught as such, they are resources for the catechist to deepen his own understanding of the truths of faith in order to be able to better communicate them.

Quote from Chosen, Student Workbook:

Salvation History = "The true story of God's relationship with the human race."

3 Parts: "In the Old Testament, God the Father particularly reveals himself in the creation of the world, in the sin of our first parents, in the promise of a redeemer, and in the covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, and David. In the New Testament, God the Son is especially revealed. Through the life of Christ, God's promise of a redeemer is fulfilled in the Incarnation, when God took on a human nature in the person of Jesus Christ. By his suffering, Death and Resurrection, and Ascension into heaven, Jesus showed us his love, paid the price for our sins, and restored our created purpose. Finally, the Holy Spirit is more explicitly active in the life of the Church. By instituting the sacraments and passing on his authority to his apostles, Christ ensured that his presence would continue in the world until the end of time."

Notes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

#68 By love, God has revealed himself and given himself to man. He has thus provided the definitive, superabundant answer to the questions that man asks himself about the meaning and purpose of his life.

#69 God has revealed himself to man by gradually communicating his own mystery in deeds and in words.

#70 Beyond the witness to himself that God gives in created things, he manifested himself to our first parents, spoke to them and, after the fall, promised them salvation (cf ⇒ Gen 3:15) and offered them his covenant.

#71 God made an everlasting covenant with Noah and with all living beings (cf ⇒ Gen 9:16). It will remain in force as long as the world lasts.

#72 God chose Abraham and made a covenant with him and his descendants. By the covenant God formed his people and revealed his law to them through Moses. Through the prophets, he prepared them to accept the salvation destined for all humanity.

#73 God has revealed himself fully by sending his own Son, in whom he has established his covenant for ever. the Son is his Father's definitive Word; so there will be no further Revelation after him.

#315 In the creation of the world and of man, God gave the first and universal witness to his almighty love and his wisdom, the first proclamation of the "plan of his loving goodness", which finds its goal in the new creation in Christ.

#324 The fact that God permits physical and even moral evil is a mystery that God illuminates by his Son Jesus Christ who died and rose to vanquish evil. Faith gives us the certainty that God would not permit an evil if he did not cause a good to come from that very evil, by ways that we shall fully know only in eternal life.

#384 Revelation makes known to us the state of original holiness and justice of man and woman before sin: from their friendship with God flowed the happiness of their existence in paradise.

Play the SYMBOLON DVD Part 1: Session 4: The Story of Salvation: Part 1

Review the 5 points from the DVD outlined above. The points are now represented in picture format to reinforce them visually.

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FAITH WITNESS

Share a brief story from your own faith life which reflects one of the five key points.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What can we learn about God from creation?
2. What are some ways we can help our children to learn about God?
3. How do we cooperate freely with God’s plans or not?
4. How do we teach our children to do the same?
5. How is the human family like the Trinity – (God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit)?

HOME ACTIVITY

TODAY IN CLASS: CHOSEN Lesson 3: What’s your story God? (A Look at Salvation History)

NEXT CLASS: Parents Invited to Attend Student Session 2 – Introduction to Apostolic Service Project & Mass Journal - Date & Time

HOMEWORK

CHOSEN, student workbook:

- Lesson 2: What makes me happy? (Discovering God as the Source) pp. 5-14 (Skip p. 7)

CONVERSATION STARTERS

What is “salvation history”?

Where did we come from?

Where are we going?

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Adoration: Think about God, your Creator

Contrition: Ask forgiveness for not following his plan

Thanksgiving: Thank God for the gift of life.

Supplication: Ask for the things you need in your life.

PARENT DISCUSSION

Provide parents with time in groups to review the homework. Ask them to discuss these questions together as they look over the topics for home activity.

- How do you plan to approach the home activities with your child? Are you clear on the home activity which will be reviewed at the child’s next session of sacramental preparation?
- Which home activity topics do you anticipate will be easily understood by your child?
- Which home activity topics do you think may pose a challenge for your child? How will you talk about these topics with your child?

EXIT CARD

- In what ways did this session help you in your faith and your role as a parent supporting your child’s faith journey?
- For next time, what would you like to see included in the session to address your questions of faith and help you in your child’s faith journey preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- Are there other things we need to know to assist you, your child and family?

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,

who has given us new life through water and the Holy Spirit,

send forth from heaven and shower upon us

the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. Amen.