



Parish-Based Sacramental Preparation Program

CONFIRMATION

PARENT SESSION D

The Sacrament of Confirmation

SESSION OUTLINE

Parish-Based Sacramental Preparation

PARENT SESSION for Confirmation Sacramental Preparation

Session D – the Sacrament of Confirmation

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

Share an experience of your participation in one of the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Holy Communion, or Confirmation.

CATECHESIS

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

FIVE KEY POINTS

- The Holy Spirit was given to the apostles on Pentecost when they received courage to proclaim the Gospel.
- There is a close relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. Confirmation is a strengthening of baptismal grace and a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit dwells within every baptized Christian. God gives us his Holy Spirit to make us more like Jesus.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation gives the Holy Spirit to root us more deeply in Christ and strengthens us to witness to Christ in the world.
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

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.

1212 The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life. "The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. the faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity."³

1315 "Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit" (⇒ Acts 8:14-17).

1316 Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

1317 Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian's soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one's life.

Play SYMBOLON Part 1: Episode 7: The Holy Spirit and the Life of Grace Part 2

(Some Versions may use different Episode Numbers – use the Matching Topics)

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

- How do you see the sacraments being present at pivotal moments in our lives?
- How do you the church's role as similar to a human family in accompanying the growth of the spiritual life?
- How can we help our children to grow in their spiritual lives?
- Why is the sacrament of Confirmation important to give us strength to continue to follow our Baptismal call as sons and daughters of God?
- What do you think it means to give witness to Christ in our world?

HOME ACTIVITY

HOMEWORK: CHOSEN, student workbook: Hmwk: Lesson 18 – Are you talking to me? (Getting to Know God Through Prayer)

NEXT CLASS: Parents Invited to Attend Student Session 10 DATE & TIME _____

HOME ACTIVITY

TODAY IN CLASS: Student Session 7: Lesson 14: Why have I been chosen? (Sealed and Sent in Confirmation)

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- How do you feel about receiving Confirmation?
- Confirmation is known as the sacrament of Christian maturity. How has your understanding of the Faith changed in the past few years? How about in the past few months?
- In what areas do you think you still need to learn or grow in order to continue your journey of faith?

INVITATION TO PERSONAL PRAYER

- *Adoration: Think about God, the Holy Spirit, who always gives me the strength I need to follow him.*
- *Contrition: Ask forgiveness for not following God's plan in my life*
- *Thanksgiving: Thank God for the gifts I have received especially my talents, my family, etc.*
- *Supplication: Ask for strength to follow Jesus today, in my school, in my family, etc.*

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.