

Confirmation Lesson #5 - *Preparation For The Covenant Service II*

Lesson Preparation

Topic: Final Preparation for Covenant Service

Core Teaching: In today's session we will continue exploring the meaning of covenant and what it means to be in covenant with God and with each other. We will also allow time for those who are assisting in the covenant service to receive instruction on their jobs.

Scripture: **I Corinthians 1:18, 22-28**

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are.

Small Group Resources:

- Bibles for readers
- Copies of the service for leaders
- Offering plates
- Candle lighters

Large Group Preparation:

Arrange chairs in the room into the shape of the sanctuary, so that the ushers and others can practice. **Final copies of the covenant service. Adults assigned and ready to train groups** to lead worship.

Large Group

Singing: Music team sings 2-3 high-energy songs

Offering: Two students bring the offering collection box to the leader.

Doxology: Sing Doxology

Affirmation of Faith: Have the class join together in reciting the "Apostle's Creed".

Breakout: Dismiss Covenant Service volunteers to respective groups.

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Those Assisting in Covenant Service Practice

Youth helping to lead the service will go to their respective groups to be trained. We will need two adults to go with each group and help them get ready. We should have volunteers from last Sunday and they should be ready to go. We will all practice what we will be doing for this afternoon's service in the sanctuary, but we will do this in our meeting room since the chapel and sanctuary are both in use.

Adult Leaders For Training and Coordination

Name

Adults

Readers: _____

The readers will need to practice reading their parts. The adults can help them make sure that they are speaking loudly enough and slowly enough to be distinctly heard. If it is possible, use the actual podium and pulpit which will be used in the service. If this is not possible, improvise in the space available. It is also helpful to know who follows whom. Deal with the issue of where the readers will be sitting during the service. Take time to answer any questions the readers may have. Arrange for this group to arrive early before the service so that they can practice reading in the actual setting with the acoustics they will have during the service.

Communion: _____

Those serving communion need to be given an overview of that communion is, why it is important, and why we need to take serving seriously. Walk through where the servers will sit, when they will come up to the chancel area, how they will be served, how they will serve others, what they will say to those they serve, and what they do when they are finished. Arrange for this group to arrive early before the service so that you can show them what this will look like in the actual setting.

Acolytes: _____

If you have youth who have been trained as acolytes, have them share with the rest of the group what the duties are. Walk the group through what they will do step by step: what they wear, what they will carry (candle lighters, the cross), what they do when they come forward, how they light the candles, what they do after the candles are lit, and where they will sit. Again, arrange for this group to arrive early before the service so that you can show them what this will look like in the actual setting.

Ushers: _____

The ushers will take the offering. Have the plates ready (or mock ups of the plates). The room should have been arranged in a rough approximation of the area where the service will actually take place. Assign places and walk the ushers through everything they do: when they come forward, the prayer, how they begin, how they go from person to person, what they do when they are finished. Arrange for this group to arrive early before the service so that you can show them what this will look like in the actual setting.

Greeters: _____

The greeters will be welcoming people to the service and handout out bulletins. Assign doors to the group. Talk with them about the importance of being friendly and welcoming people to the service, what time to begin, and what time they will rejoin the rest of the class in the pews. Arrange for this group to arrive early before the service so that you can show them what this will look like in the actual setting.

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Small Group

Those who are not in leadership roles will be exploring further what it means for them to make their covenant. This will probably not be our usual group, but will be special combined groups.

Opening Prayer: Begin the small group session with a prayer. You may want to do a sentence completion prayer, a “build a prayer”, or ask for a volunteer to pray. The main idea is for the youth themselves to pray. This is how they learn and how they become comfortable with prayer.

Opening Discussion About The Service: See if your small group members have any questions about this afternoon’s covenant service. You might want your discussion to focus on two areas: the **meaning** of the covenant service and the **mechanics** of the covenant service.

A) The Meaning Of The Confirmation Service

The Covenant Service is an important part of our confirmation program. Use the following questions (or others you prefer) to help your group members understand the nature and the importance of this afternoon’s service

B) The Mechanics Of Confirmation

Those who are providing a leadership role in the service are already being trained, though some may return during your group session. There may be questions your group has about the service itself and what they will be doing, i.e., *Do they know how we are taking communion? Are they comfortable with this?* Be prepared to answer any questions your group may have.

- Ask:**
- 1) *How many of us remember what the word “covenant” means from last week’s lesson? (Have a few of the group members share what they think it means, then add your own reflections.)*
 - 2) *What are we actually promising to do in the service this afternoon?*

Go over the covenant service: **Discuss** any parts that you think are important or that group members are uncertain of.

Beginning with the adult and youth leaders, go around the circle and **have each person say what it is that they are agreeing to do** during the confirmation year.

Wrap Up: Briefly summarize the main points of the lesson.

Joys & Concerns: Ask students to share any Joys & Concerns for the week.

The Lord’s Prayer: Lead the small group in the Lord’s Prayer.

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Large Group Closing

Announcements/Birthdays

Sanctuary

UMYF Benediction