



Confirmation Crash Course for Youth

Welcome to Confirmation Crash Course! Confirmation is an important step in the life of Christian faith, when you get to affirm your faith in God, and commit to living your Christian faith with this community. Below are questions that will help you think about the basics of Christianity, and Christian life. On your own, research online (www.umc.org is good), and by talking with others to answer the questions in your own words. Write or type them on a separate page and bring them to our confirmation classes. We will talk about the topics there.

Over the next weeks you will attend worship and Sunday school with a Confirmation Mentor (a fun, older person who also loves Jesus!) to guide you in the confirmation process. Attending Sunday School, Youth Night and Bible study will give you opportunity to discuss these and other topics in a community of other Christians seeking to know God more. Asking questions, and joining other Christians for worship, study, and fun, is essential for living our Christian faith. I look forward to this journey together!

THEOLOGY

- What is theology?
- Who comprises the Trinity?
- What is original sin?
- Methodists believe in 3 types of grace.
Define prevenient grace, justifying grace and sanctifying grace.
- Why is it important that Jesus was God?

WORSHIP

- What is the purpose of worship in the United Methodist church?
- Who are Clergy? Who are lay people and what is their role in worship?
- Define a sacrament. Which 2 sacraments are holy in the United Methodist Church?
- What do United Methodists believe about Baptism? (How, when, and why should a person be baptized? What is God doing in that moment?)
- Why is the communion table also called the "Lord's Table?"
- What is an "open communion table?"
Do Methodists have one and why/why not?

HISTORY

- Why did the Methodists split from the Anglican Church?
- When was the United Methodist Church founded in America?
- Find a quote (or two) from John Wesley that you want to remember, and write it here:
- What is the name of the book that governs the Methodist Church today?
- Who were John Wesley, Thomas Coke, and Francis Asbury? Write 1-2 sentences on who they were and what they did for the Methodist Church.

THE BIBLE

- What do Methodists believe about the Bible's authority?
- Do United Methodists believe the Bible is infallible? (And what does infallible mean?)
- Who are the writers of the Old Testament? Who wrote the New Testament?
- What are the Gospels and why are they called gospels?
- What are two names for the first 5 books of the Bible? Which religion considers these holy?
- What is the Canon? What is the Lectionary?

PART 2:

CHRISTIAN LIFE

- What are the fruits of the Spirit (look at Galatians 5)? Which do you feel God has given you? Which can you grow in?
- What are the Wesleyan Means of Grace? List examples of each and describe how each practice brings us closer to God.
- The Wesleyan Quadrilateral describes 4 core elements of the Christian faith for Methodists. What are the four "sides"? How can you "do" each of these?
- God tells us to remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy (Exodus 20:8-11). When do you separate Sabbath time to grow closer to God?
- Do you have a favorite Bible verse, or know one from memory?
 - If so, what is it?
 - If not, ask someone whose relationship with Jesus you admire for theirs, and write it down.

GIVING

- What is a "tithe"?
- Where does our tradition of "tithing" come from? (check Genesis 14:19-20; Leviticus 27:30-34, Deuteronomy 15:10)
- According to Scripture, who do our money and possessions really belong to? (Proverbs 3:9-10, James 1:17)
- Do we give because we have to, or to respond to God's grace?
- How does sharing a tithe increase our trust in God, and relationship with God?

MISSION

- Read James 14-26. What are some examples of "good works," and what role do they play in the Christian life?
- Christians are inspired to serve others as a response to God's grace and love, (Mark 12:30-31. One way to do this is through mission projects and trips, but an attitude of serving is part of every day life, not just on trips. Where is a place you can serve others: in your family, at your school, in Baton Rouge. (Think of the needs around you and how are they being met?)

BEING TOGETHER

- God is present in our relationships with others. What does Hebrews 10:25 say about Christian's need to gather together?
- What is one time you can commit to getting together with other Christians consistently?
- Christian faith is modeled and strengthened in community – who is a friend, or adult with whom you can be open with about your faith?
- Do you have to go to church to be a Christian?
- One of your friends complains, "I just don't get anything out of worship." Based on what you know about why we worship, how would you respond?