

Lesson Plan: What is Confirmation?

Preparation

What You Will Need

- ✓ Audio CD: *Confirmation, Sacrament of Champions* by Marcellino D'Ambrosio
- ✓ What is Confirmation discussion guide and key
- ✓ Lesson Summary

Prepare Yourself

- Read through the lesson and make sure that it is all clear to you. If you have any questions, feel free to use the online resource center at www.fromtheabbey.com/classroom/ to ask them.
- This lesson will help to set the stage for the entire Confirmation preparation program. Prepare yourself to set it well - to get the participants excited about what God wants to do for them in this sacrament. Reflect back on your own Confirmation, and more importantly on how God has brought you more intimately close to Him and how He has equipped you to serve Him in unique ways. Bring this sense of mission in love into your teaching.
- It is highly recommended that you listen to the CD, *Confirmation, Sacrament of Champions*, ahead of time and write down some specific discussion questions for each segment. These questions can also be used as you work through the discussion guide.

Starting the Lesson

Opening Prayer

You are, of course, free to use any opening prayer you would like. One is provided for you below if you'd like to use it.

Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to grow in intimate love with you and to go out and serve you by serving others in your name. Through the sacrament of Confirmation, you seal us with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, equipping us in unique ways to take your love to the world.

Help us now to prepare well to receive your grace and your Spirit in this sacrament. Inspire us to seek a true relationship with you and to shape our lives around the mission and vocation for which you will equip us. Amen.

Central Point

The following phrase encapsulates the main point of the lesson. It is recommended that you display this phrase prominently on a chalk board, a white board, or a poster.

Confirmation is the Sacrament that anoints us into the Mission of Jesus Christ and His Church and empowers us to go out and bring God's love to others.

Opening Discussion

Ask students, "What needs to be transformed in our culture and in our Church in order to bring them conform more to the way Christ wants them?"

For the most part, let students come up with the answers, but be ready to guide them to true Christian vision of society and Church - proper morality, love of God, love of neighbor, self-sacrifice, worship, founded in truth, etc.

Ask students, "What role do you think you will play in this transformation?"

Be sure students realize that if they are not part of the transformation, the transformation will never happen. It is not someone else's task to change the world!

The Main Lesson

Confirmation: Sacrament of Champions

Introduce the audio presentation, "Confirmation: Sacrament of Champions." The speaker is Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, a Catholic theologian and teacher. He is very Italian and very excited about the Catholic faith. He is also very knowledgeable about the Sacraments and the Holy Spirit. In this presentation, Dr. D'Ambrosio explains why we should be excited about the Sacrament of Confirmation, and why it is so important for our culture and for the Church that we embrace the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit through this Sacrament.

Play tracks 1-7 [halfway through track 7 (1:04), after "Christ just means anointed one, Messiah in Greek. Its' a Greek Word - Before he begins talking about the Old Testament]

Take some time to discuss the presentation, especially the purpose of Confirmation.

Confirmation Ceremony

Go through the Confirmation Ceremony section of the discussion guide. This section is intended to be a brief tour of the ceremony to familiarize participants with what they will go through when they are confirmed.

Anointed in the Mission of Christ

Play *Confirmation, Sacrament of Champions* tracks 7-20 [after "That's how Christ shares his kingship with his apostles (1:08) before he starts talking about Pentecost]

Take some time to discuss the presentation, especially the concepts of the 3-fold mission of the Church as Priest, Prophet and King.

Go through the Anointed in the Mission of Christ discussion guide. The goal in this section is to help participants realize that Confirmation calls and empowers them to participate in Christ's mission in a way that is unique to how God created them and how He will equip them.

Effects of Confirmation

Play Confirmation, Sacrament of Champions tracks 20-26 [after "So if you haven't received it yet, prepare for it. (0:48) before he starts talking about the Charisms]

Take some time to discuss the presentation, especially the concept of activating the graces of Confirmation.

Go through the Effects of Confirmation section of the discussion guide. Focus here on the idea that Confirmation binds us more intimately to the family of God, the Body of Christ (the Church), and so makes us heirs of the Kingdom of God. As heirs, we have the obligation to spread the Kingdom of God by sharing God's love.

Charisms

Play Confirmation, Sacrament of Champions from track 26 to the end.

Take some time to discuss the presentation, especially the concept of charisms.

The discussion guide simply asks them to look up some of the charisms in the Bible. The main point of discussion here is that God gives each of us charisms that fit the natural gifts He has already given us, and that charisms are meant to be used for the service of others.

Lesson Summary

Next, have students fill out the study guide, called a "lesson summary" because filling the act of filling out the guide helps students to summarize the most important points of the lesson.

Closing

Celebrate the Gift!

Spend some time talking about what possible charisms each participant might expect to receive from God.

Stress to the participants that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will be the focus of their lessons next year.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we look forward to seeing how you want to work in each of our lives. We look forward to living the adventure of serving you by spreading your love to others. We look forward to receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the charisms that you want to give each of us, and the grace that will help us grow in our love for you. Please help us to prepare well to receive these awesome gifts. Amen.