CONFIRMATION MENTOR GUIDE
THE NEW TESTAMENT

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This mentor guide is to be used for your weekly connections with your confirmation student from First Covenant Church in Red Wing. Each week, you'll be provided with a short commentary that provides context to where you are in the biblical story and sets you up to read the passage together. After you have read the passage, you are then provided with a few discussion questions to talk deeper about what you read and what it may mean for us today. Your weekly gathering will include:

1. Checking in with your student.
2. Sharing your answer to the opening question as a fun way to transition to the material.
3. Read the context summary and then open your bibles up to read the passage together.
4. Discuss the questions. You'll notice a majority of the questions are the same each week. Repetition with these questions will hopefully help build some routines to your conversation.
5. Close in prayer

Your goal with this guide should be to study God's word and have a conversation about what you read with your confirmation student, not just get them to respond to you or the question. Feel free to share your own observations, stories, questions, and even prayer requests to encourage and model the depth you are willing to go to. Point out places in the confirmand's stories where God is at work in their everyday life. If you have any questions or concerns along the way, don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Mike at mike@redwingfirstcov.org or by calling the church office at 651-388-2385 and he'd be happy to help!

TIPS FOR A GREAT MEETING WITH YOUR CONFIRMAND

- ***Plan a time that works for the both of you*.** If you know something is coming up, reschedule to meet on a different day. If you fall behind, plan to meet for a longer period of time or a second day to catch up. You have the freedom to do what you need to in order to stay on track.
- ***Avoid having a "let's run through this quick" mentality.*** Meet somewhere that gives you space to focus on the conversation well and have little distractions. If you are able, meet somewhere outside of their house, such as at McDonalds for ice cream or coffee at Caribou. This will allow you to have a dedicated time away from home distractions or family interruptions. Plus, it's always fun to meet up for a treat!
- ***Get to know your confirmand better.*** Ask questions about their life, remember details to check in with them about next time you meet. Offer to pray with them about big (and little) things they share that God could get involved with! Laughing, learning, and praying together matters! A great way to get to know your confirmand better is the acronym of having a SAFE conversation:
    - School (such as their classes, homework, schedule, etc)
    - Activities (such as sports, extracurricular activities, hobbies, etc)
    - Family/Friends (such as who they are, what they're like, family traditions, etc)
    - Entertainment (such as their favorite movies, music, coming soon, etc).
- ***Remember the "tell me more" question!*** This is a great question to ask when your confirmand shares an observation or a story that you feel they could go deeper on.
- ***Be okay with silence after you ask a question.*** Remember they are hearing this question for the first time. Allow them time to think and reflect. If you need to, ask if the question made sense and/or restate the question in a different way, or offer an answer for yourself to give an example.
- ***Being a mentor doesn't mean you have all the answers.*** It's okay to say "I don't know". But be open to learning together! If a question comes up, do some research on it together. If you're still looking for help, send Pastor Mike an email with your questions and he'd be happy to help!

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2021-2022

Week of	Mentor Connection Readings (New Testament)	Other Dates/Notes
Sept 26		Sept 26 - Presentation of Bibles during the services 1st year confirmands
Oct 3	Week 1 - The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20)	Oct 6 - Confirmand Pizza Party & Intro
Oct 10	Week 2 - The Baptism of Jesus (Matt 3:1-17)	
Oct 17	Week 3 - Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)	
Oct 24	Week 4 - The Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:17-48)	
Oct 31	Week 5 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (John 6:1-15)	Nov 10 - Class / Begin Justice Project
Nov 7	Week 6 - Jesus Walks on the Water (Matt 14:22-36)	
Nov 14	Week 7 - Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind (John 9:1-25)	
Nov 21	Thanksgiving Week (No Assignments)	
Nov 28	Week 8 - Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:1-15)	
Dec 5	Week 9 - Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)	Dec 1 - Class
Dec 12	Week 10 - Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)	
Dec 19	Christmas Break (No Assignments)	
Dec 26	Christmas Break (No Assignments)	
Jan 2	Week 11 - Woman at the Well (John 4:4-30, 39-42)	
Jan 9	Week 12 - The Triumphant Entry (Matt 21:1-11)	Jan 12 - Class
Jan 16	Week 13 - The Last Supper (Matt 26:17-30)	
Jan 23	Week 14 - The Death of Jesus (Mark 15:16-47)	
Jan 30	Week 15 - The Resurrection (Luke 24:1-12)	
Feb 6	Week 16 - The Ascension of Jesus (Acts 1:1-14)	Feb 9 - Class
Feb 13	Week 17 - Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47)	
Feb 20	Week 18 - Saul's Conversion (Acts 9:1-22)	
Feb 27	Week 19 - The Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-21)	
Mar 6	Week 20 - Have the Attitude of Christ (Phil 1:1-11; 2:1-11)	Mar 9 - Class
Mar 13	Week 21 - Love is the Greatest (1 Cor 13:1-13)	
Mar 20	Week 22 - Faith and Deeds (Jam 1:19-27, 2:14-26)	
Mar 27	Spring Break (No Assignments)	
Apr 3	Week 23 - Great Examples of Faith (Heb 11:1-12, 11:32-12:3)	Apr 6 - Class
Apr 10	Holy Week (No Assignments)	
Apr 17	Week 24 - Ministry of Reconciliation (2 Cor 5:11-21)	
Apr 24	Week 25 - Jesus is Coming Again (Rev 22:7-21)	
May 1	These weeks are left open to complete any remaining mentor connections and for 2nd year confirmands to complete their pastor interviews.	May 4 - Class / Justice Project Due
May 8		
May 15		
May 22	Confirmation Sunday (May 22)	

WEEK 1 - THE BIRTH OF JESUS

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

For this first week, take extra time to get to know your confirmand better. If you need ideas on how to get to know your confirmand better, refer to the “SAFE” acronym in the tips section located on page 1 of this document. Look for similar interests and important details to follow up on next week!

THE OPENING QUESTION

- What is your favorite birthday memory?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

The Old Testament narrative ends with the people of Israel returning from spending 70 years in exile and beginning to rebuild their lives back home. After this, the storyline enters into a 400 year period that takes place in-between the Old and New Testament. Because there were no new prophets that arose and God revealed nothing new to his people during this time, many people refer to this period as the “silent years”. That is, until a miraculous event took place out in the fields of a small town in Israel.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn’t make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation’s section of your study.

Read Luke 2:1-20.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember. Note: it is okay for the confirmand’s next step(s) to be different from the mentor’s next step(s).

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). These first few weeks, the mentor should plan to model praying with the student. But indicate to them that in a few weeks you will encourage them to pray as well.

WEEK 2 - THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- What is your favorite activity to do out on the water? (swim, float, fish, tube, water-ski, stare at it, etc)

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Jesus' birth put in motion God's plan to redeem the world from their sin. Today, we fast forward to when Jesus was about 30 years old. Early on in this story we meet John the Baptist. John was actually Jesus' cousin, and he was preaching a message that invited people to repent (turn from their sins) and be baptized (washed by the water as a symbolic act of their repentance). We will explore the topic of baptism more closely in an upcoming confirmation class, but for now check out this story of Jesus' own experience being baptized.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Matthew 3:1-17.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember. Note: it is okay for the confirmand's next step(s) to be different from the mentor's next step(s).
    - NOTE: It is good to ask here if the student has been baptized. If not, it is worth talking more about if they should pursue baptism. Our church has all sorts of resources for this conversation on our website at www.redwingfirstcov.org/baptism.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). These first few weeks, the mentor should plan to model praying with the student. But indicate to them that in a few weeks you will encourage them to pray as well.

WEEK 3 - JESUS AND NICODEMUS

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- What is something you "learned" from school that you still don't quite understand? Why do you think it is hard for you to comprehend?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Jesus has begun his ministry of teaching and performing miracles. This catches the attention of many people, including a Pharisee by the name of Nicodemous. The Pharisees were a group of religious leaders who encouraged a strict following of all the Old Testament laws and often looked down on people for now following them as good as they did. In today's story, Nicodemous is intrigued by Jesus, so one evening he makes a visit for a private conversation.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read John 3:1-21.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember. Note: it is okay for the confirmand's next step(s) to be different from the mentor's next step(s).

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). These first few weeks, the mentor should plan to model praying with the student. But indicate to them that in a few weeks you will encourage them to pray as well.

WEEK 4 - THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- What was the best speech that you have either heard or know about? What made it memorable?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Jesus' most famous Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) covers many topics. The giant crowds of people were very interested in what he had to say, so Jesus sat down on a small mountainside and began to speak. He speaks challenging words about all sorts of various topics like hypocrisy, prayer, fasting, money, and worry. Today we will read a few short excerpts from this sermon to give us an idea of his message.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, <u>underline</u> words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Matthew 5:17-48.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember. Note: it is okay for the confirmand's next step(s) to be different from the mentor's next step(s).

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). These first few weeks, the mentor should plan to model praying with the student. But indicate to them that in a few weeks you will encourage them to pray as well.

WEEK 5 - JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- If you could only eat one dish for the rest of your life, what would you choose?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Over time, the things Jesus said and did were captivating to the people. So it wasn't long until the crowds following Jesus became huge! Excitement filled the air wherever Jesus traveled, and the crowds expected to witness wonders in his words or actions. One day, after they found themselves out in the middle of nowhere, Jesus asked his disciples (the people who became his closest followers) to do something that seemed impossible.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read John 6:1-15.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). These first few weeks, the mentor should plan to model praying with the student. But indicate to them that in a few weeks you will encourage them to pray as well.

WEEK 6 - JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Share a story about a time when you had to do something that you found to be very scary or overwhelming.

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Crowds of people are following Jesus, which was both exciting and exhausting for the popular teacher. After a busy day that included feeding thousands of hungry people in a remote area (which is the story we talked about last time we met), Jesus seeks some quiet time and goes off alone to pray. Meanwhile, the disciples get back into the boat to sail across the big lake, with no idea that Jesus would unexpectedly join them on the trip.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Matthew 14:22-36.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). This week, ask your confirmand if they would be willing to say a few words during the prayer. If they aren't ready, that's okay! But encourage them to try or to prepare themselves to do so next time. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 7 - JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Share a time when you saw something happen that blew your mind or was almost unbelievable.

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

God created people in his image in order to have a personal relationship with them. During his ministry, Jesus performed many miracles, including healing people from their disease or disability. The primary purpose of these miracles is to reveal that Jesus is the divine Son of God. Miracles aren't magic, rather, they demonstrate the power of the Almighty God working through his Son. One such miracle includes Jesus' miraculous healing of a blind man that combined a significant spiritual teaching with physical proof.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read John 9:1-25.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). This week, ask your confirmand to start the prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 8 - PARABLE OF THE SOWER

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Who would you say is a great teacher? What made this person great in this role as a teacher?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

These last few lessons we looked at some of the things Jesus did. Now we turn to some of the things Jesus said. One of Jesus' favorite methods for revealing secrets of God's Kingdom was to tell stories called parables. He used these illustrations of everyday people (farmers, fishermen, royalty, merchants, etc) in their everyday life to communicate spiritual truths to those listening. Interestingly, there were times when people still didn't understand, including Jesus' disciples.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Luke 8:1-15.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). Ask your confirmand to start the prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 9 - PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- What was something you did that you later regretted? How did you handle reconciling that situation?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Jesus welcomes anyone and everyone to stop and listen to his preaching. Along with religious leaders and upstanding citizens, he welcomed prostitutes, greedy tax collectors, and individuals who have been deemed unacceptable by the rest of the community. Those whom the society rejected, Jesus intentionally sought out. When the religious leaders criticize Jesus on who he was spending his time with, he tells them a parable that reveals God's heart for all who are lost.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Luke 15:11-32.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). This week, ask your confirmand to start the prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 10 - PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Do you know of a story about someone who went to great lengths to help someone else? Share that story and note why you think they did that.

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Last week we saw what God's heart was like. In this week of exploring Jesus' parables, we are learning about what the heart of those who love God should look like. Jesus involves his disciples in spreading the message of the kingdom by sending them out ahead of him to the towns he plans to visit. Just then, someone asks Jesus about who is our "neighbor" that we are supposed to love? Jesus seizes the opportunity to tell everyone a story involving a Jew and a Samaritan; two groups of people who have hated each other for centuries!

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Luke 10:25-37.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). This week, ask your confirmand to start the prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 11 - WOMAN AT THE WELL

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- What is your favorite thing to drink?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

After leaving Jerusalem one day, Jesus heads north to Galilee, forcing them to go through the region of Samaria. Usually the Jews would go out of their way to take a much longer route to avoid this area… remember last week how these two groups of people hated each other over a centuries-long feud? But Jesus intentionally took this shorter route and even stopped to rest while in Samaria. It is here that an entire village would come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah through an encounter with one person at a well.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read John 4:4-30 and 39-42.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). This week, ask your confirmand to start the prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 12 - THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Suppose you were helping celebrate someone important or famous and you were in charge of coordinating their grand entrance, what would you do?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Our story now takes us into Holy Week (the last seven days before Jesus' resurrection). It begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as they arrive for the sacred Passover feast. The people were excited to see a "messiah" who would overthrow Rome and restore Israel back to their rightful status in the world. But Jesus doesn't come riding in on a white stallion ready for war, rather he rides on a donkey in the name of peace. As the crowds threw down their cloaks and palm branches before him, they hailed him as a king, but as we'll see throughout the Holy Week events, their joyful cheering wouldn't last long. For they didn't realize that Jesus came, not to defeat Rome, but to save them from something much greater!

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, <u>underline</u> words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Matthew 21:1-11.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). This week, ask your confirmand to start the prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 13 - THE LAST SUPPER

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Describe the best meal you ever had. What made it such a great meal?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

After Jesus' Triumphal entry, we fast forward to "Maundy Thursday". *Maundy* is a Latin word which means 'command' and points us to the command Jesus gave to the disciples at the Last Supper: that they should love and serve one another. The Last Supper is a meal that Jesus celebrates with his disciples for the sacred Passover feast. It is here that Jesus uses the elements of bread and wine to institute a new practice and covenant that we refer to as the Lord's Supper or Communion. Every time we (the Church) celebrate this meal, we remember Christ's death on the cross and experience his renewing presence in our lives.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, <u>underline</u> words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Matthew 26:17-30.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). This week, ask your confirmand to start the prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 14 - THE DEATH OF JESUS

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Name a symbol that you like or has deep meaning for you. Why did you bring up that symbol?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

The climax of God's entire story has come. God's plan to bring people back into relationship with himself is about to unfold through these next two lessons as we wrap up the events of Holy Week. All three years of ministry, Jesus knows that he was sent into the world to give humanity the greatest gift of all - his life. His body will be sacrificed on the cross to save people from their sins and restore a right relationship with God. We are told in Leviticus that blood must be shed for forgiveness because sin is that serious. Jesus was that sacrifice, and his blood is what washes away our sin. Here's the story of how our salvation began...

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, <u>underline</u> words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Mark 15:16-47.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). This week, ask your confirmand to start the prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 15 - THE RESURRECTION

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Share about a time when you were told something that you just didn't believe when you first heard it.

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Holy Week ends with three agonizing days of nothing. Jesus is dead and has been put to rest in a tomb. The disciples have gone into hiding and Satan thinks he is victorious. But God's story isn't over. The most spectacular event ever is about to take place when Jesus shows up alive. God's plan ends in victory as Jesus conquered the powers of death and hell, not just for himself but for everyone! And now, the barrier between God and his people has been shattered and sin is defeated!

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Luke 24:1-12 and 36-49.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). This week, ask your confirmand to start the prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 16 - THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- If today was your last day on earth, what would you do?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

After Jesus' resurrection, he continued his ministry for another forty days, appearing to his disciples and explaining all that had happened. Jesus' time on earth is about to end, but God's story would continue through his Church. Jesus sends the disciples out to proclaim the Good News of his resurrection to the ends of the world. But they wouldn't be going out alone. Before Jesus ascends into heaven, he tells them that he would be sending the Holy Spirit to be with them as a guide. This is the beginning of Acts, a book likely written by the author of the gospel Luke, and addressed to Theophilus in hopes that he and all the readers of this book would know that Jesus is the Messiah and hear about the power of Christ through his Church.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Acts 1:1-14.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). This week, if you haven't naturally started doing this already, start taking time each week to ask for any prayer requests (either from the confirmand or the mentor). Together lift these things up in prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 17 - PENTECOST

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- What is the best gift you have ever received?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

After Jesus ascended into heaven, his disciples gathered inside a room in Jerusalem. Not knowing what to expect, they follow Jesus' instructions to wait. They are about to experience another high point in God's story. God came in human form to live among humans. But now he is sending his Spirit to remain in them forever. The Spirit's presence will be a comfort and a strength to every believer throughout the world until Christ returns. Today's story reveals when that moment first arrived.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Acts 2:1-24 and 40-47.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). Also take time to ask for any prayer requests (either from the confirmand or the mentor). Together lift these things up in prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 18 - SAUL'S CONVERSION

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Name a time when someone had to go to great lengths to get your attention.

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Throughout God's story, God revealed himself to Abraham and formed a great nation to be his holy, chosen people. When God sent his son to earth, he sent Jesus right to his chosen people. Many of the Jews rejected Jesus, but others believed in him. After Jesus returned to heaven, a devoted Jew and Pharisee named Saul violently opposed anyone who believed in the resurrection of Jesus. But God transformed this strong, forceful leader away from evil and towards spreading the Good News of Christ to the world.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Acts 9:1-22.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). Also take time to ask for any prayer requests (either from the confirmand or the mentor). Together lift these things up in prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 19 - THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Name a time when you had a debate with someone over something that you disagreed on. What happened and how did your debate end?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

The successful missionary work of Paul (formerly known as Saul the Pharisee) and others among the Gentiles (which is a word that means everyone who is not a Jew) is a cause for the new Church to rejoice! The Good News of Jesus is spreading all over the world, just like God planned. But for some early Jewish Christians, this raised some difficult questions. God had always worked through his chosen people, the Jews. Many believed that the Gentiles needed to still convert to a Jewish lifestyle in order to be saved. So they gathered together to discuss this issue.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Acts 15:1-21.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). Also take time to ask for any prayer requests (either from the confirmand or the mentor). Together lift these things up in prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 20 - HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF CHRIST

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- If you could be like anyone, who would you pick and why?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

While traveling throughout the Mediterranean world, Paul continued to write letters in order to teach the churches he started. Over the next few lessons we will be exploring some of what Paul taught them. For today, Paul wrote to the church in Philippi while he was under house arrest in Rome. Phillipi was a prosperous city who prided themselves as roman citizens. Paul had started the church in this city about 10 years before writing this letter, where he expresses gratitude for the love and care that the members of this church showed him, and encouraged them to follow Christ's example of humility as we live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, <u>underline</u> words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Philippians 1:1-11 and 2:1-11.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). Also take time to ask for any prayer requests (either from the confirmand or the mentor). Together lift these things up in prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 21 - LOVE IS THE GREATEST

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- How would you define the word "love"?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Paul established many churches throughout Asia Minor and Europe, to which he wrote letters of instruction to. In this letter he writes to the church in Corinth, which was in a thriving city from Greece that was filled with all sorts of sin and immorality. Sadly, this culture constantly plagued the church here, which reveals why much of Paul's letter to them is filled with rebuke and correction. In this particular passage we will explore, we hear about the great message that God has been trying to convey since the creation story: that God is a God of love. Everything he has done and continues to do for his people comes from his love for us. But when God loves us and his Spirit lives in us, we then should display that same kind of love to others.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). Also take time to ask for any prayer requests (either from the confirmand or the mentor). Together lift these things up in prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 22 - FAITH AND DEEDS

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Share a time when someone had to tell you something that was very encouraging, or perhaps something that was hard for you to hear/receive. Why did they need to tell you these words?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Around the same time that Paul was writing letters to churches, James (who was Jesus' brother), also wrote letters. Although James did not follow Jesus before the Resurrection, he quickly became a leader in the early church in Jerusalem. He wrote this letter of encouragement to the Jewish Christians scattered throughout the Roman world and challenged them in their view of what it means to live out their faith.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read James 1:19-27 and 2:14-26.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). Also take time to ask for any prayer requests (either from the confirmand or the mentor). Together lift these things up in prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 23 - GREAT EXAMPLES OF FAITH

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Who comes to mind as someone you think has a strong faith? What about their life leads you to see that in them?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

God has always wanted his people to learn how to rely on him and demonstrate their faith by the way they live. Throughout God's story are many examples of these faithful people, and the writer of Hebrews uses these historical characters in order to connect with the readers. Many of the Jewish Christians were tempted to revert back to Judaism or even Judaize the Gospel message. Instead, the author uses a long list of great heroes of Jewish history that remained strong in their faith and believed in God's promise. Because of this long list of faithful people, we are then challenged to persevere with our own faith.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Hebrews 11:1-12 and 11:32-12:3.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). Also take time to ask for any prayer requests (either from the confirmand or the mentor). Together lift these things up in prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 24 - MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Name a time when you needed to reconcile (make peace and restore your relationship) with someone else. What happened that caused the broken relationship and how were you able to reconcile?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

Paul continues to challenge the church in Corinth by writing a second letter about God's power that works in and through them. If you remember, the city of Corinth was plagued with so much sin and immorality which impacted the church there so much that out of anguish (2:4) Paul had to write a second letter! In today's passage, Paul challenges Christians to share the news of salvation and speak as God's representatives. In fact, he describes us as ambassadors to the world with the message of returning back to God. We have been given this important ministry in order that we help the world be reconciled with God.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, underline words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). Also take time to ask for any prayer requests (either from the confirmand or the mentor). Together lift these things up in prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.

WEEK 25 - JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

CHECK-IN ON YOUR WEEK

Talk about any similar interests and important details shared last week. Also, take a minute to review what next step(s) you walked away with from last week's discussion and share how it went, what you learned, etc.

THE OPENING QUESTION

- Name a time when you were so excited for something, but were forced to wait. What was it and what did you do to help you eagerly wait?

READ ABOUT THE CONTEXT

As the Christian Church grew, so did opposition to the new Christian beliefs and their way of living. The persecuted churches needed hope to persevere. So God gave a vision to the apostle John, who was exiled because of his faith to a small island called Patmos. John was told to write what he saw in the vision down to comfort and encourage the Church; and it has continued to do so for centuries. Revelation is apocalyptic, which means that it is filled with bizarre symbolic images describing the end times. At times it can be a hard book to read and understand. But it's ultimate purpose is to encourage the faithful to stand firm against persecution until Christ returns again and the Kingdom of God is established for eternity.

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, <u>underline</u> words or phrases in your bible that stick out to you as important or interesting. Likewise, put a ? next to anything that doesn't make sense or you would like to know more about. You will refer to these things in the observation's section of your study.

Read Revelation 22:7-21.

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

- What elements did you underline or put a question mark by?
- What would we say is the main point or purpose of the passage?
- What do we learn from this passage (about God, ourselves, the world, faith, sin, etc)?
- Is there anything stated in this passage that we are invited to reflect on or put into practice?

DISCUSS APPLICATIONS

- How do you think this passage impacted the life and faith of the original audience or the people in the story (think about the context you noted earlier)?
- Keeping in mind the implications for the original audience, how might this passage be impactful for our life and faith today?
- What next step(s) might God be inviting you to pray about or do this next week in response to what you have discussed today? Write it down as a next step for you to remember.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend some time in prayer reflecting on what you learned today and ask God to help you with your next step(s). Also take time to ask for any prayer requests (either from the confirmand or the mentor). Together lift these things up in prayer. If they are nervous about what they should say, help them think about some ideas.