

Christ Church



Mentor's Packet

A Message to Mentors

Welcome! to the joy of serving another.

Welcome! to the adventure of relating to a young person.

Welcome! to the satisfaction of knowing that you're making a difference.

Welcome! to the deepening of your own spiritual life and faith.

Jesus says to mentors (and to all of us) . . .

- "Follow me!" (Matthew 9:9).
- "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20).
- "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).
- "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

Thanks! for your interest in young people.

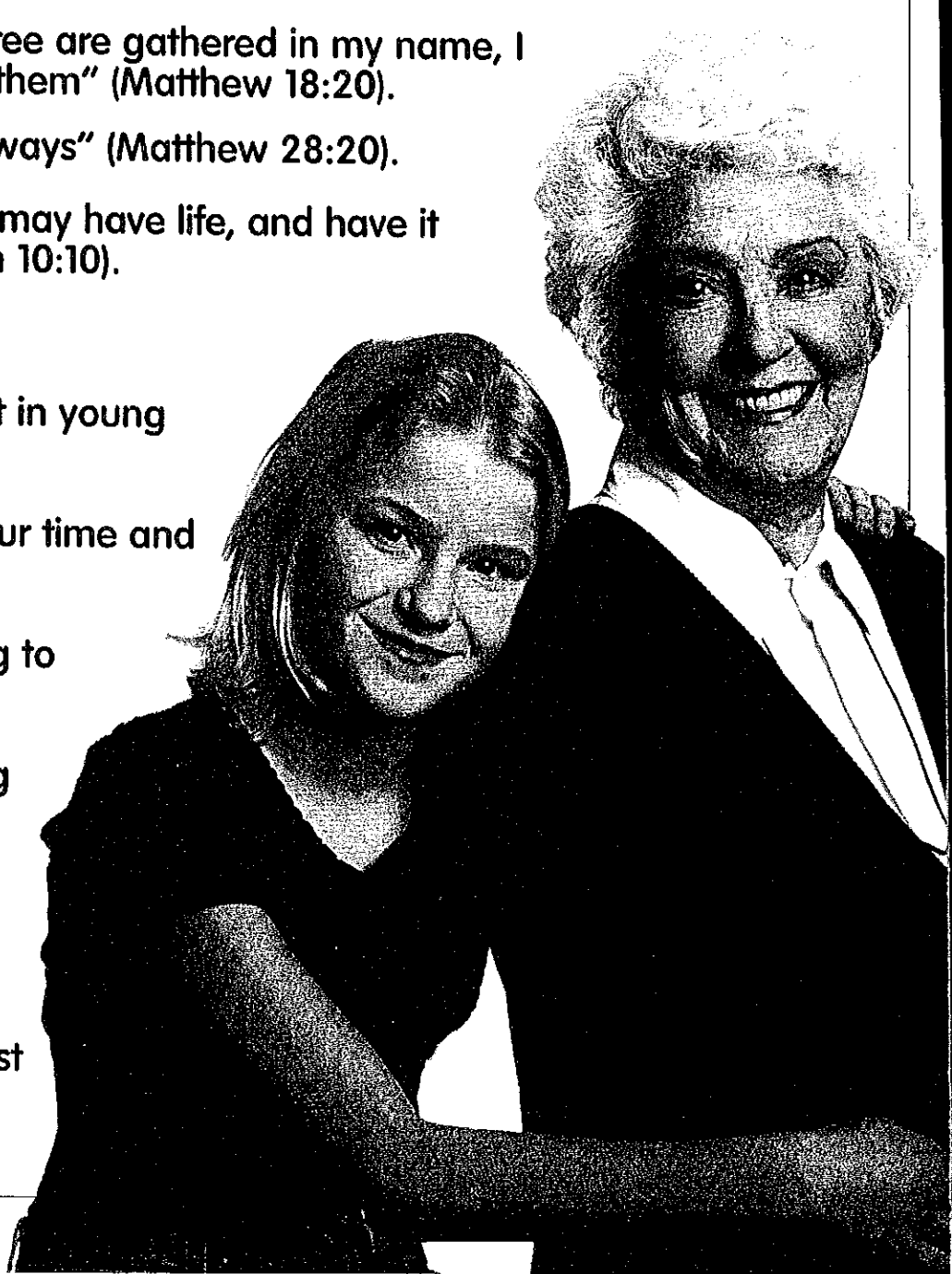
Thanks! for giving of your time and of yourself.

Thanks! for being willing to take a risk.

Thanks! for being willing to grow in your own faith.

Thanks! for being a mentor.

It may be one of the best things you have ever done!



CHEK These Out!

What are healthy relationships? The acronym CHEK helps us remember the four key elements of a healthy relationship:

1. "C" is for Choose.

Colossians 3:12 refers to "God's chosen ones." The word used to describe this relationship is *covenant*. In healthy relationships, I choose you and you choose me. One of the best things about being a mentor is that you have an opportunity to choose to be in relationship with a young person who chooses to be in relationship with you. You are in this relationship, not because you have been forced to be in it, but because you want to be in it; you believe it's important. You choose to be a mentor.

2. "H" is for Help.

Mark 10:43 says, "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant." The word for help in the Bible is *serve*. You are in this relationship to help, not to hurt. And you trust that you will be helped, not hurt by the relationship. Of course, hurt and disappointment are a part of every human relationship. But when two persons can enter the relationship willing to help each other, they assure to a great measure the degree of healthiness between them.

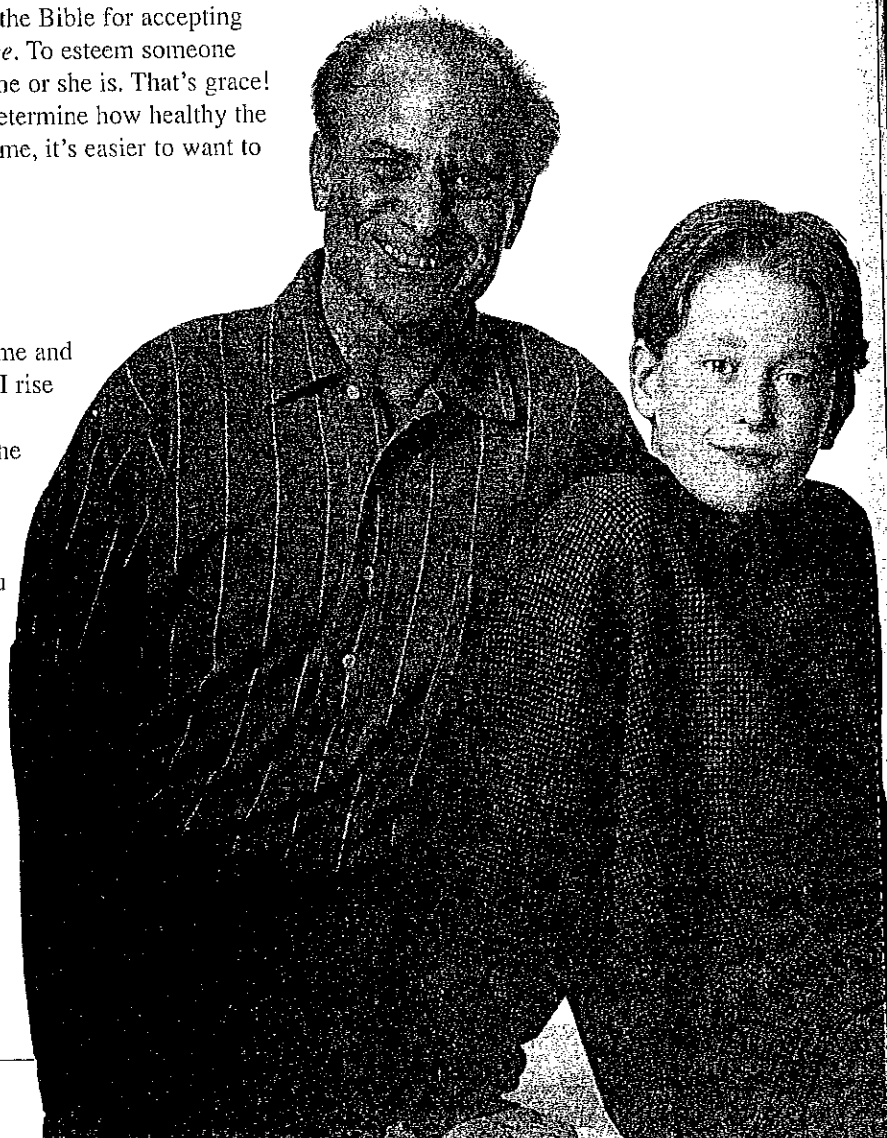
3. "E" is for Esteem.

Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." The word in the Bible for accepting (esteeming) another with no strings attached is *grace*. To esteem someone means that you value and accept another person as he or she is. That's grace! And the degree of grace in a relationship helps to determine how healthy the relationship becomes. When I know that you value me, it's easier to want to choose and help you.

4. "K" is for Know.

Psalms 139:1-2 says, "O LORD, you have searched me and known me. / You know when I sit down and when I rise up; / you discern my thoughts from far away." The Bible teaches that we are known by God and that the journey of faith is really a pilgrimage to come to know God more. In a similar way, the degree to which I am willing to let you know me and the extent to which you are willing to let me know you will determine how healthy our relationship becomes. When we grow in our knowledge and understanding of another person, including good points and failures, and we still choose and value that person, our relationship gets stronger.

The CHEK dimensions work together to build our relationships. The more I choose and help and esteem and know you, the more likely I am to continue to choose, help, esteem, and know you.



The CHEK List

Your primary role as a mentor is to Choose, Help, Esteem, and Know (CHEK) the young person God has placed in your guidance and care. The dictionary suggests that a mentor is a wise and trusted friend and guide. You may not think of yourself as wise, but there is a great wisdom produced when we are willing to cultivate a relationship of trust and friendship. You are not on your own, however. God's Spirit of love produces the wisdom you will need in your relationship.

- **First, pray.** Pray about your role. Rely on God for guidance and wisdom. Pray each day for the young person in your care. Pray each time before and during your meetings.

Ways to Choose the Young Person in Your Care

- Commit yourself to the mentor role and to the young person.
- Be interested in the young person.
- For each time you meet, prepare with prayer.
- Call the young person on the phone, just to "chek" in.
- Occasionally, offer to sit together during worship.
- Go out of your way to say hello whenever you see him or her.

Ways to Help the Young Person in Your Care

- Be available, but not pushy.
- Listen to the young person's ideas or choices, without judging them.
- Be patient; God isn't finished with any of us yet.
- Keep confidences. Not doing so could ruin a relationship.
- Follow up on conversations with the young person; for example, "How did that test go last Friday?"
- Tell stories from your own life, but avoid sounding like an authority or the one who has all the answers.
- Be helpful with decisions: Explore options, offer suggestions and ideas, be encouraging; but allow the young person to make his or her own choices and decisions.
- Present the Christian life in a positive light; help the young person see the value of living life as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Ways to Esteem the Young Person in Your Care

- Remember that while you are a guide and a friend for the journey, each person must make his or her own choices about what to believe and do. Don't rush or push.
- Accept the young person unconditionally. Look past what seems unlovable to you; instead find all that is lovable—it's there!
- Respect the young person. God has given each of us, including teenagers, special gifts.
- Enjoy the young person.
- Affirm him or her. Don't just think a compliment, say it.
- Send a birthday note and other notes of encouragement.

Ways to Know the Young Person in Your Care

- Listen carefully. Resist doing all the talking; give the other person time and space.
- Be honest about yourself. Let your young friend know you; your openness will help him or her open up to you.
- Learn what interests the young person. Invite her or him to talk about goals and desires.
- Notice qualities, skills, gifts.



How to Use TALKPOINTS

A key to healthy relationships is good communication. The TALKPOINTS resource offers an easy way to develop that communication, by providing a conversational road to follow. Each person will have a TALKPOINTS sheet. Begin in silence as you both read, reflect, and write a response to each of the open-ended statements. The statements are usually in the first person, inviting you to express what "I" think, what "I" have experienced, what "I" believe and feel. Because of the open nature of each statement, you can be as personal and honest as you choose to be.

Each conversation guidesheet has a duplicate copy; one page is for the mentor and the other for the student. After completing each conversation, file the sheets in separate three-ring binders, if you choose to do so.

Silent Communication

Good communication means that persons can be together without talking; so the first step is to read, think, and then write. Good communication requires more than being a good talker. Silence is "golden" in communication. Although this idea may go against standard practice and may at first seem a little uncomfortable, it is important. Take time to read, think, and write.

Verbal Communication

Good communication is mutual, so the second step is to take turns talking and listening. Both persons need to feel that they have the same chance as the other one to express themselves. Many youth already feel that the adult has the edge as the one in authority, the one with more experience, the one with the knowledge. Giving the young person equal time and equal value when he or she talks is vitally important. In this atmosphere both mentor and youth become freer to Choose, Help, Esteem, and Know; in short, they are freer to love.

It's Time to Experiment

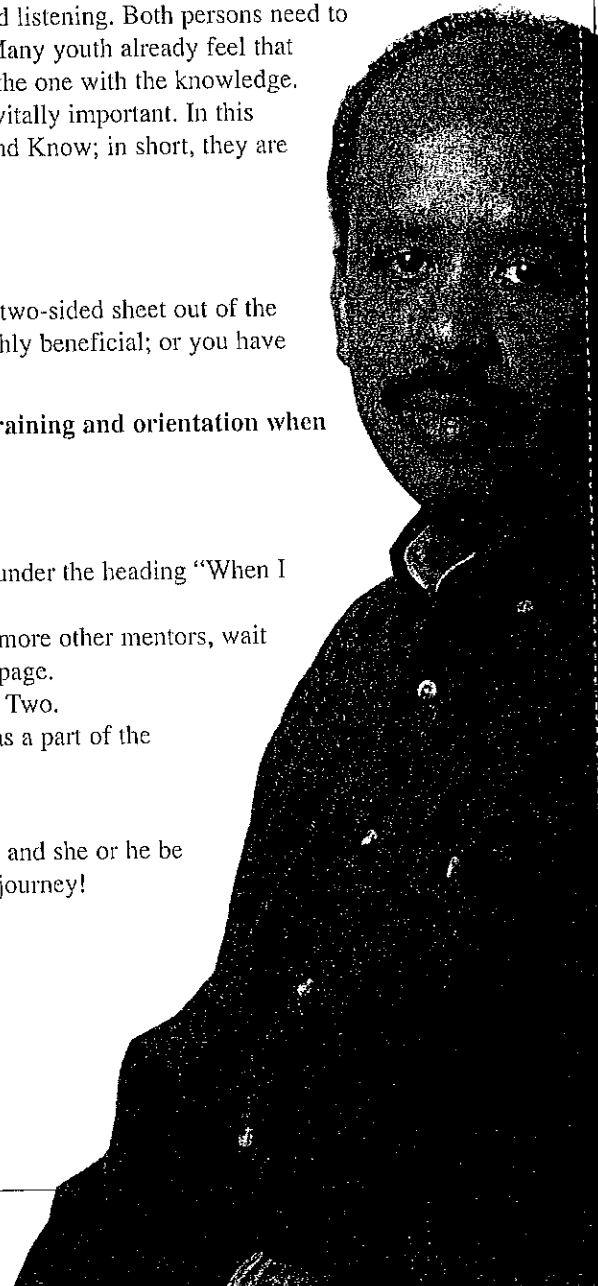
Find "Preparing to Be a Confirmation Mentor" (pages 7 and 8) and tear this two-sided sheet out of the book. Partnering with another mentor to write and talk together could be highly beneficial; or you have the option of using the sheet alone as a reflection tool.

Many congregations will want to use this material as a part of mentor training and orientation when the group of adults gather to prepare for their role of mentoring.

Follow these steps for using "Preparing to Be a Confirmation Mentor":

1. Read, reflect, and write a response to each of the items on the first page under the heading "When I Was a Youth . . ."
2. When you get to the bottom of the page, if you are working with one or more other mentors, wait for them to finish writing; then take turns talking about the items on the page.
3. If time allows, turn the page over and follow the same process with Side Two.
4. On Side Two there is also an example of how Scripture verses are used as a part of the TalkPoint conversations.

Then as you begin the mentoring experience with a young person, may you and she or he be like two trees, planted deep in the soil of faith and love. Have a wonderful journey!



Confirmation: Building Healthy Relationships

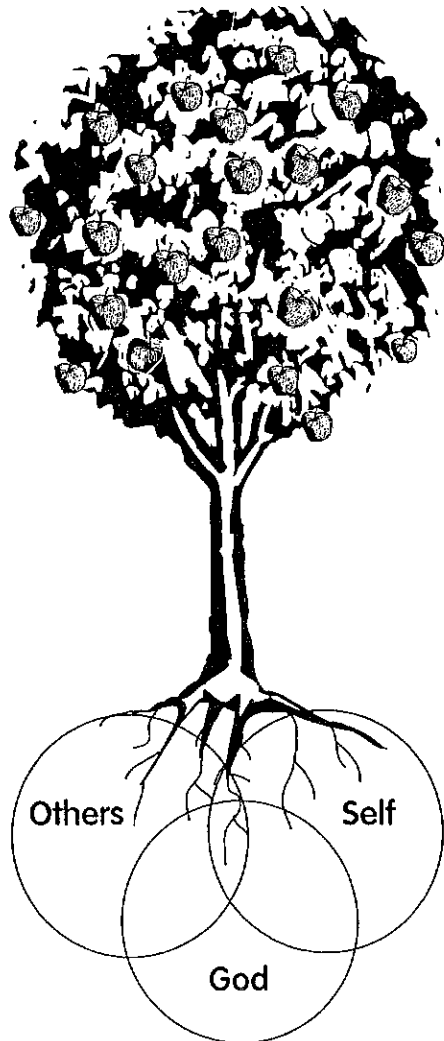
Our relationship with God is at the heart of confirmation. Jesus said that the first and most important of all the commandments is to “love . . . God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30). If we love God with heart, mind, soul, and strength, our relationship with God will become stronger and healthier.

The same is true in our relationship with others and with self. Jesus said that the next most important commandment is to “love your neighbor [others] as yourself” (Mark 12:31).

What does it mean to love? What does it mean to have healthy relationships with God, others, and self?

Jeremiah 17:8 describes those who trust in God as “a tree planted by water, / sending out its roots by the stream.” Jesus said, “Every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit” (Matthew 7:17). Jesus added, “You will know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:20). Whether our lives bear good fruit depends to a large degree on where our roots are and how firmly they are planted. That is why healthy, life-giving families and churches are so essential to the well-being of children and youth as they grow in faith. That is why you, as a mentor, are so important in the confirmation process.

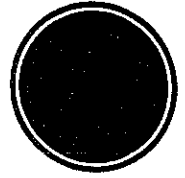
Confirmed means “with firmness.” Confirmation is a key opportunity to help make firm the roots of faith in our youth. As a mentor in confirmation, you are nurturing a young person for a growing and healthy relationship with God, with others, and with self.



The tree is a beautiful, life-filled image of healthy relationships.

The mentor's role is not to have answers. You may feel inadequate in your knowledge of the Bible and the Christian faith. If you are like most people, you have some questions, even doubts, of your own. Healthy Christian friendships don't usually happen because one person in the relationship knows all the right answers and feeds them to the other person. Healthy mentor-youth relationships build on the fact that both persons are continuing to learn about being disciples of Jesus Christ. The word *disciple*, by the way, means “student” or “learner.”

Preparing to Be a Confirmation Mentor



Thanks for your willingness to be an adult friend and guide on the confirmation journey. Mentoring is one of the most effective ways to make a positive difference in the life and faith of a young person.

**Mentor: a wise
and trusted friend
and guide**

TalkPoints



Three options for using this sheet:

1. Reflect, write, and pray on your own as you think about your role as a mentor.
2. Meet with one other mentor to write and talk.
3. Use in small mentor groups as a part of a mentor training and orientation event.

Read & Write



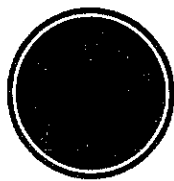
When I Was a Youth . . .

When I was in my early teens . . .

1. I enjoyed
2. I spent a lot of time
3. One of my best friends was _____
and we used to _____
4. A person who valued and accepted me was _____
I felt this because of the way she or he _____
5. I sometimes wondered if
6. I sometimes feared
7. One of my best days was the time
8. One of my worst days was the time
9. This is how I would describe the relationship I had with my parent(s):
10. School, for me, was
11. To me, the church was a place where
12. I thought God was

If you are doing this with others, stop to talk about each of your responses on this page. Then turn the page.





Preparing to Be a Confirmation Mentor

continued . . .

Scripture Talk

(Each of the tear-out mentor-youth conversations in this book has a Scripture to read and discuss.)

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. (1 John 3:23-24)

This passage of Scripture suggests that if I am to be an effective mentor, I will need to

For me to believe in the name of Jesus Christ means that I

For me to love a young person in the way Christ would love him or her means that I

Read & Write



The Role of a Mentor

1. I chose to be a mentor with youth because
2. Some of the feelings or questions I have about being a mentor include
3. More than anything young people today need (list items)
4. Parents and adults need to try to understand that youth
5. It's important for the church to take an active role in helping young people grow in their Christian faith because
6. Some of the ways that I, as a mentor, can show I care for the youth whom I will be mentoring include
7. As a mentor with youth I am willing to
8. Looking back on the experience a year from now I hope I will be able to say
9. My prayer: "Dear God, help the young person(s) I will mentor
10. And for myself I pray: "Dear God, help me to



Why Be Confirmed?

1

TalkPoints

Reflect, then
write your responses.
Then take time to talk
with each other.

Welcome to the confirmation journey. You have been traveling the road of life and faith for quite a while. There is much along the way to enjoy and learn. Jesus invites all who want to be his disciple to follow him and to walk with him in the journey of life and faith. May God guide you as you consider Jesus Christ's invitation.

Scripture Talk

In all your ways acknowledge him, / and he will make straight your paths.
(Proverbs 3:6)

"In all your ways" means

God may want to help direct my life so that I

To "acknowledge" God means that I



Start Up

Let me tell you a little about myself:

1. My full name is
2. Six words I would use to describe me are
3. As a young child one of my favorite places to go was
4. Some childhood games I liked to play were

Things I like:

5. My favorite ice cream is
6. My favorite pizza is
7. A song or kind of music I like is
8. I like to shop (*where?*)
9. I like it when people
10. One person I like being around is (*why?*)
11. Something about our church I like is
12. Something about myself I like is
13. Something I like about being the age I am is
14. One of the best days of my life was when

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



1 Why Be Confirmed?

continued ...

Scripture Talk

Stand firm in the Lord.
(Phillippians 4:1)

Taking a stand about the right thing to do can be hard sometimes when

One of the things I "stand firm" about in my own life is

To be "in the Lord," to me means that I

Just for Fun

Choose one or more of these items:

1. Tell about one of the best trips or vacations you ever took.
2. Tell about your worst adventure.
3. Describe your "dream" vacation.
4. Tell how you pack a suitcase for a trip. Does anyone help you?

Read & Write

Journey

Let me tell you a little about myself:

1. If I could travel anywhere in the world, I would want to go to _____ and I would like to travel with _____.
2. Life is like a long journey, with various challenges along the way. Some of the challenges or difficulties I have experienced so far on my life's journey include
3. Confirmation is also like a journey. If someone asked me, "Why do you think confirmation is important?" I would say,
4. The word *confirm* means to establish "with firmness" the truth or accuracy of something. If that is true, then to be confirmed in the Christian faith, to me, means that I
5. I think I'll get the most out of the confirmation journey, if I am willing to
6. In our relationship, as we spend time together as partners in this journey of faith, I am looking forward to
7. This is my confirmation prayer for you/me/us: "Dear God,

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



Following Jesus



TalkPoints

Reflect, then write your responses. Then take time to talk with each other.

When you plan a trip, lots of decisions need to be made: Where do I want to go? How will I get there? Who will go with me? How much will the trip cost? The journey of life also involves making many choices. When Jesus gives the invitation to “follow me,” he invites us to walk with him, and at the same time, promises that he will walk with us to guide us on the journey. May you discover the love and joy that are possible when you choose to travel Christ’s way. Have a great trip!

Scripture Talk

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” (Mark 8:34-35)

When Jesus says I need to “lose” my life if I am to be his follower, I think he means that I need to

It might be easier for me to “follow” Jesus if I were sure

Read & Write

Follow the Leader

1. When I was a little child, one person I looked up to and wanted to be like was _____ because _____
2. More recently, a person who has had a positive influence on my life is _____. (Explain how.)
3. I am more likely to follow persons if they have some of these leadership qualities:

Circle the number that shows to what extent you agree with the following statements:

4. Jesus is the unique Son of God.
I doubt it 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 I totally agree

(Explain what you think it means to say that Jesus is the Son of God.)

5. Jesus is the Lord and Leader of my life.
I doubt it 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 I totally agree

(Explain what you think it means to call Jesus the Lord/Leader of your life.)

6. After dying on the cross, Jesus came back to life and continues to be alive in the world today.
I doubt it 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 I totally agree

(Explain what you believe about the resurrection of Jesus.)

7. Jesus is the one who, more than anyone, helps us know who God is.
I doubt it 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 I totally agree

(What can we learn from Jesus about the nature of God?)

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



2 Following Jesus

continued . .

Scripture Talk

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)

The definition I would give for the word *love* as it is used here is

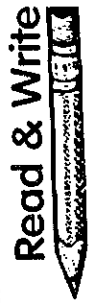
If I am a follower of Jesus, it means that I love others as he loved people. I would describe the way Jesus loved like this:

If there's more time . . .

- Someone I know who is a true follower of Jesus is _____

(Explain.)

- Some of the leaders of our world who might lead us down the wrong path include



Choosing to Follow Jesus

- When Jesus invited his disciples to follow him, I think he was asking them to
- Through the centuries people have been willing to follow Jesus (even to their death) because
- To promise that I will follow Jesus means that I am willing to
- To say that I have chosen to make Jesus the Lord and Leader of my life means that
- Jesus loved others. If I love others as Jesus did, it would mean that in my relationships with friends and family I would
- Jesus served others. If I am to serve others in a similar way, it means that I would be willing to
- Jesus always did what was right and wanted his followers to do the right thing, too. In my life lately, one thing I would change in order to follow Jesus
- My prayer as a follower of Jesus: "Dear God, help me to

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



Why the Church?

3

TalkPoints

Reflect, then
write your responses.
Then take time to talk
with each other.

If you have ever taken a trip with someone, you know that traveling with others can help make the event more enjoyable, interesting, and even sometimes more challenging. When we decide to follow Jesus, we join others who are traveling the Christian way with us. The church is a worldwide network of all who have decided to follow Jesus as the Sovereign of their life. May you know the joy and strength that comes from belonging to the church.

Scripture Talk

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

(Matthew 18:20)

I have experienced the presence of Jesus Christ in my life when I

When I get together with others to learn about Jesus Christ and worship God, I think it really helps me to



Our Church

1. At church lately I have enjoyed
2. Three reasons I attend my church include these:
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
3. If a friend asked me, "What difference does going to church make in your life?" I might say,
4. A person at church who has helped me feel welcome and a part of the group is _____, (Name some ways.)
5. Some of the questions I have about the church are
6. Sometimes I wish my church would
7. Here's my own definition: The church is

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



3 Why the Church?

continued . .

Scripture Talk

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

(1 Corinthians 12:27)

One thing all church members have in common is

When believers are described as Christ's body, I think it means that

If there's more time . . .

1. I feel closest to God during worship when
2. Some of the songs that help me to feel close to God are
3. The youth of our church could do more to be involved by
4. If I were told by my government that I could no longer worship freely or be a member of a church, I would probably



Why Does the Church Exist?

1. If Jesus came in person to speak to our church this coming Sunday; told us his reasons for starting the church, I think he might say
 2. Jesus might add, "A church is a healthy church if the members
 3. Three things my church is doing that fulfill what Jesus wants the church do include
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 4. Three things my church isn't doing that we need to do in order to be all Jesus wants us to be include
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 5. If I said to someone, "I am really involved in my church," it would mean that
 6. And if he or she asked, "Why do you think it's important to attend church regularly?" I would say
 7. Some ways I could be (or would like to be) more involved in my church include
 8. My prayer for the church: "Dear God,



Tell
&
Listen

My Mission

4

TalkPoints

Reflect, then
write your responses.
Then take time to talk
with each other.

Choosing a direction, purpose, or mission in life can be hard. This decision is important, because once you've chosen where you want to go, it's much easier to figure out how you're going to get there. You can set your priorities and decide what's most important. What is your purpose in life? What do you aim to become? Do you know your mission? To follow Jesus is to begin to ask not only, "What do I want to do with my life," but also, "What does God want me to do with my life?" May God guide you in discovering your mission.

Scripture Talk

**"I came that [you] may have
life, and have it abundantly."
(John 10:10)**

Jesus is saying that his mission in life is to help people to

I would describe my life as
"abundant" when

Read & Write

What's Important?

1. Three things I own that are important to me include
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
2. Three people who are important to me include
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
3. Three beliefs or values that are important to me include
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
4. If someone asked me, "What's the most important thing in your life right now?" I would say
5. From what I know about Jesus Christ, the most important thing in his life (the thing he taught, lived, and died for—his mission) was to
6. If I said that I am committed to the cause and mission of Jesus Christ, it would mean that I am willing to
7. One question I have about finding my own purpose or mission in life is

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



4 My Mission

continued . .

Scripture Talk

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them . . . and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”

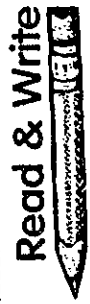
(Matthew 28:19-20)

It sounds as if Jesus is telling his followers that their mission is to

I am helping someone to become a disciple of Jesus whenever I

If there's more time . . .

1. The goal or mission of an athlete is to
2. The goal or mission of a teacher is to
3. The goal or mission of a student is to
4. What difference has it made in your life when you have had a goal or a clear mission in mind?



Defining My Mission

1. A clear mission and purpose can help us define our priorities. Three of my top priorities in life right now include
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 2. A clear mission can give us the inner strength and security to meet the difficult challenges of life. A challenge I am facing right now in my own life that I need God's help and strength with is
 3. A clear mission can motivate us and give us energy and a willingness to work with persistence toward a goal. I would like to be more motivated in reaching the following goals:
 4. If a person's mission is the main purpose for living, the direction one wants to go with his or her life, the thing she or he wants to achieve more than anything else, then I would say that my overall mission or purpose right now in my life is to *(describe in detail)*:
 5. My prayer as I try to live this mission: "Dear God, help me to
- When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



Living in the Spirit

TalkPoints

Reflect, then
write your responses.
Then take time to talk
with each other.

Genesis 1:2 describes the Spirit of the Creator God as moving across the waters. Do you believe that the Spirit of God still moves in this world and in our lives? What signs do you see of God's Spirit living and moving in your life? Living in the Spirit is an important part of the Christian journey. We travel not only with others, but also with God whose Spirit guides us on our way. May you experience the joy and growing awareness of the Spirit of God in your life as you continue the journey of faith and life.

Scripture Talk

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (1 John 4:13)

If someone asked me to describe the Spirit of God, I would tell him or her that the Spirit of God is like

To say that I have the Spirit of Christ abiding or living in me means that



God's Holy Spirit

1. A time I believe that God helped me was when
2. In the future, with God's help, I know that I can
3. Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to a "wind [blowing] where it chooses" (John 3:8). Some ways I think the Spirit of God is like the wind:
4. Jesus also described the Spirit as an Advocate (or a Comforter) (John 14:16). A time when I felt comforted by the Holy Spirit of God:
5. Jesus also taught that the Holy Spirit is a guide and companion on the journey of life (John 14:26). Right now I need God's guidance to help me to
6. One question I have about the Holy Spirit:
7. Some of the beliefs I have about the Spirit of God:
8. A person I know whose life reflects the Spirit of God: _____
(Explain how.)

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



5 Living in the Spirit

continued . . .

Scripture Talk

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”
(Galatians 5:22)

The “fruit of the Spirit” most present in my life and my relationships is _____
(Give example.)

The one quality of the Spirit that is most lacking in my life and my relationships is _____
(Give example.)

If there's more time . . .

1. If I had an orchard, the trees in my orchard would be healthy and fruitful if I _____
2. My life has been fruitful and productive in the following ways: _____
3. These things might help my life become more healthy and fruitful: _____

Read & Write

The Evidence of God's Spirit

In Galatians 5:22, Paul lists some of the “fruit” or qualities present in our lives when God's Spirit is active and living in us. For each quality below, try to write a simple definition, followed by an example of the evidence of this fruit in your own life.

1. Love is _____
(example from my life)
2. Joy is _____
(example from my life)
3. Peace is _____
(example from my life)
4. Patience is _____
(example from my life)
5. Kindness is _____
(example from my life)
6. Generosity is _____
(example from my life)
7. Faithfulness is _____
(example from my life)
8. Gentleness is _____
(example from my life)
9. Self-control is _____
(example from my life)



My Beliefs

6

TalkPoints

Reflect, then
write your responses.
Then take time to talk
with each other.

Our beliefs are like directional signs that guide us down the road of life. They remind us who we are, what's important to us, and where we want to go with our lives. To be confirmed in the faith is to recognize that we're old enough to believe for ourselves some of those things that our church and families may have hoped we would believe. May God continue to confirm within you the beliefs that bring you to deeper faith, hope, and love.

Scripture Talk

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”
(1 Corinthians 13:13)

My own definition of *faith* is

I would define *hope* as

Here's how I would describe *love*:



Some of My Beliefs

For me to "believe" something means that I

Try to write a personal statement of belief for each of the following:

1. *Creation of the world:* I believe
2. *God:* I believe
3. *Jesus Christ:* I believe
4. *The Holy Spirit:* I believe
5. *Sin and evil:* I believe
6. *Forgiveness:* I believe
7. *Prayer:* I believe
8. *The Bible:* I believe
9. *Death:* I believe
10. *Suffering:* I believe
11. I find it difficult to believe that

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



6 My Beliefs

continued . . .

Scripture Talk

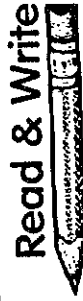
“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

If someone asked me to explain what I think it means when we talk about believing in Jesus, I would say

This is the way I would describe “eternal life”:

If there's more time . . .

1. I believe one of the most embarrassing things I ever did was
2. I believe that for me to be successful, I need to
3. I believe God wants me to
4. I believe that when I'm old, I'll look back on my life and say
5. I believe that one of the biggest problems facing the world today is



More Beliefs

1. I believe that being active in my church will help me to
2. I believe that it's important for a person to be baptized because
3. I believe that receiving Holy Communion helps me to
4. I believe that using my talents and financial resources in the work of God is important because
5. I believe that it's important to be confirmed because it shows that I
6. I believe that God has given me the ability to
7. I believe that in the future God wants me to
8. I believe that doubts and questions about faith help us to
9. I believe that for me to grow in my faith I need to
10. I believe that God wants to help me to
11. This is my prayer for the future: "Dear God, help me to



Saying Yes



TalkPoints

Reflect, then write your responses. Then take time to talk with each other.

One of the most powerful words in any language is the word *yes*. You can spend a lifetime thinking about going somewhere; but until you say *yes* to the journey and start traveling, you will never reach your destination. This is also true in the Christian life. The time comes to decide and to trust that God will lead. When we say *yes* to traveling the way of Jesus Christ, we experience wonderful sights and sounds that we would have missed if we had said *no*. May God be with you as you say *yes* to Jesus.

Scripture Talk

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:19-20)

Someone is "fishing for people" if he or she

Some of the "nets" I might need to leave behind if I am to be a true follower of Jesus would include



Confirmation Promises

1. Saying *yes* to being a good student or a good employee is a commitment or promise to
2. Saying *yes* to the invitation to follow Jesus as the Sovereign and Leader of my life is a commitment or promise to
3. Saying *yes* to one thing often means saying *no* to something else. In saying *yes* to following Jesus, I will need to say *no* to

Think carefully about each promise below, then state what you are willing to commit to or promise:

4. My promise to Jesus Christ: I promise that I will
5. My promise to the church: I am willing to
6. My promise to serve and help others: I will
7. My promise to myself: I promise that I will

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



7 Saying Yes

continued . . .

Scripture Talk

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind. . . . let us hold fast to what we have attained.
(Philippians 3:14-16)

I would say that the main goal of a Christian is to

To be mature in my Christian faith means that I

I think I'm supposed to "hold fast" to

If there's more time . . .

1. One of the most challenging goals I ever set for myself and achieved was
2. A goal I set for myself, but failed to achieve, was
3. My main goal in confirmation has been
4. One of my main goals for the future is to

Read & Write

Goals for Spiritual Growth

For each of the following spiritual disciplines (activities that are a way of saying yes to Christian growth), list a goal for improvement or growth:

Spiritual Discipline	Goal
1. Attending worship	
2. Regular devotional and prayer	
3. Studying the Bible	
4. Giving money to God's work	
5. Loving others	
6. Serving others	
7. Witnessing and inviting others to church	

My prayer for spiritual growth: "Dear God,

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



Staying in Touch With God

9

TalkPoints

Reflect, then
write your responses.
Then take time to talk
with each other.

What do you do to stay spiritually motivated? What helps you stay in touch with God? Like the gasoline in the tank that keeps the motor running, staying in touch with God gives us fuel for the journey of life and faith. We need to be open and receptive to God and filled with the things of God that give energy to our soul as we journey Christ's way. May you know the energy and goodness that comes from keeping your relationship with God growing and alive.

Scripture Talk

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. (Colossians 3:16)

To "let the word of Christ dwell in [me]" means that I need to

A teacher I know who helps me understand the word of Christ is

I'm grateful to God for

Read & Write

Staying in Touch

- Someone I like to stay in touch with is _____.
Some things that help people "stay in touch" include _____.
- Some of the things that help me stay in touch with God are _____.

FRIENDS help us stay in touch with God.

- Friends know us, accept us, and help us. A person I consider to be a Christian friend of mine is _____. We both benefit from our friendship in the following ways: _____.
- Christian friends can help each other stay in touch with God by _____.
- In my friendship with you, you have helped me to _____.

PRAYER helps us stay in touch with God.

- Friendship with God is a lot like other friendships. Spending time with God helps keep our friendship going. Prayer is a way to spend time with God. If someone asked me to describe my prayer life, I would say _____.
- I could improve my ability to pray if I would take the time to _____.

After you have talked about the above items, take time to pray in silence:

- First, think about God's awesome love and greatness.
- Express things that you are thankful for.
- Ask God to forgive you for things you have done or have failed to do.
- Ask God to help you and others you know who need God's guidance.



9

Staying in Touch With God

continued . . .

Scripture Talk



“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31)

If I am a true follower of Jesus Christ, I will need to

The truth that makes us free is

If there's more time . . .

1. One thing I enjoy about reading the Bible is
2. When I read the Bible, it's sometimes hard for me to
3. For me the most interesting part of our worship service is when
4. Our worship services might be more meaningful and interesting to me if

Read & Write



The Bible and Worship

The BIBLE helps us stay in touch with God.

1. Saying that the Bible is God's Word means, to me, that
2. The Bible can help me stay in touch with God if I take the time to
3. I would enjoy reading the Bible more if
4. One of the most interesting ways to read and study the Bible is
5. Some questions I have about the Bible include

WORSHIP helps us stay in touch with God.

6. If someone asked me to define the word *worship*, I would say, "Worship is
7. I know that I'm worshipping God when I
8. Participating regularly in the worship of the church can help me stay in touch with God if I am willing to
9. I have felt especially close to God when
10. Daily prayer and Bible reading can also help me stay in touch with God. The best time of the day for me to devote to daily worship is
11. My prayer: "Dear God, help me to improve my relationship with you by



Life Beyond Confirmation

TalkPoints

Reflect, then write your responses. Then take time to talk with each other.

When you come to a stopping point in your journey, there's always a new horizon inviting you to continue. You will soon discover in the Christian journey that there are always new experiences and things to learn. As you join heart and hand in friendship with others who travel the Christian way of love, service, and life, may you grow in your awareness of God's guiding Spirit.

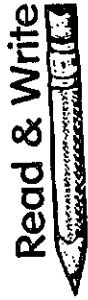
Scripture Talk

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)

Paul says that we don't make it on our own. I believe that God helps me as I journey through life by

It's important to forget "what lies behind," because

In the Christian journey of faith, I'm looking forward to



Looking Back On Our Journey

1. During the confirmation journey, I have especially enjoyed
2. I think one of the most important things I have learned or discovered in our discussions is
3. One of the important commitments or promises I have made is to
4. During the next year I want to grow in my Christian life by
5. And I want to be more involved in my church by
6. Some of the talents and qualities I have learned to appreciate about you (gifts that God can use in service to others to help make this a better world) include
7. Some of the talents, interests, and qualities I see in myself that God can use include

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.



10 Life Beyond Confirmation

continued . . .

Scripture Talk

He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." (Mark 9:35)

I think Jesus must have needed to say these words to his disciples (and to me) because

Sometimes, I would rather be first than last because

Lately, I have spent time serving in these ways (*who and how?*):

If there's more time . . .

1. When I serve others, I feel
2. One of the barriers that keeps me from being willing to serve others:
3. One of my dreams for the future is that I will be able to



Called to Serve

1. When I think of a person who serves others selflessly, I think of _____ and that's because she or he
2. Today's followers of Jesus Christ are invited to serve one another in the church by
3. We are also invited to serve others outside the church who are in need. For example:
4. A job or career I would like to try someday, even if it's only briefly, is _____
In that career, I would be able to say that I am serving God, if
5. Right now my job or "vocation" (the thing that I spend a great amount of my time doing) is _____
I believe I am serving God in this vocation in these ways:
6. The "job" or "calling" of every follower of Jesus is to
7. As a part of my commitment to make Jesus Christ more and more the center of my life and to be influenced by his love and teachings, in the future I am willing to
8. My prayer for the future: "Dear God,

When you see the sign, stop writing and take turns talking about each of your responses.

