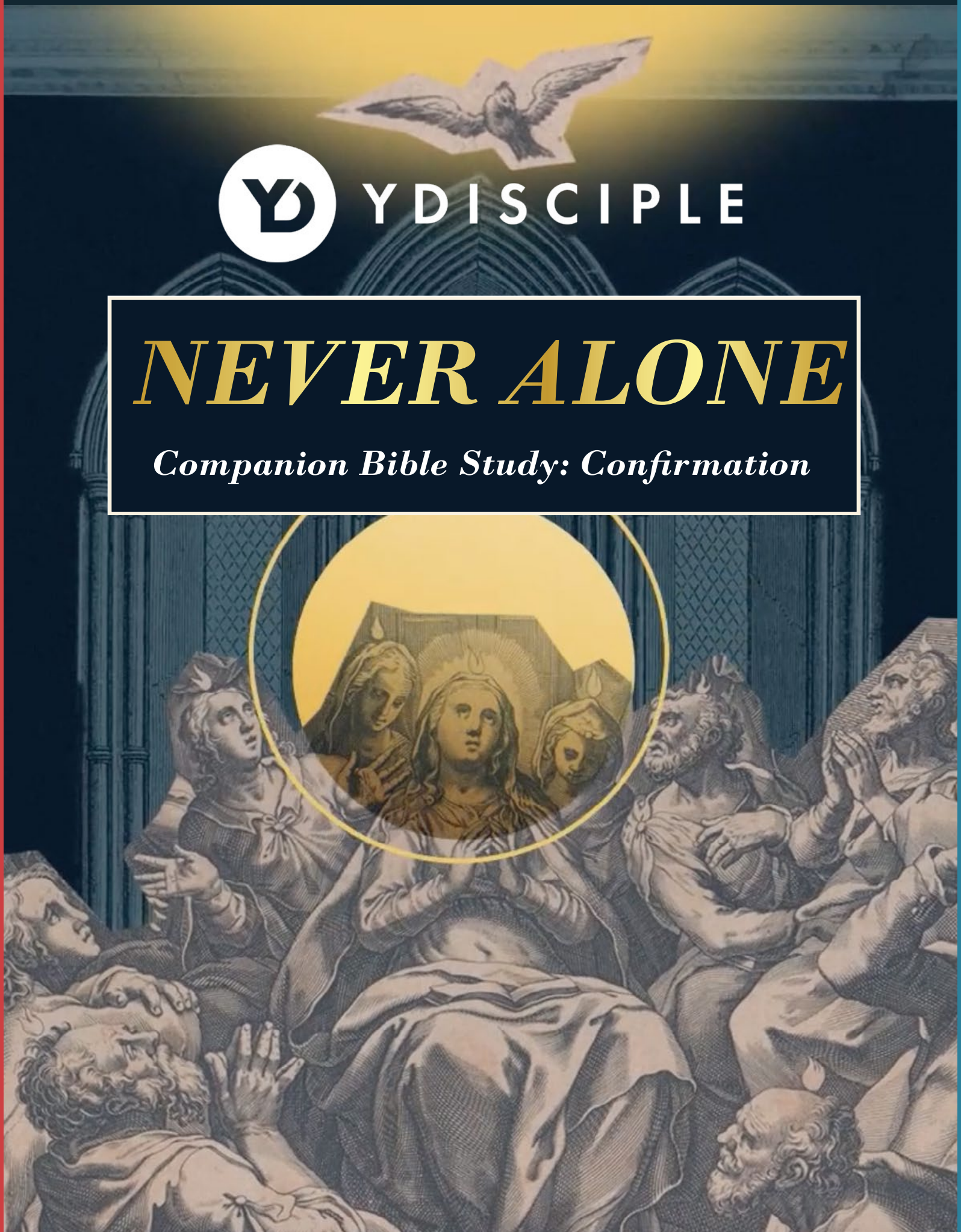
YDISCIPLE

NEVER ALONE

Companion Bible Study: Confirmation



Welcome to YDisciple's Bible study on Confirmation.

While it can be completed on its own, we strongly **recommend that this Bible study is facilitated after having completed the YDisciple video series, *Never Alone: Life with the Holy Spirit*.**

This 4-week Bible study is not intended to give a full catechesis on the sacrament of Confirmation. Rather it is designed to help teens…

A) become more comfortable with reading the sacred scripture.
B) discover the roots of Confirmation in the Bible.
C) address common misconceptions of the sacrament.
D) and, most of all, see how the scripture applies to their lives.

Each session uses only one scripture passage. There are certainly many more verses we could have used and even supplemented each session with, but it is our desire to teach teenagers to focus on a single passage and really wrestle with it. In fact, you will read this single passage aloud at least 3 times during the course of your meeting! We have a maxim we follow at YDisciple: "Don't try to get through the scriptures, let the scriptures get through you."

Using these passages, you will follow the same structure each time: READ, REFLECT, REACT. This process has been developed by the team here at NET Ministries and has been used with real teenagers around the U.S. for many years. Here's the method behind our madness:

In the READ portion, you will, of course, read the scripture aloud. You will also ask very concrete questions about the setting, specific words, etc. It may seem silly and superficial, but what you are doing is helping to set a scene as well as give them questions that they can be confident in answering. You don't have to know a lot of background information about the Bible to begin engaging it.

In the REFLECT portion, you will read it again and begin to interpret the content. This section will have plenty of saint quotes and Catechism references that will help you, the leader, keep this section of discussion on track and give you the confidence of answering with true Church teaching.

The final portion of REACT is the most important. Yes, you will read the passage aloud again. Here you will begin to answer the question: What does this have to do with my life? It is no good for us to simply know facts about the Bible and about faith, we need to put them into practice.

As with all YDisciple materials, we strongly recommend that each participant read the passage from a real Bible, not an app, nor just the passage printed on a page. Everyone is also strongly encouraged to highlight and take notes directly in their Bible.

Above all, get ready for the Holy Spirit to show up. The scripture is not just words about God; it is the word of God. If God is speaking and teens are open to listening, powerful things will happen.

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NET Ministries, Inc.
110 Crusader Ave. W.
West St. Paul, Minnesota 55118

netusa.org
YDisciple.com

Contributors:
Alexia Heise
Vianney Nguyen
Emma Chaplin
Annie Grandell

Theological/Catechetical Advisors:
Fr. Brian Park

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADER GUIDE

Session 1: The Basics..... 1
Session 2: The Gifts..... 8
Session 3: The Proof..... 14
Session 4: The Mission..... 20

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Session 1: The Basics..... 27
Session 2: The Gifts..... 29
Session 3: The Proof..... 32
Session 4: The Mission..... 34

PARENT GUIDE

Session 1: The Basics..... 36
Session 2: The Gifts..... 38
Session 3: The Proof..... 40
Session 4: The Mission..... 41

A KEY TO USING THIS GUIDE :

• *ANYTHING IN ITALICS: Important information for leaders. Not necessary to share with the group.*

• REGULAR FONT: To be shared aloud with the group.

• **BOLD FONT: Questions to ask the group.**

• LEADER TIPS: Check out the " Leader Tip " boxes for helpful hints.

SESSION 1: THE BASICS

In this session, you will
· consider the basic elements of Confirmation in the Bible.
· introduce simple sacramental theology.
· look at the effects of confirmation as laid out in the Catechism.
· address the misconception of Confirmation makes one an "adult in the faith."

THEME SCRIPTURE

"Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit." – Acts 8:14-17

CONNECT

CHECK-IN

Share a snack, if appropriate.
*Ask the students about their week ("What was your high point**?** Your low**?**").*
Ask about their commitment from the week before.

ACTIVITY

Before diving into content, have fun together! Many groups enjoy playing a sport or a structured "ice breaker" game. Check out YDisciple's Small Group Leader Playbook for ideas .

OPENING PRAYER

Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire your time together as you dive into Sacred Scripture. Consider including in your prayer time the traditional Prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Leader Tip: Make sure you pass out the Participant Guides at the beginning. The teens will be able to follow along and pray this prayer.

DISCUSS

Why are you here? Why are you getting confirmed?

Leader Tip: Even if you think you know the youth's answers, or this is a Confirmation requirement, still ask these questions! It helps the young people to open up and helps you know where they're coming from.

Don't shy away from sharing your own experience of Confirmation/Confirmation prep.

Leader Tip: Ideally, you would be doing this study together after having done The Invitation. A 4-part video series on discipleship. In that first session, you take time to set up group guidelines and expectations.

We are going to be taking the next few meetings to take a closer look at the sacrament of Confirmation through the lens of the Bible. Each week we will spend a good amount of time reading specific passages from the Bible concerning Confirmation and the Holy Spirit.

Leader Tip: Everyone should have their own Bible that they can write in. If they do not have one, consider buying them one as a gift. All of the Bible quotes in YDisciple studies are from the NABRE translation.

Leader Tip: Consider sharing the short YDisciple video, "How to Read the Bible."

READ.

Look up Acts 8:14-17. Read it aloud while everyone follows along in their bibles. Encourage everyone to think about what's happening.

Leader Tip: These "READ" questions might seem superficial, but they are important both for cementing the scene in the reader's mind and for getting conversation moving. If we begin by asking simple, concrete questions, we can move to more complex, abstract questions down the line.

Leader Tip: Help them find the passage. Some of your group may not be familiar with how to use the Bible, but may be too embarrassed to admit it.

Where does this passage take place?

Samaria. The people of Samaria, known as Samaritans, had once been Jewish like the people in Jerusalem, but had over the years adopted many religious practices of other pagan religions around them. They were considered by the Jews in Jerusalem to be "religious half-breeds." This is significant because when this city comes to have faith in Jesus, it breaks down old animosities between the two groups.

Who was sent to be with this new Church in Samaria?

Peter and John.

Where do we know Peter and John from?

They were 2 of Jesus' best-known disciples. John is often referred to as "the beloved disciple" (see John 20:2). As Catholics, we believe that Peter was the first Pope (see Matthew 16:18).

What were John and Peter sent to Samaria to do?

Pray for the Holy Spirit to come down upon them.

How do they call the Holy Spirit down upon them?

They lay hands on them.

REFLECT.

Invite someone to read the passage again and encourage everyone to think about what it means.

This scripture is where we get much of the foundation for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Why do you think it was significant that Peter and John went to the new church?

This "calling down" of the Holy Spirit isn't done by just anyone. They called the apostles. This is significant from our perspective as Catholics.

Do you know who calls down the Holy Spirit on you for your Confirmation?

Ordinarily, the bishop or a priest delegated by him. As Catholics, we believe in something called "apostolic succession." Bishops have a special authority in the Church. Every Catholic bishop can trace his spiritual lineage back to one of the twelve apostles thanks to the sacraments of Holy Orders. The apostles would lay hands, a form of anointing, on the person they intended to take their place as a spiritual leader before they died or left an area. Then that anointed person would do the same when they stepped down or moved, and so on until our current time.

The bishop's authority comes from God himself, so when you are anointed in the sacrament of Confirmation, it is symbolic of God anointing you. Remember though, this is not just a symbol! God himself is anointing you at your Confirmation!

There is clearly a connection between baptism and confirmation in this text. What do you see happening?

This laying on of hands and calling down the Holy Spirit completes what baptism began. The Catechism says, " the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace." (CCC1 285)

It is interesting that Peter and John don't just pray out loud that the Holy Spirit would come upon these people. There is an action that comes along with the prayer, laying their hands on the people. This exact same action happens at a Confirmation. The bishop lays his hands on your head. This very real connection between the physical (laying on of hands) and the spiritual (receiving the Holy Spirit) is at the heart of what we believe about sacraments.

Catechism: A book that gives a comprehensive summary of Catholic faith and morals

What other sacraments can you name?

Baptism, Eucharist, Confession/Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, Holy Orders.

St. Augustine said, "Sacraments are visible signs of invisible grace." Take baptism, for example. Having water poured on a person symbolizes that person being cleansed. But at our baptism, the water isn't just a symbol. We believe that we are actually cleansed of the stain of original sin, in real life, when the water is poured over us. It isn't just symbolic.

CCC 1131: The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.

Let's look at another sacrament. What are the visible signs of the Eucharist?

Bread and wine are consecrated by a priest. They actually become the Body and Blood of Christ.

At Confirmation, you are anointed with chrism (a holy oil) and the bishop lays his hands on your head. And you actually receive the Holy Spirit just like in this scripture passage .

REACT.

Invite someone to read one last time and encourage everyone to think about how it applies to their own lives.

A common misconception about Confirmation is that it is a "rite of passage" that makes you an "adult in the faith." This simply isn't true. Babies in danger of death can get confirmed. In some places, children are confirmed when they receive their first Holy Communion. So instead of thinking of it as a rite of passage into spiritual adulthood, instead remember it completes the grace of our Baptism.

We've been talking here about how Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism, how the church in Samaria needed the Holy Spirit to come after their Baptism.

This "completion of baptismal grace" has the following effects according to the Catechism:

- *"It roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry 'Abba! Father!'*
- *It unites us more firmly to Christ.*
- *It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us.*
- *It renders our bond with the Church more perfect.*
- *It gives us a special strength to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ more boldly, and never be ashamed of the Cross." (CCC 1303)*

Let's look at each of those effects and talk about how they can play out in our everyday lives.

- *"It roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry 'Abba! Father!' "Divine filiation" refers to the fact that we are children of God. Think back to the first video session we did when we talked about belonging and identity. Nic talked about how in our baptism we become children of God [Never Alone, Episode 1 9:16-10:30].*

Do you find it easy or difficult to believe that you are a beloved child of God?

• *"It unites us more firmly to Christ."*

On a scale of 1–10, how would you rate your relationship with Jesus?

Leader Tip: Of course the spiritual life cannot be quantified, but questions like this help them think about it in a concrete way.

• *"It increases the gift of the Holy Spirit in us."*

Who in your own life do you know that is different because of the action of God in their lives?

• *"It renders our bond with the Church more perfect."*

Just one of the many reasons we need the Church is that we need community. Why do you think community is important when it comes to faith?

• *"It gives us special strength to spread and defend the faith…"*

Who is someone who has shared their faith with you? What did that look like? For most people sharing their faith isn't easy. Why do you think that is?

These are the things that happened in Samaria, but it doesn't end there. These are the things that are available to anyone who gets confirmed. Notice that none of the effects are, "It makes you an adult in the Church."

COMMIT

This week commit to:

1) *Reading Acts 8:14-17 every day.*
2) *Invite the Holy Spirit into your daily actions by praying, "Come, Holy Spirit" throughout each day.*

SESSION 2: THE GIFTS

In this session, you will
· Discover where we find the traditional list of the Gifts of the Spirit in scripture.
· Discuss how each of these gifts apply to our lives.
· Address the misconception that at Confirmation we confirm our faith

THEME SCRIPTURE

"But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
A spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,
and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD."
-Isaiah 11:1-3a

CONNECT

CHECK-IN

Share a snack, if appropriate.
Ask the students about their week ("What was your high point? Your low?").
Ask about their commitment from the week before.

ACTIVITY

Before diving into content, have fun together! Many groups enjoy playing a sport or a structured "ice breaker" game. Check out YDisciple's Small Group Leader Playbook for ideas .

OPENING PRAYER

Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire your time together as you dive into Sacred Scripture. Consider including in your prayer time the traditional Prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Leader Tip: Make sure you pass out the Participant Guides at the beginning. The teens will be able to follow along and pray this prayer.

DISCUSS

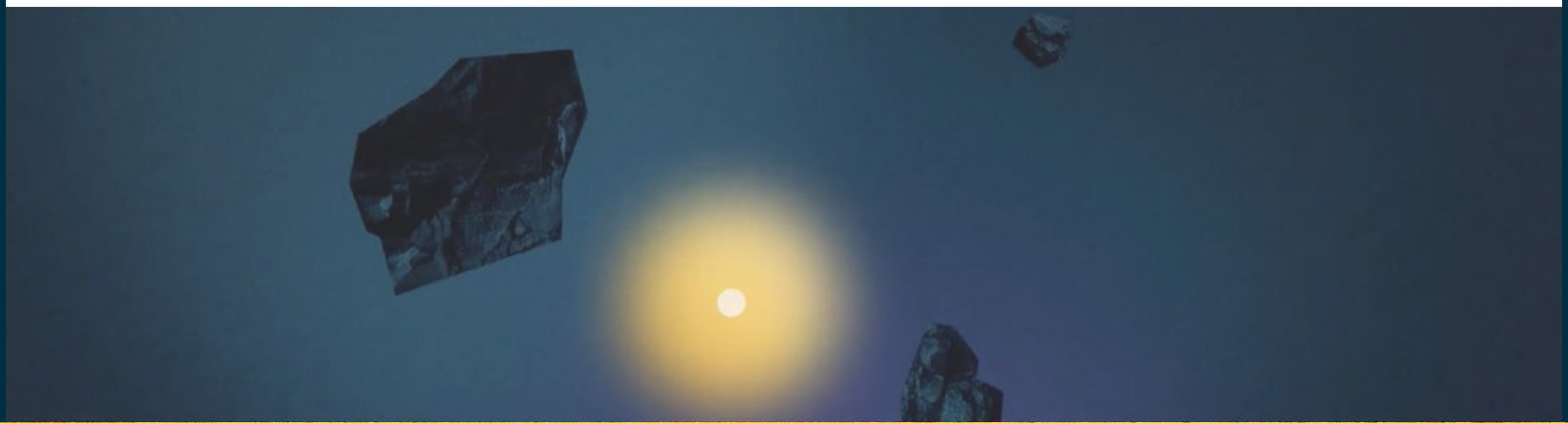
What is the best gift you remember receiving as a young child? Tell the story.

What is the gift you are most proud of giving someone else? Tell the story.

READ.

Look up Isaiah 11:1-3a. Invite someone to read it aloud while everyone follows along in their bibles. Encourage everyone to think about what's happening.

Leader Tip: Help them find the passage. Some of your group may not be familiar with how to use the Bible, but may be too embarrassed to admit it.



What is the imagery in verse 1?

A shoot or sprout growing off a stump and flowering.

Bonus question! Does anyone know who Jesse is?

Jesse was the father of King David.

What does the Spirit of the Lord do in verse 2?

The spirit rests on him, the subject of this passage.

What are the qualities of the Spirit listed in verses 2–3a?

Wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge and fear of the LORD.

This is where we get the traditional list of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Fortitude, Counsel (or Right Judgement), Piety (or Reverence), and Fear of the Lord (or Awe & Wonder)

Leader Tip: They may be confused over why the words in the list of gifts aren't identical to the scripture. (Example: verse 2 reads "strength", but the gift is listed as courage or fortitude.) It is important to remind them that the Bible wasn't written in English. Different translators use different words.

REFLECT.

Invite someone to read the passage again and encourage everyone to think about what it means.

In the New Testament, it is understood that the "branch" or "shoot" at the beginning of this passage refers to Jesus (see Romans 15:12 and Revelation 5:5)

Verse 2 reads, "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him." How is this similar to the last meeting's passage from Acts?

The apostles call the spirit down on the believers with a laying on of hands. There is a pattern in scripture of when the spirit shows up he "overshadows."

Let's take a look at each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and consider them more deeply.

• **WISDOM** is the highest gift of the Holy Spirit. It enables us to know the purpose and the plan of God . It allows us to prioritize (put first) those things that we believe through faith and wisdom helps us to see the world as God sees it, from his perspective.

Who do you know that has this kind of wisdom? What does it look like in real life?

• **UNDERSTANDING** enables us to grasp the revealed truths of the Church. It gives us the grace to know the ways of God on a more intimate level. It is one thing to know, another to really understand. Understanding happens when mere head-knowledge pierces our hearts.

Have you ever had the experience of a "fact" you've known becoming much more personal and real? (Example: knowing that your parents love you)

• **KNOWLEDGE** allows us to see God, and not just to get smarter and know things about God, although that is also part of this gift. It gives us the chance to have a beautiful relationship with God when we come to know him in an intimate, personal way as the persons of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

What is the connection between knowledge and love in other relationships besides your relationship with God?

• *The more we know someone the more we love them. The more we love someone, the more we want to know about them.*

How can we apply this to our relationship with God?

• **COUNSEL, or "right judgment,"** helps us recognize the things in this life that are good, true, and beautiful. Counsel allows us to have confidence that we will know what to do and how to act in difficult times. The Holy Spirit instructs our hearts and shows us what to do and then to act on it.

In session 2 of the video series, Never Alone, we talked about how the Holy Spirit guides us in a process called discernment. Have you since taken the time to ask God's help in making a decision, big or small? What was that like?

• **FORTITUDE** gives us the courage to do what is good and holy even when it is hard – especially when it is hard. Fortitude allows us to follow through with what Counsel shows us is right, even if we are afraid.

What situations in life cause people to be afraid and not do the right thing?

· FEAR OF THE LORD or "Wonder & Awe," gives us the power to recognize God's perfect glory. This gift fills us with the desire not to offend God, who is goodness itself. We come to know, through fear of the Lord, the fullness of God's power and his goodness. This is not a fear of God harming us, but rather a fear of offending God which comes from our love for him.

• To sin is to "offend God." Why do you think this gift of awe and wonder would change how we act in our everyday lives?

When you are confirmed, the bishop (or priest) will anoint your forehead with oil and say "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." These very gifts we just talked about will be given to you.

The oil used at your Confirmation is called "chrism." It is a combination of balsam oil and olive oil. It gives off a wonderful fragrance. This fragrance is symbolic of how once Confirmed, you are called to spread the beautiful fragrance of God everywhere you go. Oil also symbolizes health and strength, which are given to you as you are sent on your mission.

The oil is placed on your forehead, often in the sign of the Cross. This symbolizes your being marked or sealed with the cross of Jesus Christ. It is placed on the forehead to remind you that your faith is not a secret to be ashamed of, but a sign to profess proudly.

This seal, again, is not just symbolic. When your forehead is sealed, we believe that your soul is sealed with an indelible mark. Indelible: a mark that cannot be removed for all eternity. Even in heaven, you will still have this mark on your soul.

"Like Baptism which it completes, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark, the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness. (CCC 1304"

REACT .

Invite someone to read one last time and encourage everyone to relate it to their own lives.

Let's keep this scripture in mind as we look at another common misconception about Confirmation: that it is you, the person receiving the sacrament that is confirming your faith or making the faith your own. **How many of you have heard this?.**

Let's get to the bottom of this misconception with this excerpt from the Catechism:

"Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts." CCC 1303

According to the Catechism, **who does the confirming?**

When we are confirmed we are not the ones doing the confirming. It is Jesus who confirms, strengthens his grace in you. The action is His. We just have to be open to it.

Remember from the video series the many names and images to describe the Holy Spirit. One of these terms Jesus used for the Holy Spirit is "Paraclete," meaning "he who is called to one's side" or "Consoler." When our inner world feels chaotic and dark, or when we feel directionless, if we feel like we can't find God, it is important for us to know that if we can remain still and be open, the Holy Spirit comes to us.

While it is important for us to seek God with our own minds and hearts, we can have confidence that the Holy Spirit will come to the aid of all those who are lost and seeking him, no matter where they are.

What are some obstacles that you think get in the way of people accepting the gift of the Holy Spirit himself?

Which of the gifts that we have discussed do you want/need more of in your life? Why?

COMMIT

This week commit to:
• Reading Isaiah 11:1-3a every day.
• Invite the Holy Spirit into your daily actions by praying, "Come, Holy Spirit" throughout each day

SESSION 3: THE PROOF

In this session, you will
· Learn about the fruit of the Holy Spirit and consider how each plays out in daily life.
· Look at the effects of confirmation as laid out in the Catechism
· Address the misconception that Confirmation ought to "magically" change

THEME SCRIPTURE

" In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such, there is no law. " – Galatians 5:22-23

CONNECT

CHECK-IN

Share a snack, if appropriate.
Ask the students about their week ("What was your high point? Your low?").
Ask about their commitment from the week before.

ACTIVITY

Before diving into content, have fun together! Many groups enjoy playing a sport or a structured "ice breaker" game. Check out YDisciple's Small Group Leader Playbook for ideas .

OPENING PRAYER

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And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DISCUSS

READ.

Look up Galatians 5:22-23. Invite someone to read it aloud while everyone follows along in their bibles. Encourage everyone to think about what's happening.

Leader Tip: Help them find the passage. Some of your group may not be familiar with how to use the Bible, but may be too embarrassed to admit it.

What is this passage talking about? The what of the Spirit?
Fruit.

What are the fruits of the spirit listed here?

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Leader Tip: Some translations of the Bible interchange the words "generosity" and "goodness."

REFLECT.

Invite someone to read the passage again and encourage everyone to think about what it means.

The word "fruit" can be misleading. It can make us think of a cheesy poster in a kids' preschool classroom with grapes and apples. Instead of getting distracted by actual fruit, let's interchange that word with "proof." This is a list of attributes a person who is living in the Holy Spirit has. They are the fruit of, the proof or evidence of, the Holy Spirit at work in you.

The Fruits come about when we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us by receiving his Gifts, which we discussed last time.

Everyone desires most of these fruits. Who, even a non-religious person, doesn't want joy and peace? Most everyone wants a world that is more kind, generous, patient, and good. We are all seeking the things on this list, but we as Catholics believe that they are the fruits that come from living a life in union with the Holy Spirit and his gifts.

It's important to note that even those who do not explicitly profess faith in God can still be very kind, patient, generous, etc. God is good, and he is at work in every human heart until the end. However, these gifts thrive in their fullness when we are in union with God.

The more we open ourselves to the gift of the Holy Spirit, of his very self and all the gifts he brings, the more fruits we see in our lives.

Let's look at each of these fruits of the Spirit individually.

What is the first fruit listed?

Love

We have talked about many abstract, and difficult to understand, things about the Holy Spirit, but let's not forget this essential point that we talked about in the first video session: The Holy Spirit is the love of the Father and the Son.

We are going to compile a list of "evidence" of the Holy Spirit that we see in our lives. Who would like to write them down? You can do this with a pen and paper or on a note in your phone.

Leader Tip: Have one person in the group writing down the list of "evidence" of the Holy Spirit. You will come back to this list at the end.

Where have you seen evidence of God's love working through other people in your life?

Make sure they get written down.

What is the next fruit?

Joy.

How might God define joy? How would this be different than how the dictionary defines it?

Help them discuss that joy is different than a superficial and circumstantial happiness.

The best way to understand joy might be to look at what it is not. It is not happiness that depends on circumstances. It is also the opposite of indifference.

Where have you seen evidence of joy in your life? This can also be an example you have seen play out in someone else's life.

Make sure they get written down.

What is the next fruit listed?

Peace.

How might peace as coming from the Holy Spirit be different than the broader understanding of peace as "world peace" or "absence of conflict"?

True inner peace comes from having confidence in God. St. Teresa of Avila said it this way, "May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be…May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones." Peace is a tranquility that comes from confidence in God.

Where have you seen evidence of this kind of peace in yourself or in others? Who do you know that is confident in God?

Make sure to write these down.

What is the next fruit?

Patience.

A simple way of understanding patience is the ability to see everything and everyone as worth your time. A Catholic nun by the name of Mother Angelica said, "Patience is adjusting your time to God's time."

Where have you seen evidence of this kind of patience in your life or in others?

Make sure to write this down.

For the sake of time, we are going to clump the next two fruits together. What are they?

Kindness & Generosity [or goodness (depending on translation)]

Here are simple definitions of each:
Kindness – allows you to recognize the dignity of people and treat them well.
Goodness – inclines you to do good to everyone and choose to live by the truth.

Where have you seen evidence of kindness and/or generosity in your life or in others?

Make sure to write this down.

What is the next fruit?

Faithfulness.

We can look at faithfulness in two ways: First, confidence in love of God and second, in being reliable to others.

Where have you seen evidence of faithfulness in yourself or others?

Make sure to write these down.

Remember in the second session of the video series, we learned about Fr. Walter Cizek a priest who spent many years in a Soviet prison camp (Never Alone, Episode 2 6:57-9:48) .He said he used the fruits of the Spirit to help him discern what God wanted him to do in particular, Peace, Joy, and Confidence (conviction).

What is the next fruit?

Gentleness.

Gentleness can often be misinterpreted as passiveness. But consider this quote from St. Francis de Sales " Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength ."

What do you think he means by that?

Where have you seen evidence of gentleness in yourself or others?

Make sure to write these down.

What is the last fruit of the Holy Spirit listed?

Self-control.
Again, this is one that can be better understood when we think about where we see a lack of self-control. In what areas do you see people your age overindulge.

Try to get them thinking about things like social media, Netflix, junk food, etc. The goal is not to shame them or their peers but to get them to notice.

So back to the fruit of the Spirit, which is the positive side of this, where have you seen someone or even yourself, act with self–control?

Make sure to write these down.

REACT.

Invite someone to read one last time and encourage everyone to relate it to their own lives.

Remember in the beginning we talked about how the "fruit" of the Spirit is the "proof" of how He is at work in people's lives. Let's look at all the "evidence" we came up with during our discussion. It is so easy to forget or not notice that God is working in the world around us. But look! Look at all the ways we came up within a relatively short discussion.

Another common misconception of Confirmation is that it is some sort of magic that should automatically "make people patient, and gentle, and faithful, etc." But remember in the last episode of the video series (Never Alone, Episode 4, 11:03-11:59) that we need to allow God's grace to work in and through us.

What are some obstacles that you think get in the way of people accepting the gift of the Holy Spirit himself?

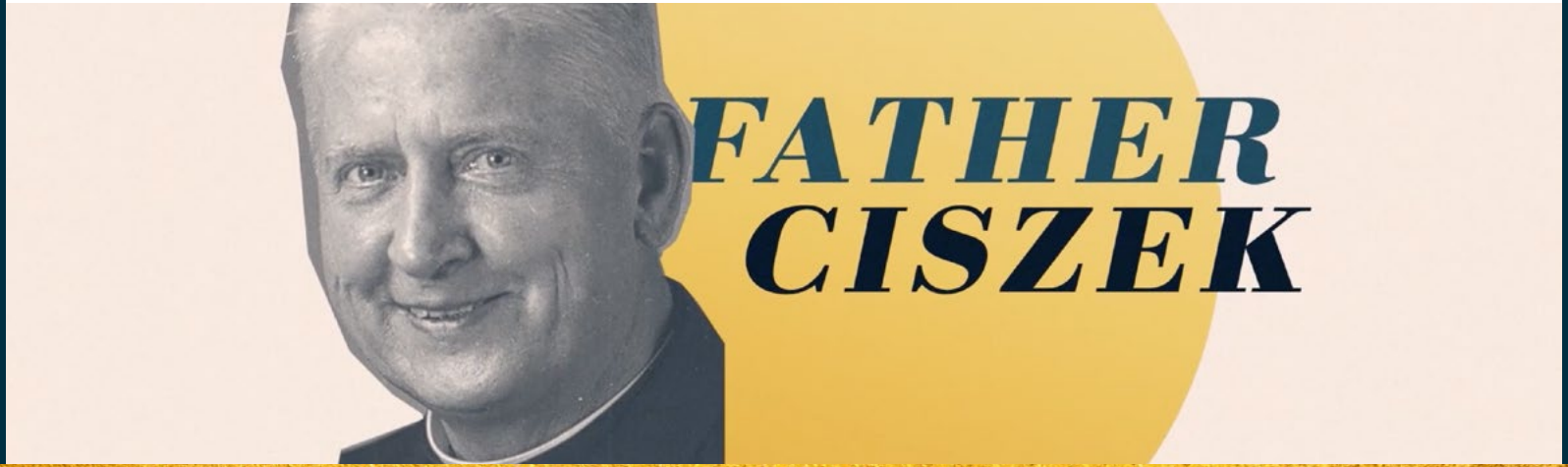
After this discussion, what are the fruits of the Holy Spirit you hope to see more clearly in your life?

I also want to repeat something we started with: Even those who do not explicitly profess faith in God can still be very kind, patient, generous, etc. God is good, and he is at work in every human heart until the end. However, these gifts thrive in their fullness when we are in union with God explicitly and fully.

Above all, remember it takes time to bear this fruit. God meets you where you are. Change usually comes in increments.

COMMIT

This week commit to:
• Reading Galatians 5:22-23a every day.
• Invite the Holy Spirit into your daily actions by praying, "Come, Holy Spirit" throughout each day



SESSION 4: THE MISSION

In this session, you will
· Discuss the need to evangelize – to share one's faith.
· Connect the sacrament of Confirmation to a life of mission.
· Address the misconception that Confirmation is "graduation from the Church."

THEME SCRIPTURE

" When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. 'But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." - Acts 1:6-11

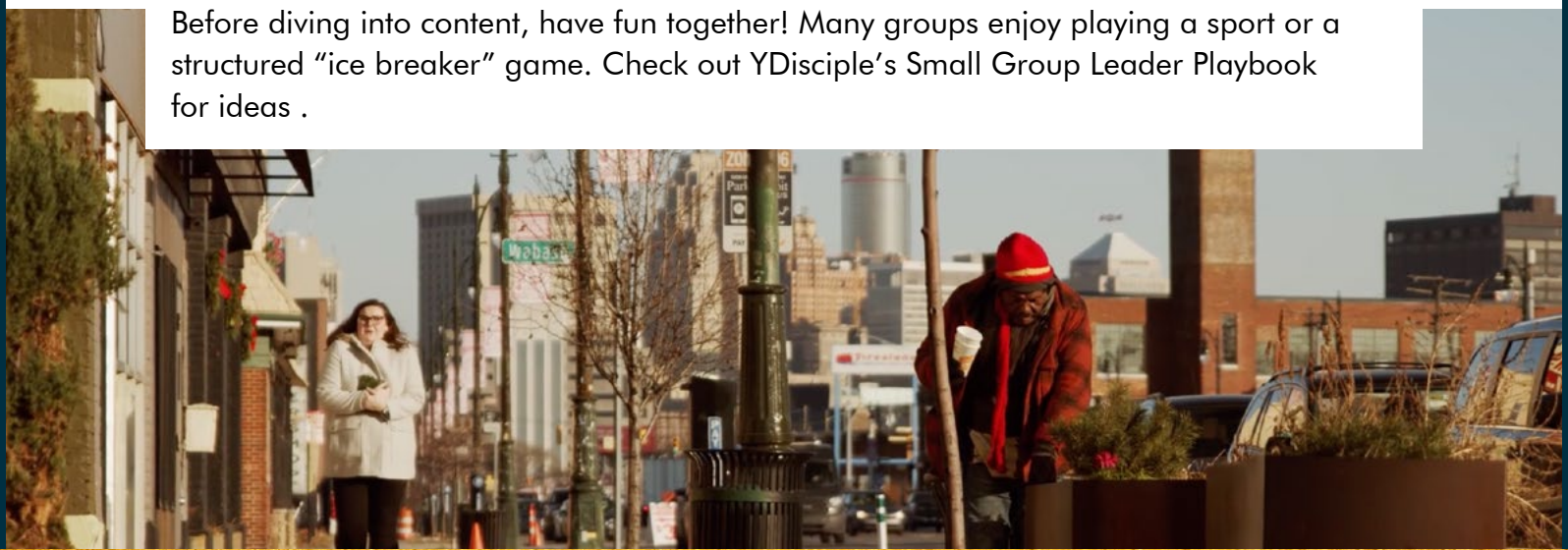
CONNECT

CHECK-IN

Share a snack, if appropriate.
Ask the students about their week ("What was your high point**?** Your low**?**").
Ask about their commitment from the week before.

ACTIVITY

Before diving into content, have fun together! Many groups enjoy playing a sport or a structured "ice breaker" game. Check out YDisciple's Small Group Leader Playbook for ideas .



OPENING PRAYER

Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire your time together as you dive into Sacred Scripture. Consider including in your prayer time the traditional Prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DISCUSS

What is something you have been wrong about? It can be anything from Santa to liking certain food to something more serious.

In this final session of our Bible study we are going to be looking at what happens to the Apostles when the Holy Spirit comes to them and how this upends everything they thought was true of Jesus' mission.

The book of Acts opens with the story of Jesus' ascension. He was crucified, died, and rose from the dead. Over the course of the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to many eyewitnesses. Now he is getting ready to return, or ascend, to Heaven.

READ.

Look up Acts 1:6-11. Invite someone to read it aloud while everyone follows along in their bibles. Encourage everyone to think about what's happening.

Leader Tip: Help them find the passage. Some of your group may not be familiar with how to use the Bible, but may be too embarrassed to admit it.

What do they think Jesus is going to do? (See verse 6).

"Restore the Kingdom of Israel." Most Jews believed that the Messiah would overthrow their earthly enemies, political oppressors-like Rome.

How does Jesus respond to this? (See verses 7 and 8.)

Paraphrase: It is not for you to know when that will happen… but you will receive power to be my witnesses.

To whom will they be witnesses?

Verse 8b "in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

What do the "two men dressed in white garments" ask the Apostles?

"Why are you looking at the sky?" (verse 11)

Where do they go at the end of this passage?

Jerusalem.

REFLECT.

Invite someone to read the passage again and encourage everyone to think about what it means.

We have already looked at Acts 1:8 "You will receive power" in Session 3 of the video series. But this passage gives us the context around that verse.

How do you think the Apostles felt when they realized that Jesus wasn't going to "restore the Kingdom of Israel" before he left? Disappointed? Confused?

In verse 8 Jesus tells them they will be witnesses. What is a witness?

Someone who has seen or experienced something and can, therefore, talk about it with authority.

So, what is a witness in/to the faith?

Someone who has had an experience with Jesus and shares it with others.

What is the difference between what they expected (political uprising) and what Jesus promises?

They would spread the gospel around the world.

In verse 8 Jesus mentions very specific places they will be witnesses: Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, the ends of the earth.

What might be the significance of these places?

Jerusalem is where they are when the Holy Spirit comes and it is the center of Judaism. The gospel is for God's chosen people, BUT…

Think back to session 1 of this Bible study. What is the significance of Samaria?

The people of Samaria were not considered religiously "pure" by the Jews. But Jesus told the Apostles to witness in Samaria tells us that the gospel is for God's chosen people, the Jews, AND for people considered outsiders. This was unexpected for the Jews.

There is another common misconception about the Sacrament of Confirmation that Confirmation is "graduation from the Church." But look at everything we have read in scripture *so far.*

Is the Holy Spirit coming to people an end, or a beginning?

Beginning. When the Holy Spirit comes, they usually start doing something right away.

According to the Catechism (CCC #1212), Confirmation is one of the 3 sacraments of Initiation along with Baptism and Eucharist.

What does "initiation" mean?

The dictionary defines initiation as "the beginning of something."

Confirmation is not Catholic graduation. It can be easy to think of Confirmation as the last big hurdle you have to overcome before you're "done" with all the Church stuff. But, Confirmation is just the beginning! At your Confirmation, your initiation into the Church has been completed. Initiation into the Church means that now you have a mission and all the equipment you need to fulfill it.

REACT.

Invite someone to read the passage one last time and encourage everyone to relate it to their own lives.

Before Jesus leaves, he tells them that they will be "my witnesses" (verse 8), not just "witnesses" in general. Jesus is telling them, and is telling us that we will share in his mission.

Why do you think we should share our faith, share Jesus with others?

Why not keep all these gifts we've been talking about to ourselves?

To help us answer this question, we're going to turn our attention to a particular body of water in the Middle East where Jesus lived.

Remember we talked about the Dead Sea in session 3 of the video series (Never Alone, Episode 3, 9:12-9:51) . But to remind us: the Dead Sea is a landlocked body of water between Jordan and Israel. It is the lowest point of elevation on the earth's surface. Because of this, water only flows into the Dead Sea, never out.

Because rivers and streams flow into the Dead Sea carrying all of their sediment (salt, in particular) and there is nowhere else for the sediment to go, as the Seawater evaporates in the desert heat, the remaining water is left with an extremely high level of salt. It is actually so dense with sediment that humans can float on the surface without effort! However, this also makes the Dead Sea entirely uninhabitable for aquatic life. Any fish that flow in from the river will die.

You and I don't want to be like the Dead Sea. We don't want to receive solely. We need an outlet- we need to pour out into the world to live! That's why the Church says every Christian has the duty and the right to evangelize.

We read in this passage that the Holy Spirit empowers us not just generally but to be witnesses, to share our faith.

Where and when have you witnessed good methods of evangelization? What made it good?

How could you do something similar?

The apostles all went on to preach the gospel far and wide with amazing success. Although they converted many and were loved by many, the tradition actually tells us that all but one of the apostles were martyred, or killed for their faith, by those who opposed Christianity.

Evangelize: The proclamation of Christ and his Gospel by word and the testimony of life, in fulfillment of Christ's command.

Gospel: Literally translated as "good news." The "good news" of God's mercy and love revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Leader Tip: Instead of reading these ask them to pull out their smartphone and look up "Where did Peter preach? How did St. Peter die?" for each apostle. Make it interactive!

• **Peter:** Preached in modern-day Italy and Asia, was crucified upside down in Rome for his faith.

• **Andrew:** Preached in Asia Minor (Turkey), Greece, and Macedonia. Crucified in the shape of an "X" for his faith.

• **James the Greater:** Preached in modern-day Spain. First Apostle to be martyred. Beheaded for his faith.

• **John:** Preached … the only apostle not martyred. Was exiled to an island for a while. Later freed and died at age 88.

• **Simon:** Preached in Persia with his brother Jude. Crucified for his faith.

• **Jude:** Preached in Persia with his brother Simon. Clubbed to death for his faith.

• **James the Lesser:** First Bishop of Jerusalem. Thrown off a wall and clubbed to death for his faith.

• **Philip:** Preached in Greece. Was crucified upside down like Peter for his faith.

• **Bartholomew (or Nathanael):** preached the faith in India and Asia minor. He was skinned alive for his faith and also beheaded.

• **Matthew:** Preached the faith in Africa. He was martyred near present-day Egypt, but the way he died is debatable.

• **Thomas:** Preached faith in Persia and India. He was stabbed to death for his faith.

• **Matthias** (**who replaced Judas):** Preached in Judea, then Cappadocia, and finally Asia minor. His martyrdom is also not known in detail.

The apostles spread the gospel even in the face of death because of the strength and determination they were given by the Holy Spirit. Now, it is unlikely that you or I will be called upon to die for our faith, but we will likely have to face other, little deaths in the form of trials and hardships.

What are some hardships that you might face when trying to share the gospel?

What are some of the things that keep us from living out our mission to make Christ known and loved?

We discussed earlier about the places Jesus told them they would be witnesses in verse 8. Jerusalem was to the Jews, to the people like them. Samaria was telling them they would go outside their comfort zone to share the gospel with people not like them. Then he tells them to go to the ends of the earth. The gospel is for everyone. This is a formula for us. We share our faith with those closest to us, with those who might make us uncomfortable, and reminds us that the gospel is for everyone.

What are some examples in our own lives of "Jerusalem" — people who are closest to us with whom we need to share our faith?

What is your "Samaria" — situations that might be out of our comfort zone?

The thought of sharing our faith might make us uncomfortable, but this is the heart of our Confirmation. A confirmed Catholic is given the power to spread and defend the faith (CCC 1303). Ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of courage! The world needs Jesus. And they need you to share his gospel.

COMMIT

This week commit to:

- Reading Acts 1:6-11 every day.
- Invite the Holy Spirit into your daily actions by praying, "Come, Holy Spirit" throughout each day.

SESSION 1: THE BASICS

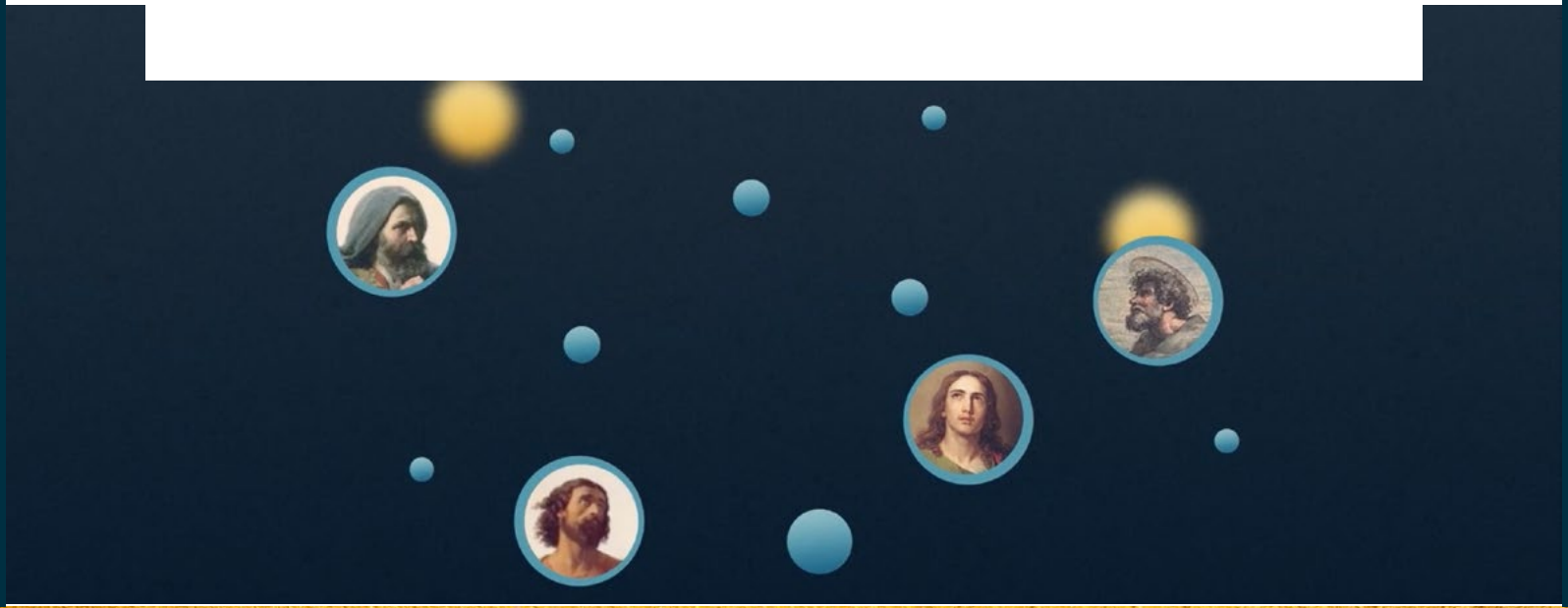
Participant Guide

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Theme Verse: Acts 8:14-17

When studying Sacred Scripture, don't try to "just get through it." Let it get through to you!" For this reason, we recommend that you slowly read the passage 3 times, each time looking at it from a different perspective:



1) READ:

Look closely at the text itself. Consider the WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, and HOW. Imagine the scene.

2) REFLECT:

Begin to think about the deeper meaning. Why is this passage important**?**

3) REACT:

How can I apply this to my life**?** What is God trying to speak to me**?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

Confirmation Misconception #1: Confirmation makes you an adult in the faith.

Confirmation Truth: _____

_____

COMMIT

This week commit to:

• Reading and reflecting on Acts 8:14-17 every day.

• Invite the Holy Spirit into your daily actions by praying, "Come, Holy Spirit" throughout each day.

"From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;" (CCC 1303)
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross. (CCC 1303)

"The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace." (CCC1 285)

"Sacraments are visible signs of invisible grace." - St. Augustine

"The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions." (CCC 1131)

SESSION 2: THE GIFTS

Participant Guide

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Theme Verse: Isaiah 11:1-3a

READ:

_____

_____

2) REFLECT:

_____

_____

3) REACT:

_____

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_____

• **WISDOM** is the highest gift of the Holy Spirit. It enables us to know the purpose and the plan of God . It allows us to prioritize (put first) those things that we believe through faith and wisdom helps us to see the world as God sees it, from his perspective.

• **UNDERSTANDING** enables us to grasp the revealed truths of the Church. It gives us the grace to know the ways of God on a more intimate level. It is one thing to know, another to really understand. Understanding happens when mere head-knowledge pierces our hearts. ·

• **KNOWLEDGE** allows us to see God, and not just to get smarter and know things about God, although that is also part of this gift. It gives us the chance to have a beautiful relationship with God when we come to know him in an intimate, personal way as the persons of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

• **COUNSEL, or "right judgment,"** helps us recognize the things in this life that are good, true, and beautiful. Counsel allows us to have confidence that we will know what to do and how to act in difficult times. The Holy Spirit instructs our hearts and shows us what to do and then to act on it.

• **FORTITUDE** gives us the courage to do what is good and holy even when it is hard – especially when it is hard. Fortitude allows us to follow through with what Counsel shows us is right, even if we are afraid.

• **PIETY** or reverence, allows us to give God and His Church the respect that they deserve out of a sense of love and gratitude. We do this through prayer, sacrifice, and devotion. Piety is the desire to worship God out of deep love, not just out of a sense of duty.

• **FEAR OF THE LORD or "Wonder & Awe,"** gives us the power to recognize God's perfect glory. This gift fills us with the desire not to offend God, who is goodness itself. We come to know, through fear of the Lord, the fullness of God's power and his goodness. This is not a fear of God harming us, but rather a fear of offending God which comes from our love for him.

Confirmation Misconception #2: At Confirmation I confirm my faith, making it my own.

Confirmation Truth: _____

_____

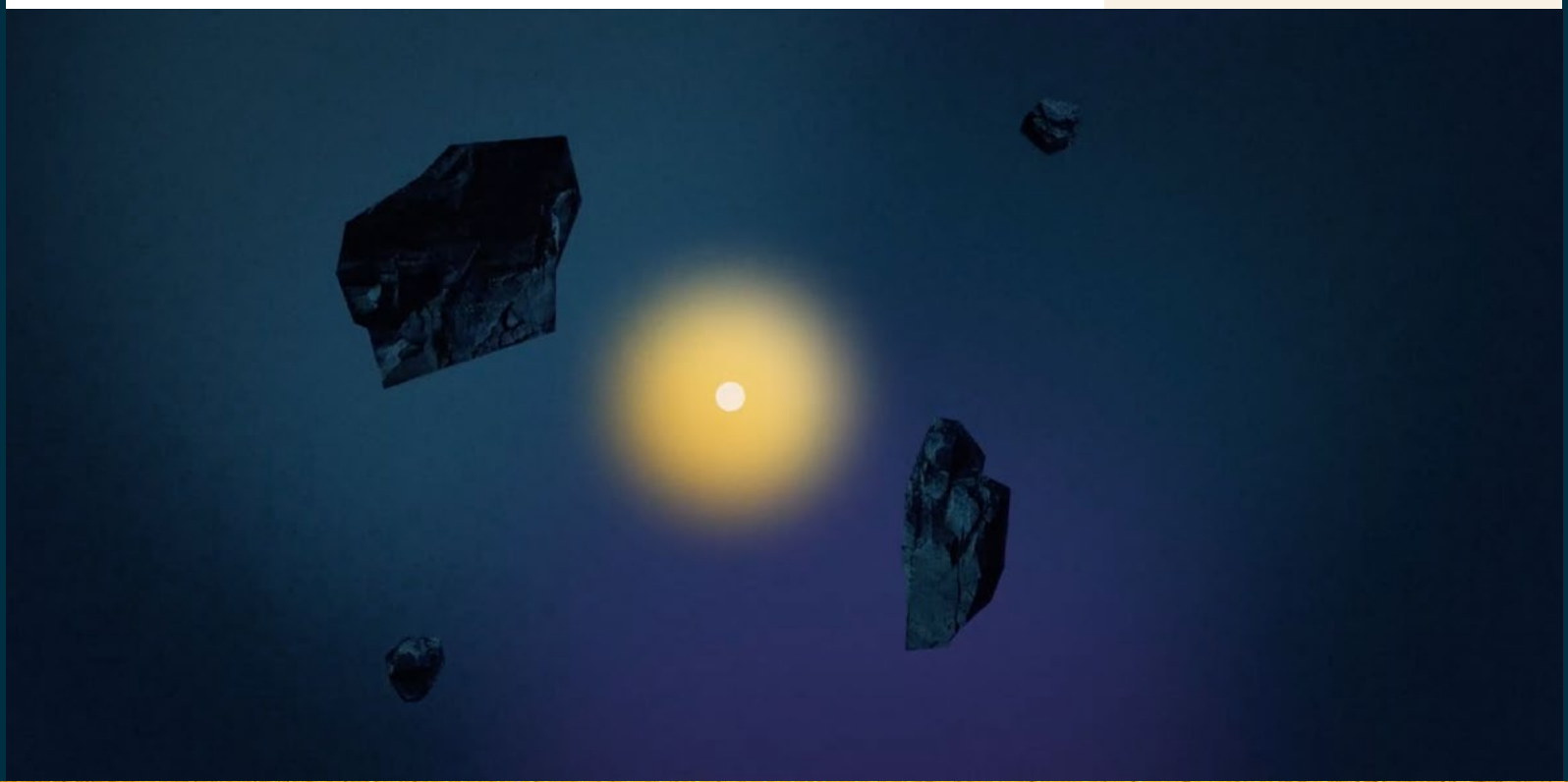
COMMIT

This week commit to:

- Reading and reflecting on Isaiah 11:1-3a every day
- Invite the Holy Spirit into your daily actions by praying, "Come, Holy Spirit" throughout each day

"Like Baptism which it completes, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark, the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness." (CCC 1304)

"Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts." CCC 1303



SESSION 3: THE PROOF

Participant Guide

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Theme Verse: Galatians 5:22-23

READ:

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2) REFLECT:

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3) REACT:

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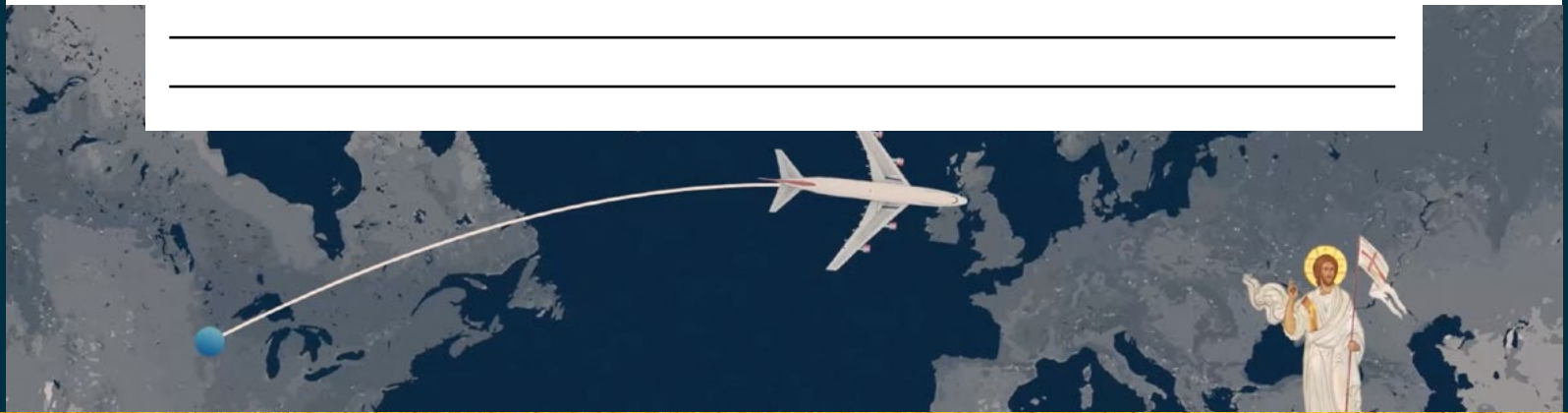


Confirmation Misconception #3: Confirmation should automatically make the recipient good, faithful, joyful, etc.

Confirmation Truth: _____

_____

COMMIT

This week commit to:

•Reading Galatians 5:22-23a every day.

• Invite the Holy Spirit into your daily actions by praying, "Come, Holy Spirit" throughout each day.

The fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

"May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be…May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones." - St. Teresa of Avila

"Patience is adjusting your time to God's time."
- Mother Angelica

" Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength ."
- St. Francis de Sales

SESSION 4: THE MISSION

Participant Guide

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Theme Verse: - Acts 1:8-11

READ:

_____

_____

2) REFLECT:

_____

_____

3) REACT:

_____

_____

_____

Confirmation Misconception #4: Confirmation is graduation from church

Confirmation Truth: _____

_____

COMMIT

This week commit to:

- Reading Acts 1:8-11 every day.
- Invite the Holy Spirit into your daily actions by praying, "Come, Holy Spirit" throughout each day.

Evangelize: The proclamation of Christ and his Gospel by word and the testimony of life, is fulfillment of Christ's command.

Gospel:
Literally translated as "good news." The "good news" of God's mercy and love revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

List of Apostles:
Peter, Andrew, James the Greater, John, Simon the Zealot, Jude, James the Lesser, Philip, Bartholomew (a.k.a. Nathanael), Matthew, Thomas, Matthias

SESSION 1: THE BASICS

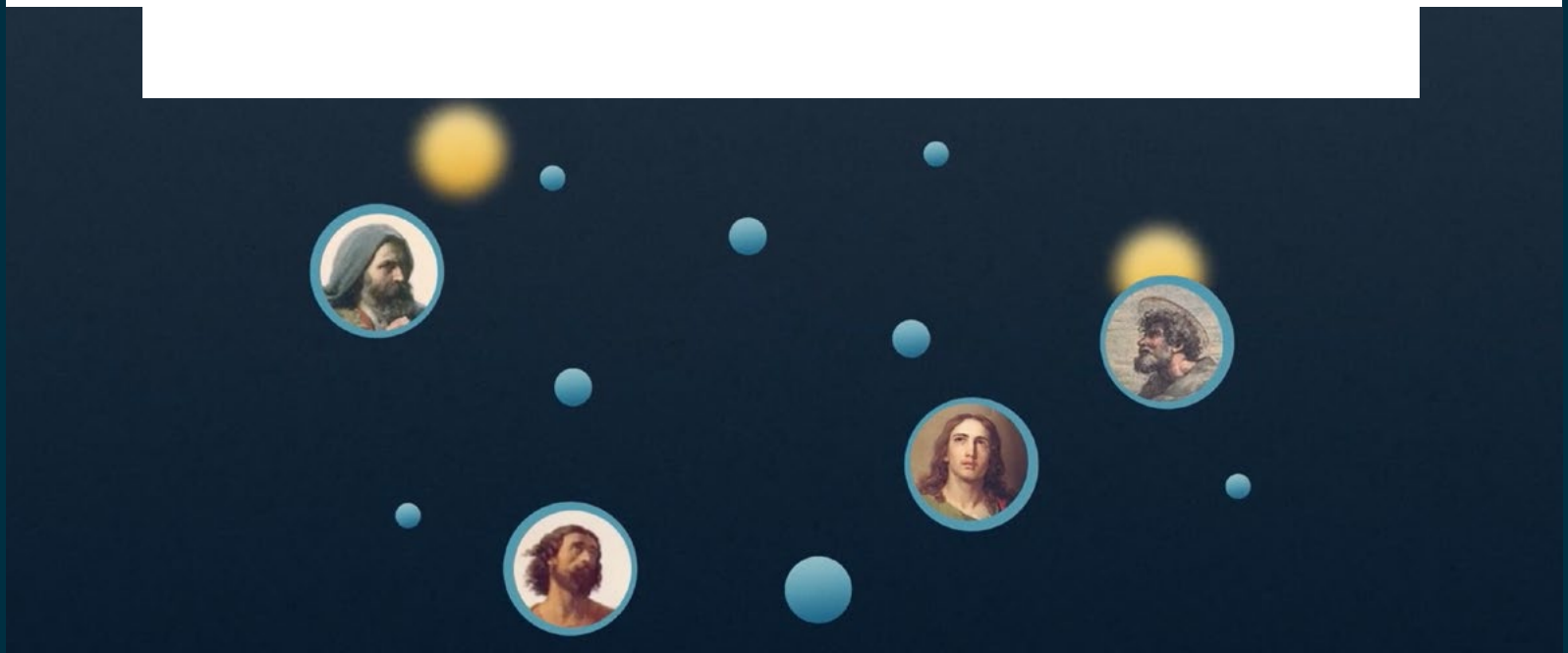
Parent Guide

THEME SCRIPTURE

"Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit." – Acts 8:14-17

In this first Bible study session on Confirmation your teen spent time digging into this passage in order to help them better understand where the sacrament of Confirmation comes from in Sacred Scripture.

Each session uses only one scripture passage. There are certainly many more verses we could have used and even supplemented each session with, but it is our desire to teach teenagers to focus on a single passage and really wrestle with it. In fact, you will read this single passage aloud at least 3 times during the course of your meeting! We have a maxim we follow at YDisciple: **"Don't try to just get through the scriptures, let the scriptures get through you."**



Consider asking the following questions to help them continue to process their study:

Who will anoint you at your confirmation?

Ordinarily, the bishop or a priest delegated by him. As Catholics, we believe in something called "apostolic succession." Bishops have a special authority in the Church. Every Catholic bishop can trace his spiritual lineage back to one of the twelve apostles thanks to the sacraments of Holy Orders. The apostles would lay hands, a form of anointing, on the person they intended to take their place as a spiritual leader before they died or left an area. Then that anointed person would do the same when they stepped down or moved, and so on until our current time.

The bishop's authority comes from God himself, so when you are anointed in the sacrament of Confirmation, it is symbolic of God anointing you. Remember though, this is not just a symbol! God himself IS anointing you at your Confirmation!

What is a sacrament?

St. Augustine said, "Sacraments are visible signs of invisible grace." Take baptism, for example. Having water poured on a person symbolizes that person being cleansed. But at our baptism, the water isn't just a symbol. We believe that we are actually cleansed of the stain of original sin, in real life, when the water is poured over us. It isn't just symbolic.

Why are you getting confirmed?

Allow them to answer honestly. Take time to share you own experience of confirmation.

Each week they will also discuss a common misconception about Confirmation.

Confirmation Misconception #1: Confirmation makes you an adult in the faith.
Confirmation Truth: Confirmation has the following effects, none of which are "makes you an adult in the faith."

· "It roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry 'Abba! Father!'

· It unites us more firmly to Christ.

· It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us.

· It renders our bond with the Church more perfect.

· It gives us a special strength to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ more boldly, and never be ashamed of the Cross." (CCC 1303)

SESSION 2: THE GIFTS

Parent Guide

THEME SCRIPTURE

"But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
A spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,
and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD."
-Isaiah 11:1-3a

This week your teen discussed the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are as follows:

- WISDOM
- UNDERSTANDING
- KNOWLEDGE
- COUNSEL or Right Judgment
- FORTITUDE
- PIETY or Reverence
- FEAR OF THE LORD or Wonder & Awe

Consider asking your teen:

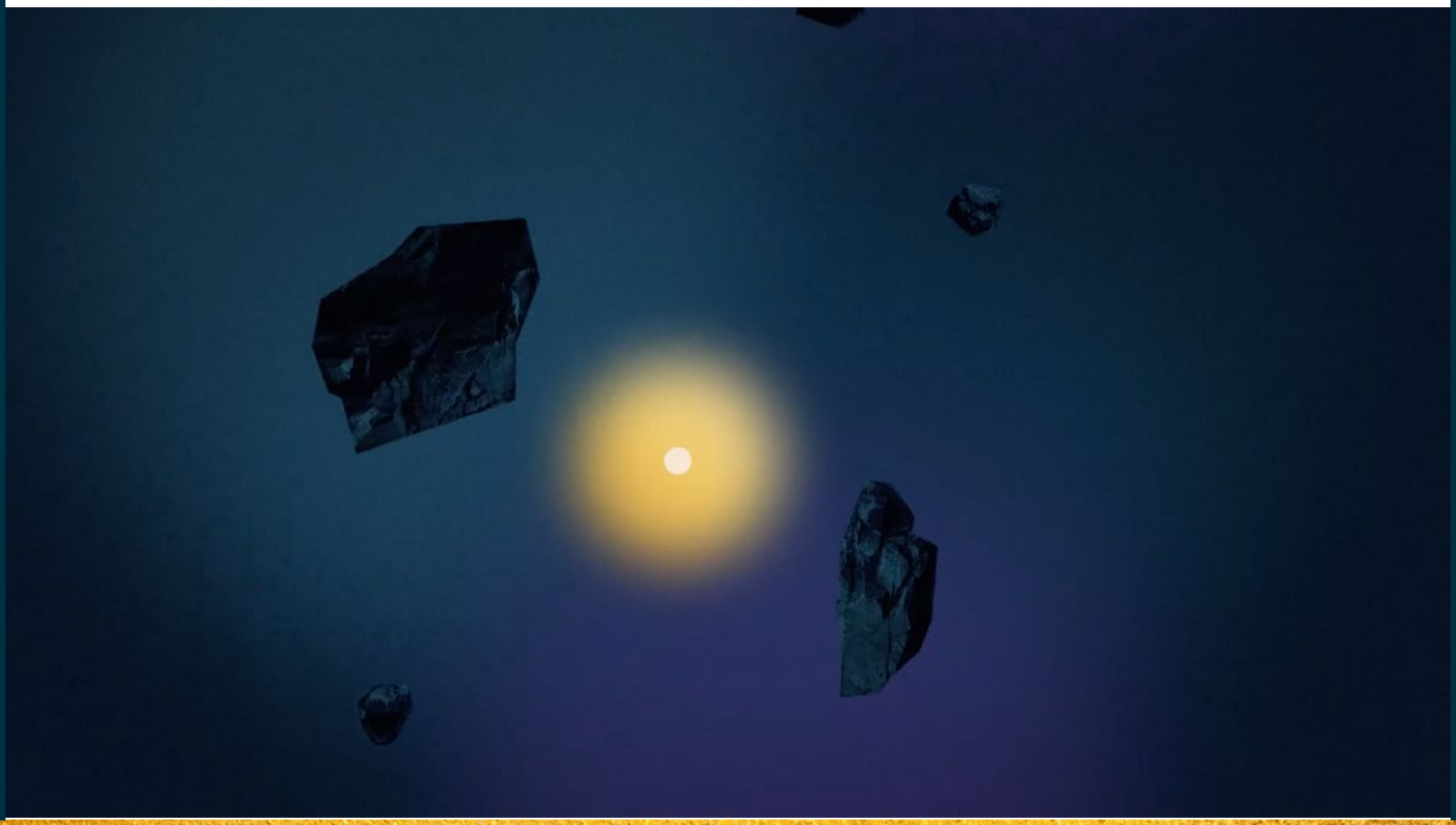
Do you remember what is the name of the oil you will be anointed with?

Chrism

What gift of the Holy Spirit are you most interested in?

Share your own thoughts.

Confirmation Misconception #2: At Confirmation I confirm my faith, making it my own. Confirmation Truth: When we are confirmed we are not the ones doing the confirming. It is Jesus who confirms, strengthens his grace in you. The action is His. We just have to be open to it. (See CCC 1303)



SESSION 3: THE PROOF

Parent Guide

THEME SCRIPTURE

" In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such, there is no law. " – Galatians 5:22-23

This week your teen looked at the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, but the word "fruit" can be misleading. It can make us think of a cheesy poster in a kids' preschool classroom with grapes and apples. Instead of getting distracted by actual fruit, let's interchange that word with "proof." This is a list of attributes a person who is living in the Holy Spirit has. They are the fruit of, the proof or evidence, of the Holy Spirit at work in you.

The Fruits come about when we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us by receiving his Gifts, which we discussed last time.

Consider asking your teen:

What fruit of the Holy Spirit do you want to see more of in your life?

Share your own thoughts.

Who is someone in your life that is an example of the fruits or evidence you talked about?

Share your own thoughts.

Confirmation Misconception #3: Confirmation should automatically make the recipient good, faithful, joyful, etc.
Confirmation Truth: Grace is never automatic. We need to allow God's grace to work in and through us and cooperate with it.

SESSION 4: THE MISSION

Parent Guide

THEME SCRIPTURE

*" When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel**?**" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. 'But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." - Acts 1:8-11*

Confirmation is inextricably linked to evangelization - sharing one's faith with others. The thought of sharing our faith might make us uncomfortable, but this is the heart of our confirmation. A confirmed Catholic is given the power to spread and defend the faith (CCC 1303).

In this scripture your teen discussed the places Jesus told his disciples they would be his witnesses (Verse 8), and how this can play out in their own lives. Jerusalem was to the Jews, to the people like them. Samaria was telling them they would go outside their comfort zone to share the gospel with people not like them. Then he tells them to go to the ends of the earth. The gospel is for everyone. This is a formula for us. We share our faith with those closest to us, with those who might make us uncomfortable, and reminds us that the gospel is for everyone.

Consider asking your teen:

What are some examples in our own lives of "Jerusalem" — people who are closest to us with whom we need to share our faith?

What is your "Samaria" — situations that might be out of our comfort zone?

Confirmation Misconception #4: Confirmation is graduation from church.

Confirmation Truth: According to the Catechism (CCC #1212), Confirmation is one of the 3 sacraments of Initiation along with Baptism and Eucharist. The dictionary defines initiation as "the beginning of something."

Confirmation is not Catholic graduation. It can be easy to think of Confirmation as the last big hurdle you have to overcome before you're "done" with all the Church stuff. But, Confirmation is just the beginning! At your Confirmation, your initiation into the Church has been completed. Initiation into the Church means that now you have a mission and all the equipment you need to fulfill it.