

Hello Confirmation Students of 2021-2022!

I am so excited you're on this journey with us this year. I know it is a journey you may not have chosen if you had a choice; I know it is a journey you may be anxious about; I know it is a journey you may not understand; I know it is a journey that excites you to learn how to go deeper with Jesus; I know you may only be on this journey because your mom & dad want you to be on this journey.

That's okay. Wherever you are at on this journey, I am just glad to walk with you this year. Wherever you end up at the end of this journey, thank you for allowing me to walk with you this year.

I am a huge fan of intellectual knowledge. I have a B.A. & two Master's Degrees (not trying to flex, it's really not that impressive). But, what I know is that intellectual knowledge about faith & Jesus is great, but it is not enough. It needs to hit your heart; it needs to transform your soul; it needs to go from words you say with your lips to actions you walk out with your teeth, with your time. But, I truly believe the head & the heart are important for learning to follow Jesus. That is why, over confirmation, you are going to have a monthly class where we go deeper & flex our intellects. That is also why over the course of the next nine months, we are going to have weekly homework.

Now, don't freak out on me. I know the last thing you need as a student is more homework. It is not your typical homework. No one is going to grade this homework. This homework is only for you, your small group, & maybe your parents (but only if you want or if they ask). The goal of this homework is to help you not just learn more about Jesus & have the right answers, but help you explore your own thoughts, own feelings, & beliefs about Jesus.

Because, what I believe most of all, is that if you spend nine months intentionally engaging with Jesus (even if you think He's a myth or a crazy man), He will meet you on that journey. Don't just show up to Confirmation classes to check a box, before you come to each class ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you, to show you if Jesus is real or not.

That's one of the reasons why we want to have homework. The homework is a classic Spiritual Discipline that goes by many names, but one of it's classic names is a "Quiet Time". A Quiet Time is simply a chance for you to engage with Jesus, God & the Holy Spirit on your own time, by yourself, on a regular basis. Typically, the hope is you spend a portion of every day with Jesus, but as we go through the next nine months, I'm just going to ask you to try two to three times a week.

I know you can do that.

The goal is to read one chapter at a time of one of the four books (gospels) about Jesus. Because what better way to explore what it means to follow Jesus, than by reading about Jesus.

To help you out, there are one to two videos a month to a page called "The Bible Project", that will help explain what you're reading. These videos are amazing & will help give you a Sparks Note style dive into what you are reading for your Quiet Times.

Some tips for your Quiet Times (I'll give you instructions in a different document):

- Find a place free of distraction.
- Ditch your phone (or any other technology). You can do it.
- Turn on music if you need to, but not music you're going to be distracted by.
- Find a place you can turn into your spot - inside or outside.
- Find a rhythm. Put it in your calendar. Do it at the same time every day, etc.
- Sit up, don't lay down. It's too easy to be snoozin instead of Jesusing.
- Ask God to speak to you.
- Don't be afraid to write in, underline, or highlight in your Bible.
- Get a journal. Use it. Write in it. Keep track of how you've seen God move, answer prayer, or what you're learning. Even keep a prayer list you can update.

I'm excited to see how God moves in your life the next nine months. I'm praying you have an incredible encounter with Jesus that changes your life forever.

Grace + Peace,
Jonathon Welch
Youth Ministry Director

Confirmation 2021-2022 Homework Schedule

September ::

Week of 9.12 - 2 Days = 2 Chapters

- Matthew 1 & 2

Week of 9.19 - 3 Days = 3 Chapters

- Mathew 3, 4, & 5

Week of 9.26 - 3 Days = 3 Chapters

- Matthew 6, 7, & 8

Videos: The Bible Project on What is the Bible?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak06MSETeo4>

The Bible Project on The Story of the Bible

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_CGP-12AE0

October ::

Week of 10.3 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Matthew 9, 10, & 11

Week of 10.10 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- Matthew 12 & 13

Week of 10.17 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Matthew 14, 15, & 16

Week of 10.24 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Matthew 17, 18, & 19

Week of 10.31 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Matthew 20, 21, & 22

Videos: The Bible Project on Matthew 1-13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Dv4-n6OYGI>

Videos: The Bible Project on Matthew 14-28

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGCF3OPWN14>

November ::

Week of 11.7 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Matthew 23, 24, & 25

Week of 11.14 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- Matthew 26 & 27

Week of 11.21 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Matthew 28; Mark 1 & 2

Week of 11.28 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Mark 3, 4, & 5

Videos: The Bible Project on Mark

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGHqu9-DtXk>

December ::

Week of 12.5 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Mark 6, 7, & 8

Week of 12.12 - 2 Chapters = 3 Days

- Mark 9, 10, & 11

Week of 12.19 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Mark 12, 13, & 14

Week of 12.26 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- Mark 15 & 16

Videos: The Bible Project on Messiah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dEh25pduQ8>

January ::

Week of 1.2 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Luke 1, 2, & 3

Week of 1.9 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- Luke 4 & 5

Week of 1.16 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Luke 6, 7, & 8

Week of 1.23 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Luke 9, 10, & 11

Week of 1.30 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Luke 12, 13, & 14

Videos: The Bible Project on Luke 1-9

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dClxZr0

February ::

Week of 2.6 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Luke 15, 16, & 17

Week of 2.13 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- Luke 18 & 19

Week of 2.20 - 3 Chapters = 3 Days

- Luke 20, 21, & 22

Week of 2.27 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- Luke 23 & 24

Videos: The Bible Project on Luke 10-24

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdD8

March ::

Week of 3.6 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- John 1 & 2

Week of 3.13 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- John 3 & 4

Week of 3.20 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- John 5 & 6

Week of 3.27 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- John 6 & 7

Videos: The Bible Project on John 1-12

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-2e9mMf7E8&t=88s>

April ::

Week of 4.3 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- John 8 & 9

Week of 4.10 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- John 10 & 11

Week of 4.17 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- John 12 & 13

Week of 4.24 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- John 14 & 15

Videos: The Bible Project on John 13-21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUfh_wOsauk

May ::

Week of 5.1 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- John 16 & 17

Week of 5.8 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- John 18 & 19

Week of 5.15 - 2 Chapters = 2 Days

- John 20 & 21

Videos: The Bible Project on Gospel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HT41M013X3A>

Confirmation Quiet Time

Before You Get Started ::

Make sure you have a: paper Bible, journal, & pen.

Find a distraction free place.

Put your phone away & turn off your notifications - the world & you will survive. Promise.

Have at least 15 minutes to spend - don't rush through this.

The Quiet Time ::

Step 1 :: Take a moment to get comfortable where you are at & slow down from the busyness of life.

Step 2 :: Pray & ask God through the Holy Spirit to meet you in this place, in this time, & teach you something about Him through the passage of the Bible you are about to read.

Step 3 :: Read the passage once.

Step 4 :: Right down anything that stood out to you.

Step 5 :: Read the passage again.

Step 6 :: In 1-2 sentences write what the main point or points of this passage was.

Step 7 :: Write something you learned about God/Jesus from the passage (new or old).

Step 8 :: Is there anything from this passage you need to talk to someone about? If so, ask your Confirmation Small Group Leader, your Youth Ministry Director, or even your parents & friends.

Step 9 :: Is there anything from this passage that you need to ask God to help you to stop doing (sin, i.e. lying, gossip, lust, etc.) or keep doing (good actions, purposes, that are hard to do on your own: i.e. love your enemy, neighbor, etc.

Step 10 :: Is there a takeaway you need to put into practice from your time with Jesus?

Step 11 :: Pray & thank Jesus for what you learned from this passage.

Step 12 :: Pray using the ACTS Prayer Model (there's others, but start with this one):

- Adoration: Telling God how great He is, why He is great (merciful, kind, etc.), & how much you love Him for it.
- Confession: Acknowledging to God any known sin that is displeasing to Him so that you can come to Him unhindered, completely surrendered & cleansed.
- Thanksgiving: Thanking God for His grace & forgiveness in your life & thanking Him for all the things He's done for you & has given to us.
- Supplication: Asking God for things that you want.