

Bible Discussion Testimonies- Confirmation Ministry

In our Youth Program as we looked at the traditional Confirmation curriculum, it followed a "read the scripture to find the right answer" structure. It was long, youth were bored, and parents were burned out by the end. After confirmation, the majority of youth stepped back from church or stopped coming altogether, and many times, so did the whole family. The purpose of Confirmation isn't to overwhelm the family and it's not an item on a checklist. Youth enter Confirmation to grow their relationship with God and begin a journey with Him that will last a lifetime.

To create a program that attempts both, we've restructured Confirmation to follow a simple pattern that gently guides youth into staying in the Word every day, even after they're confirmed. Using the traditional topics covered, we removed all the questions so each "lesson" consists simply of an assigned reading. This allows families to slow down and really absorb the reading as they're no longer attempting to find a specific answer. They're able to read and discuss at their own pace so it fits comfortably into their already busy schedules. Each group decides on their own meeting days/times and groups are kept small to accommodate all members and encourage Christian fellowship as well as learning.

By the time youth are confirmed, they've learned that God uses scripture to say different things to different people and the Bible gives more than one right answer, depending on who's asking the question. They've developed great friendships and grown in their relationship with God. And they've done it all at what we call a "sustainable pace". They're able to stay in the Word regularly and continue growing closer to God. Confirmation has become a stepping stone to adult Bible Discussion Groups and now truly prepares youth for a lifetime walk with Jesus.

In His Service, Libby