

Class #3 Outline: The Bible (and finish up Baptism)

- When you were baptized→ you were then recognized as a minister of the church!
 - Does being a minister have to be within the walls of the church?
 - Everyone is called to be a minister.
1. Baptismal Covenant Questionnaire
 - a. Fill out the handout first: there are no wrong answers.
 - b. Turn to the Baptismal Covenant and read each question pausing after each to add additions to the words “minister” & “baptism” on the board
 2. So if we know these things about baptism & being a minister, what does that tell us about confirmation? (add “confirmation” to the board, guiding questions too!) This is so important to end with as it makes them understand what this means for them individually!
 - a. In confirmation, you get the opportunity to stand up and say, “yes, I am choosing this faith for myself as a person who has thought about it and made this decision.”

The Bible

- Is the Bible a book? Nope! It's a *collection* of books!
- 2 parts
 - **Old Testament “Israel’s relationship with God”**
 - Written over the course of a thousand years
 - What does the Bible begin with?
 - Creation!
 - You don’t read it like a book though. Rather it is like a file cabinet that you can pull different folders from.
 - Also called the Torah as it originated in Judaism.
 - **New Testament: Jesus Christ and the Church**
 - When we talk about little “c” church we are talking usually about one specific church. Big “C” Church means ALL the churches together as a whole.
 - First 4 files: The Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John
 - What are they?
 - Different versions of the same story! The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Different perspectives.
 - Acts→ early years of the church after Jesus’ death
 - Miracles, arrests, mobs, debates, etc.
 - Letters

- Paul→ wrote letters to churches to try to help them see how God was acting in their lives.
 - Churches were fighting, being exclusive, and confused.
 - These letters were called epistles and are the oldest Christian documents we have!
- Revelation
 - Visions!
 - Mythical beasts, angels, fire, and swords
 - “God will wipe away every tear”
- What the whole Bible is about is the way in which God is in relationship with us, from the first day of creation to now.
- There is a cycle that happens over and over again throughout the Bible
 - God blesses people
 - They forget about it and rebel
 - Realization that they have forgotten about God
 - Ask for forgiveness/repent
 - And it happens all over again.
- It’s timeless!: there are so many stories of normal people dealing with similar issues we go through today like love, greed, fear, doubt, leadership, etc.
- Overall message:
 - God loves us and wants to be in relationship with us, but because we are human we have a brokenness that only He can fulfill. We get lost down the wrong roads sometimes and realize we need help. God is always waiting for us to run back into His arms.
- Searching for a Story handout

SEARCHING FOR A STORY

Instructions

Use the reverse side of this sheet, or your own paper, to write about any experience you've had that makes for a good story. Tell the story of what happened, how you felt, and what you learned from the experience.

For example:

I was asked to speak at a big event. I'd never spoken in public before and was really scared. I worked out what I was going to say but when I got there and saw all the people, I was even more nervous. What if I ended up looking bad? Or forgot what to say? They called my name, and I went up to speak. At first, I could barely get the words out, but it got better and everything went OK. When I finished, everyone applauded, and that felt really good! I wasn't nervous anymore and even thought I might like to do it again!

The experience taught me that, even though I might be scared, I can do what I need to, and do OK. I also learned that it can be hard to speak in public and now I try to be nice to people who do it, because I know what they are going through.

How to find a story

A good story doesn't need to be about a big experience. It just needs to be about something that made a difference to you.

You may already have something in mind for your story. But if you're stuck, use the following fill-in-the-blank sentences to help you find an experience you may want to write about. Then write the story on the back of the sheet.

I knew things would be different for me after _____

I remember the first time I _____

I was really scared when _____

Everybody else thought _____

I really wanted to _____