

Confirmation: Feb - May 2018

In Confirmation, those who have been baptized declare their faith in Christ, and are strengthened by the Holy Spirit for continuing discipleship. Confirmation is the individual's first public affirmation of the grace of God in Baptism and the acknowledgement of that grace by faith.

Each session has a "pillar" (we used round wooden blocks) and we place them on a large Bible. As we learn, an index card with a letter (or two) goes on the top of the pillar, over-lapping a little bit (LIFE LONG LEARNING). When all the index cards are all 'done' there's a roof over the pillars, whose foundation is the Bible.

Our confirmation classes are ecumenical (and offered in English and Estonian separately but following the same structure). Church in Estonia is an adaptation of Church in Community-Synod-Country, adjust accordingly to explain roles in close, medium and far distance relationships.

SESSION ONE: Introduction and books

Materials: Bible, Small Catechism, Lutheran Book of Worship, Anglican and Estonian Hymnals.

Objective: Who we are and what materials will we be working with

Procedure:

Homework: none

SESSION TWO: Church Year

Materials: Godly Play calendar, Lutheran Book of Worship, Anglican and Estonian Hymnals.

Objective: Revised Standard Lectionary and a three-year cycle, Church time and world time

Procedure: The Godly Play liturgical year is shown to the class. Discussion.

Homework: look over the books of the Old Testament

SESSION THREE: Old Testament

Materials: Bible, Small Catechism, Godly Play bookshelf

Objective: Old Testament as the basis of Jesus' training and religious upbringing. We talk about the necessity of the Law, and why it is not just relevant to our lives as Christians.

Procedure: The Church of the Holy Spirit has ‘the Paupers Bible’ which is all the stories of the Old Testament and New in paintings on the church balcony half-wall. The six stained glass windows on the east are New Testament and the six on the west are the Old Testament.

Homework: look over the 10 Commandments

SESSION FOUR: 10 Commandments

Materials: Bible, Small Catechism, Godly Play story 10 Commandments

Objective: Relationships with God, others, and oneself

Procedure: Godly Play 10 Best Ways

Homework: look over the New Testament

SESSION FIVE: New Testament

Materials: Bible, Small Catechism, Godly Play bookshelf

Objective: How to read the Bible

Procedure: Using the New Testament miniature books from the Godly Play bookshelf, dump the pile on the table and invite learners to sort them. There is no right way to sort them, do not assist. Talk about the different types of literature, Gospel testimony, Narrative, Letters and SciFi. Explain that we read different things for different reasons. Explain why these four Gospels were chosen (Christ’s birth, life, death and resurrection), and then enter into a brief overview of Opening the Book of Faith and invite them to look at a book literarily, historically, theologically and devotionally. Do explain that most of us were expected to read devotionally and we not trained how to do so, and this is frustrating to people who don’t receive an epiphany or comfort, and then we rarely pick it up again – offer the other ways of approaching reading as options with no expectation of Divine intervention (aside, this has been the most powerful lesson, the most impact).

Homework: Review the Lord’s Prayer in Small Catechism

SESSION SIX: Lord’s Prayer

Materials: Bible, Small Catechism, Godly Play

Objective: What is essential? (THY will be done)

Procedure: Godly Play style Lord’s Prayer

Homework: Review the Creeds

SESSION SEVEN: Creeds

Materials: Bible, Small Catechism, Lutheran Book of Worship, Anglican and Estonian Hymnals.

Objective: Compare and look for similarities (not differences) in Creeds. What do these professions of faith help us do.

Procedure: Ask each student for one similarity, look up and/or guess why. Discuss

Homework: Review the Sacraments in Small Catechism

SESSION EIGHT: Sacraments

Materials: Bible, Small Catechism, Lutheran Book of Worship, Anglican and Estonian Hymnals.

Objective: Look at the why, not how, of First Communion. Discuss why, not how, of Baptism.

Procedure: Godly Play Good Shepherd, Godly Play Tabernacle and Upper Room, Godly Play Baptism. Discuss

Homework: Look at Book of Concord and 39 Articles. Prepare any questions.

SESSION NINE: Ecclesiastica

Materials: Bible, Small Catechism, Lutheran Book of Worship, Anglican and Estonian Hymnals.

Objective: Who we are and what materials will we be working with

Procedure: No procedure here –the church as community with Father Steve to compare and find similarities. Talk about work with Finnish Lutheran Church in Yjolarvi, Anglican Church in Rochester (UK), ELCA partnerships, etc.

Homework: Gather any questions about Paul

SESSION TEN: St. Paul

Materials: Bible, Small Catechism, Godly Play

Objective: Godly Play Life of Paul

Procedure: Questions and answers about Paul. Why is he so influential in the Church.

Homework:

SESSION ELEVEN: Church in Estonia

Materials:

Objective: Who we are as a whole

Procedure: To learn a little of the coming of the Christian church, and specifically the Reformation in Estonia. How the church persevered in the Soviet times. Talking to some of the older members of the congregation, and Father Piir

Homework: What would you like to see offered for members of a church?

SESSION TWELVE: Congregational life

Materials:

Objective: Who are we as Christians

Procedure: Talk about what we as Christians who will NEVER be done learning, spiritual drought, being overwhelmed and reaching for each other.

Homework:
