**Confirmation 2019: An introduction to Faith**

**Session 1:** Beginning with Christ: Why do I need Christ?

**Session 2:** Believing in Christ: What is life with Christ all about?

**Session 3:** Being Christ's: What is life with Christ like?

**Session 4:** Behaving Christianly: What has Christ made me to live for?

**Sources:**

* Bible
* *To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism*
* *Additional Teaching Notes and Resourses can be found in our SJR Adult Catechesis Folder* [*https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6v2n5bomf9c26pg/AABB086lw\_ic3c-pwAzZKB-Xa?dl=0*](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6v2n5bomf9c26pg/AABB086lw_ic3c-pwAzZKB-Xa?dl=0)

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**Session 1: Beginning With Christ: Why do I need Christ?**

**Introductions**

**Why do I need Christ?**

* Sharing
* Felt need
* Real need
* Genesis 3:1-6. What is sin, specifically?
* Romans 1.18-32. What is the human condition, according to God?

**What is the Gospel?**

* Sharing
* 1 Corinthians 1:1-4. What verbs does Paul use?
* Romans 1:1-4. What does Paul add to the Corinthians text?
* Titus 3:1-8. Can you mend your broken relationship with God?
* Colossians 1:13-14. From the Titus text and this one, how does God save us?

**How do I respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?**

* Sharing
* Acts 2:38, Romans 10:9,10.

**What do I become when I begin with Christ?**

* Singular soldier, or part of a plurality?
* New Creation John 3:1-8
* Disciple Matthew 11:28-30
* Child Galatians 4:3-7

**Session 2: Believing in Christ: What is life with Christ all about?**

**Further questions:**

* What makes Christianity different than … ?
* What is ‘apostolic Christianity’? (p.31)
* What are the central truths I need to know about life with Christ (or, Christian belief)?
* Why can’t I just believe whatever I want? (p.32)

**Creeds and the Apostles’ Creed**

* Q 19-25. (dates back to mid 2nd C) (Example of early church use.) (Apostles’ creed not written by Apostles but sums up the faith once delivered by the apostles as revealed in the Bible) (Creeds are not accepted in the church because of universality of usage or their antiquity but their ‘Scripturalness’)
* Doctrine (2 Tim 1:13; 4.3-4), the basic story of Jesus’ life, confession (*credo*) calls forth our response in faith as we affirm the content of our faith
* Distilled from the Bible (Q 26-37) (Circle at the centre of a circle). Seed of the Creed=Matt 16.16 or Acts 8.37.

**Content**

* 3 paragraphs: 1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Find the lines that correspond with the following:
	+ Creation
	+ Incarnation
	+ Atonement
	+ Resurrection
	+ Ascension and Exaltation
	+ Redemption Glorification

**God the Father**

* Who he is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**God the Son**

* Jesus = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christ = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Fully \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_( Colossians 1:15-20 Fully \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* His suffering and death, burial and descent into hell (Acts 2:27, 31 Hades)
* His resurrection (bodily)
* His Ascension into heaven (Luke 24:51). Symbolic of his current \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	+ What he does now (Philippians 2:9-11) (Heb 7:25)
* His glorious return (Acts 1:9-11; Luke 21:25-28; 1 Corinthians 15:23-24)

**God the Holy Spirit**

* Where have we seen God give life before? (*pneuma*)
* The idea of breath is also closely tied to speech (see Pentecost)
* The Holy Spirit ministers to us in at least 3 big ways:
	+ John 16:7-11
	+ I cor 12:4-11
	+ Galatians 5:22-23
* Great stories: Acts 4.8 and 6.8

**The Church**

* Four “notes” of the church
	+ One
	+ Holy
	+ Catholic
	+ Apostolic
* A Communion of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Whose sins are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 2:13-15)

**Amen** = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Session 3: Being Christ's:** **What is life with Christ like?**

Or, what is one of the main ways we need to relate to God?

Discuss.

“The value of persistent prayer is not that he will hear us…but that we will finally hear him.”

(William McGill)

**What is Prayer?**

The 5 W's. (Q 149-155)

**Why is Prayer important?** (See Catechism 153)

**Why do you find it difficult to pray?**

**Lord's Prayer**

Read Matthew 6:5-8. What do we learn from Jesus about how NOT to pray?

What do we learn about how TO pray 6:9-13?

Reading the prayer, what should we pray for? What stands out to you?

**Part 1** Matt 6.9-10

What do you notice?

What do you think “Hallowed be your name” means?

What do you think “your kingdom come” means?

“Your will be done, on earth as is on heaven?” (182, 183, 184)

**Part 2** Matt 6.11-13

What is the ‘thematic trend’ in this section?

Discuss the phrases in this section.

**Summary**

How would you diagram the specific shape of the LP? There are at least two changes in focus in the prayer that are interesting.

How does the LP begin and end?

How should the shape of the LP shape how we pray?

Other ways to pray? (Catechism 230)

With what frame of mind and heart should we pray? (237)

Does God hear my prayer? (238-239)

How can you cultivate a fruitful life of prayer? (255)

What do we desire of God in this prayer (see catechism)

**Catechist notes:**

* Prayer = relationship and dependence. What if a family never spoke to one another?
* LP a pattern: pray *like*. Doesn’t cover everything. 27 times in BCP
* LP =A life of devotion, dependence, danger
* LP first half all end in “on earth as in heaven”
* LP first half = praise, second half = ask
* LP first half = God, second is us (in God)
* LP “forgive our debts” The first part is an appeal, the second a statement (only in LP other than the address). NB LP starts with Father not ‘sorry’. We forgive NOT because they have apologized!
* LP structure – past present future
* Deliverance from the ‘evil one’ not evil in general
* Daily bread: exposes the conflict between “I did this” “I provide for Me” (We want to see the causal connection between our work and effort, and results) vis. our dependence on God (which unemployment ‘helps’ us to do)

**Session 4: Behaving Christianly:**  How do we live as the people of God?

Review.

Focus: What comes to your mind when you hear ‘The Ten Commandments’?

* + The commandments are kept when good is done, not when evil is not done.

* + Like a choir…

**The Foundation of Christian behavior**

Read Exodus 19:1-6, 20:1-2. What quality of God stands out?

What did God do for the people of Israel?

Who did God Save Israel to be?

Glancing at verses 7-25, why does God take such pains to prepare Israel to meet him?

**Indicative before Imperative**

What mistakes might people make about the Commandments of God?

Why did God give the Ten Commandments? (Q 256)

**Commandments as Blueprint**

The *Torah* is…the Blueprint for living as God's freed people.

**The Ten Commandments**

What is the structure of them?

How do the first set challenge our view of loving God?

How do the second set show us how to love others?

Discussion of the commandments.

**Conclusions**

What happened between Israel and God over the next few chapters and books of the Old Testament?

Is it possible for you to keep all these commandments? (Q 336)

In the Old Testament, God promises a new start: Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Ezekiel 36:24-28.

What is God promising here?

How will it be different than the old covenant?

What do we learn about where the capacity to obey comes from?

Read John 15:1-17. What do we learn from Jesus about loving him and living as Christians under the new covenant?

**But I still sin!** What is the proper response?

How do I live my life now? How does it change post-confirmation?

How do I grow into knowledge and life and faith and hope and love?

How do I seek not just the truth but how to live by it?

**A reminder I: State and Standing.** While the day to day *experience* or *state* of Christian life and obedience changes, our *standing* with God, our position before him, is fixed and permanent, through Christ. We are “seated with Christ in the heavenly places” (note: present tense) (Ephesians 2:6). We are indeed sanctified (made holy) in Christ already! Yet, God works in us to work out the salvation he has already granted to us, in Christ.

**A Reminder II: What is the chief end of man?** The Westminster Shorter Catechism says, “Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” We want to keep this end in view.