

Confirmation Week 9 Homework Assignment

Theme of the Week: Christ and the Cross

This week is a marked shift to a new unit in Confirmation. We have been spending most of our time so far talking about who God is: what God does, where God is, etc. But we are now going to spend the next couple of weeks talking about Jesus.

Many of the confessions of our faith talk about Jesus, but mainly focus on his birth at Christmas and his crucifixion/death/resurrection during Holy Week and Easter. These are foundational moments of our faith, but when we *only* look at those moments and overlook Jesus' earthly life where he preached, taught, and healed, we miss a crucial message!

It is often difficult to talk about what our faith means – it can feel abstract and hard to wrap our heads around. This is not new – people have felt that way for a very long time! Jesus' life and ministry helps us to understand God because he serves as a *translator* between God and humans. Even though can be difficult to understand God at times, Jesus' life translates it into something we can understand – Jesus loves, forgives, heals, and fights for justice and inclusion, among other things.

This week, complete these two activities to explore this idea further.

ACTIVITY #1: Scripture

Choose one of the parables below that Jesus taught. Read the parable, and try to figure out: what is the message of the story? Then, come up with a modern-day equivalent setting and telling for that parable. How would this parable look today?

Which parable will you look at? (circle one):

Invitation to the Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24),

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-42)

- The parables Jesus taught were like fables: stories that may or may not have actually happened, but have a deeper meaning and message. This way people in his time could understand the message and learn more about God. What is this parable about? What is the lesson Jesus is trying to teach about who/what God is and does?

- What would this parable look like in modern time? Take 1-2 paragraphs to rewrite this parable in a setting you are familiar with (school hallways, sports team, friend group, etc).

ACTIVITY #2: Video

The link to the video can be found here: (<https://vimeo.com/373310569>) The video is ~9 minutes long. Watch it, then answer the questions below with *at least 1-2 sentences*.

- Nadia Bolz-Weber reveals three different ideas/images of how God may be represented in the crucifixion: God as an Angry Parent, God as a Divine Accountant, and God as being right there on the cross. What do each of these images communicate about God? Offer 1-2 notes about each image.
 - God as an Angry Parent

 - God as a Divine Accountant

 - God is on the Cross

- Nadia later states that “we see who God is in how God chose to reveal God’s self in a cradle and on a cross.”
 - What does the image of the cradle have to do with Jesus? About God?

 - What does the image of the cross say about Jesus? About God?

 - Which image resonates more with you? Why?

- How do you contribute to “the song” right now? What other things would you like to learn how to do in order to contribute to “the song” in the future?