

# CONFIRMATION PREPARATION



## Session 1

Team Script

### **Theme: We are One Body**

- 1) To help the young people learn more about the Holy Spirit and the history of the Church.
- 2) To help the young people recognize the Holy Spirit working in them as they move toward Confirmation.
- 3) To help young people understand the Church as the Body of Christ.

# Session #1 Schedule

6:00	<b>Team Arrives</b> <b>Set-up classrooms (supplies and pizza) and hospitality/check-in table</b>
6:30	<b>Candidates Arrive</b> <b>Check-in</b> <b>Directed to small group room for pizza &amp; soda</b> <b>Parents stay in cafeteria for pizza</b>
6:50	<b>Parents sent to Taize/Praying with the Women of Advent</b>
7:00	<b>Program begins- Trinity Hall (small groups come back to large group)</b>  <b>Welcome</b>
7:10	<b>Dismiss Candidates back to Classrooms</b>
7:15	<b>1. Opening Prayer, Icebreakers, Review</b>
7:35	<b>2. What's your story</b>
7:45	<b>3. I Was There</b>
8:15	<b>4. The Body of Christ</b>
8:30	<b>5. We are One Body</b>
8:55	<b>6. Closing Prayer</b>

## MATERIALS

Computer– for HT survey  
 Group Roster - take attendance  
 Bins  
 Post-It pads  
 Bible  
 Eucharist Puzzle  
 Speakers  
 Blue tape  
 Walkie- talkie

## HANDOUTS

Paper stained glass—bible story  
 What's Your Story?  
 I was there  
 We are one Body Lyrics  
 Youth Ministry brochures  
 Yellow Examen handout

### Set-up

- Computer signed in and open to the google form survey that I sent you
- And also prepared to play We Are One Body
- Tape on ground for train wreck
- Bin, handouts and other materials in small group room
- Each leader has their binder

### During Dinner

- Have Candidates fill out the google form if time
- catch up from Mini-Retreat
- Learn names and more about each other

## **1. Train Wreck**

**Directions:** All group members sit on chairs in a circle except for one person standing in the middle. That person begins by introducing himself such as, "Hi, my name is Joe from Dayton and I work in a button factory. I like people who are wearing blue jeans." At that point, everybody who is wearing blue jeans, including Joe, have to find a new seat at least two away from where they were previously sitting. The person without a chair is now in the middle and introduces him/herself. The person in the middle could say, "...and I like train wrecks" at which point everybody is required to get up and find a new seat. The activity ends once everybody has gone or at the discretion of the group leader.

### **-Opening Prayer**

**O Spirit of God, we ask you help to orient all our actions by your inspirations, carry them on by your gracious assistance, that every prayer and work of ours may always begin from you and through you be happily ended.**

This prayer for spiritual freedom has often been used by Jesuits to begin classes or meetings. It is taken from Michael Harter, S.J., ed., Hearts on Fire: Praying with Jesuits. Pg. 13

### **-Mini Retreat Review**

**Wisdom** is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. It helps one avoid the things that could lead you away from God.

**Understanding** is the gift of comprehension, the ability to grasp the teachings of our religion. It is the gift that helps one be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps one sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.

**Right Judgment** (Counsel) is the gift of prudence. This gift helps one make choices as a follower of Jesus.

**Knowledge** is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. It enables one to choose the right path that will lead to God and it encourages one to avoid obstacles that will keep someone from him.

**Courage** is the gift that helps one stand up and overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.

**Reverence** (Piety) is the gift of reverence for and confidence in God that inspires one to joyfully want to serve God and others.

**Wonder and awe** (Fear of the Lord) is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages one to be in awe of God.

*Introduce the Theme "We Are One Body." In preparing for confirmation candidates are seeking to learn what it is to be a part of the Body of Christ and to decide whether to reaffirm the baptism and become a full member of the Body of Christ.*

## **2. What's your Story?**

**Introduction:** Stained glass windows often tell a story about a Bible narrative or a Saint's life. For example, this stained glass window depicts the story of Jesus. Tonight you are going to reflect on your experience in the church and share your story.

**Directions:** Hand out stained glass worksheet "What's Your Story?" Give the young people 3-5 minutes to fill out the worksheet. Facilitate a discussion based on the questions below. Fill in the stain glass window template on your post-it note pad, using the adjectives or phrases the class provides. Students will take handout home.

**Handout worksheet and then play:** "We are one Body"

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What comes to mind when you think of "church?"
- What are some of the things the church provides for people in the parish?
- What would you change to make church a better place to belong?
- What do you wish the Church would offer to you?

**Conclusion:** The Church has a mission to spread God's love. As a part of the Church we the people of God-united in a mission to accomplish great things.

There are different ways that you can be involved with the Church through Holy Trinity Parish:

- Youth Mass- Join your peers at a special Mass for 7th-12th graders.
- Liturgical Ministers- Be a lector, altar server, or a member of the youth ensemble
- Service- Share your gifts and talents and serve others in need through the Saturday Service Club for middle school students or the Social Justice Youth Group for high school students.
- Peer Ministry- Be faith sharing leaders for other Confirmation Candidates
- Donut Ministry- Provide hospitality to the parish community
- Religious Education- learn or teach other about your faith on Sunday mornings
- Retreats

**Fill out Holy Trinity survey on Google Form.**

### **3. I was there**

**Directions:** *Read* Acts 2: 1-15, 37-45 to the group. After reading it once, explain that each group is going to write a script and perform a short news report/interview featuring one of the characters involved in the events on the first Pentecost. Reread the scripture passage after everyone knows their parts.

*Divide* the young people into groups of 2 and give each group one of the following characters:

- One of the believers in the upper room (Acts 2: 1)
- A faithful Jew (Acts 2: 5)
- One of those who mocked the Christians (Acts 2: 13)
- Peter (Acts 2: 14)
- One of the new believers (Acts 2:37, 41)

*Go over* handout directions (on the next page). One person in the group will be the reporter and the other will be the assigned character. Explain that some of the answers will be in the passage. The group will have to use their imagination for others. Give the young people about 7 minutes to complete the script. Have each group perform it.

#### **Discussion questions:**

- Why is Pentecost an important day in the history of the Church?
- What do the tongues of fire represent? What does the wind represent?
- What were the effects of the coming of the Holy Spirit?
- How did people react to its coming?
- Why did we want to see it from someone who mocks Jesus and his followers?
- Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work today?
- Do people react any differently to it today?
- Where do you need the Holy Spirit to work in your lives today?

#### **Offer the following conclusions:**

- Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled at Pentecost
- The Holy Spirit was a gift not just to Jesus and his mission, but to the whole Church.
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit continue to work in our lives allowing us to overcome challenges and obstacles in life.
- The Spirit of Jesus blew open the doors of people's lives. It charged them up and gave them a purpose. It allowed them to proclaim the good news of the Spirit.
- It set their spirits on fire because it was only then that they knew who they really were. Scripture tells us that the wind and fire of the Spirit spurred the disciples to do great things for others and to serve the world in love.
- The disciples faced challenges and opposition as they spread the mission.
- Jesus promised his Spirit to all of us – bringing gifts to use so that we too can live up to who we really are: children of God, carefully and wonderfully made.
- The YES at Confirmation is a yes to making a difference in the world and to being dedicated to a life of justice.



**Directions:** Choose one of the following characters.

- One of the believers in the upper room (Acts 2: 1)
- A faithful Jew (Acts 2: 5)
- One of those who mocked the Christians (Acts 2: 13)
- Peter (Acts 2: 14)
- One of the new believers (Acts 2:37, 41)

In your pair, decide who will be the interviewer and who will be the interviewee.

### **Talk about your character**

Decide on a name for your character (unless it's Peter). Imagine what it must have been like to be involved in the events. How do you think they felt? Were they afraid? Were they surprised? Were they happy or angry? Why?

What did they do? What did they hear? How did they react? What was their impression of what was happening? What difference (if any) did it make to them?

### **Prepare the interview (1 to 2 minutes long)**

What was the character like i.e. their personality, accent etc? What did the character witness? What questions will help him/her tell his story? What does he/she want to say? How does the interviewer want to report the story?

## **4. The Body of Christ**

**Directions:** Have students get into groups of 3. Give them the puzzle pieces and tell them to assemble the puzzle with the ***brown, green, and red*** pieces face up. After one team wins show the other side of the puzzle.

### **Point to highlight:**

- The term 'Body of Christ' refers to the body and blood of Jesus Christ *OR* the term can refer to all the members of His Church.
- At the Last Supper Jesus gathered his disciples together and for the first time turned the bread and wine into his body and blood.
- Everyone throughout history who has accepted Jesus Christ makes up the Body of Christ
- *Read Eucharist Poem*

### **Discussion questions:**

What does the Eucharist mean to you?

- The Eucharist isn't *like* the body and blood of Christ, it *is* the body and blood of Christ.

Why is this differentiation so important?

- Because the Eucharist isn't just a symbol. Jesus is there with us forming a concrete and strong relationship with us.
- Consider this example: A father leaves work early on a weekday, drives five hours to another city to be present at his son's college basketball game and then drives home the same night. The father arrives home about 5 a.m., catches an hour of sleep, then goes to work. He does this often. Perhaps it would be enough to tell his son over the phone that he is thinking about him and cheering and praying for him. But think how much more it means to the child that his father is not just there in spirit—he is there in flesh. He is providing a *real presence* for his son.

Why did Jesus use symbols of food like bread and wine to signify the Eucharist?

- The Eucharist is a spiritual food. Just as food nourishes our body, the Eucharist nourishes our spiritual body, or our soul.
- The Eucharist nourishes us so that we can go out with the help of the Holy Spirit and serve others. A life of service alone is a completely different experience than going with Jesus to do God's work

## 5. We are One Body Game

**Introduction:** "As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit." (Corinthians 12:12-13)

### Discussion questions:

Why do you think the Apostle Paul chose to compare the church to a body?

What does this tell us the church should be like? What does this tell us about the Eucharist?

**Directions:** Make two lines on the floor about 10 meters apart. Divide the young people into teams of 3. The object of the game is for each team to cross from one line to the other with only the correct number of limbs or body parts touching the floor and connected with the other team members. Begin with easy combinations, gradually becoming more complicated: 5 feet only; 4 feet and 2 hands; 4 feet only; 4 knees, 4 hands, 1 foot; 4 feet, 4 hands.

### Points to highlight:

- Different people have different roles and callings but each member of the Church is equally important and needed.
- Although we have specific roles, we need to work together, just as we saw in the game.
- Mass is so sacred because we can draw closer to Christ by taking the Eucharist and become closer to the community of the Church

## **6. Closing Prayer— Awareness Examen (to be read slowly)**

Introduction: St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, believed that we can find God in all things, at every moment, and even in the most ordinary times. In order to do this we must take time to reflect on our experience. He encouraged us to pray the Awareness Examen to look over our day, which is a way we prayed in the last session. Through this prayer, we recognize what brings us closer to God and what may draw us away from God. Through this prayer we can focus our values and priorities and how we can play our part in the Body of Christ. The Examen can be done anywhere: when you are in the car, in a park, in the library, before you go to bed... And it can be as long as you like or as short as 5 minutes.

I invite you to get in a comfortable position to close your eyes. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5...)

Keep in mind that you are in the presence of God, and that God is in you, and around you, and surrounding you with his love. Reflect on one thing from today you are grateful for (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5...) Take a moment to go back to the beginning of your day. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5...) When you woke up in your warm bed, how did you feel? (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5...)

What did you do this morning... (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5...) Reflect on your day (PAUSE 1...2...3...) and the interactions you had with every person you came across today... your parents... friends... teachers. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5...) Continue to go through each hour of the day as if you were flipping through the pages of a book. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5...) Have a conversation with Jesus about your day. You might want to thank him for some of the good things that happened to you today. Maybe you want to say sorry for disappointing or hurting someone. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5...) Name something specific you need help with. (PAUSE 1-2 min) Finish up your conversation with Jesus, and when you are done you may open your eyes. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5...) Let's finish our prayer with an Our Father.

**go over and pass out Yellow Examen handout for them to take home and use.**