



CHOSEN

YOUR JOURNEY TOWARD CONFIRMATION

“Where am I going?”

This lesson is about conveying the truth of what happens after death. This is also known as the four *Last Things*: death, judgement, heaven and hell (CCC 1021-1041). We also discuss not only our fate as an individual but as a human race in its entirety, as to be revealed at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Another point that we focus on is life after death. While this may be uncomfortable for people, we hope that your children will realize the glory to which every person on earth is called and how we should live our lives here and now.

Conversation Starters:

- ✓ Who in our family has died that we can pray for?
- ✓ Why do you think God created a place of purification after death? (CCC 1030-1032)
- ✓ If you only had one week left to live, what would you do with your time?
- ✓ What do you think heaven is like? Why do you want to go there?

“How do I get there?”

This lesson is about the power and the purpose of the Sacraments. Each of the sacraments has a physical or tangible component, but these are not just symbols or signs, these are actually occurring things (CCC 774). Unlike other creations like animals and angels, we possess *rational* souls. Because of this, God reveals himself and encounters us through the physical world from the incarnation to the sacraments today. Through this lesson, your teen will be encouraged to consider the importance of their life, including the sacraments they receive.

Conversation Starters

- ✓ What is a sacrament (CCC 1131)? Can you name and describe the ones that you have received?
- ✓ What memories do you have of your sacraments?
- ✓ How do sacraments help us become stronger in living out our faith?

“When did my journey begin?”

This lesson is all about helping your candidate appreciate the significance of their Baptism. The waters in which we are Baptized mark us as children of God, and this is our first step toward our journey to the kingdom of God. Imagery of new birth is found in all over the bible (CCC 1217-1222); by understanding this significance, teens will be encouraged to think of the salvation story as *their* salvation story.

Conversation Starters:

- ✓ What happens when someone is baptized? (CCC 1262)
- ✓ How does baptism benefit infants? Why do we baptize infants rather than waiting until the child is older?

“What do you want?” What an awkward and invasive conversation starter. Imagine that a stranger, without preamble, looked at you and asked, “What do you want?” What if the tone indicated this question was not simply about your immediate desires, but was an audacious inquiry into your deepest, most private longings? In John’s Gospel, Jesus’ first words to his disciples embody this very question “What are you looking for?” As you can imagine, the disciples do not know how to answer. So they answer with another question: “Rabbi, where are you staying?” Jesus replies, “Come and see.” Three liens of conversation have never been more loaded. The disciples clearly do not even know how to express the longing of their hearts. They are not seeking *something* as much as *someone*. Like us, though, they just cannot identify the source of their restlessness.

All of us have restless hearts. Prayer is our only hope to ease the ache of our hearts; as the early Christian Fathers said, “Birds fly, fishes swim, **man prays.**” In this journey toward Confirmation, both you and your child are being called to follow Jesus and to discover more deeply the answer to the question, “What do you want?” This first phase of Chose will break down barriers to belief and then introduce the basic gospel message. Your son or daughter will come see how Christ, through his Church, fulfills the deepest longings of our hearts. One way you can help this process along is to support and encourage the relationship between your child and their sponsor. They can participate in discussion questions on this sheet if they are not able to attend class. You also should share your personal experience of being Catholic, searching for happiness, and seeking God. Just remember to be authentic. Your personal testimony is one of the most effective ways to bring about genuine dialogue with your child. Remember that teens crave recognition of their young adulthood, so do not push too hard if you can avoid it. Listen first, then share your own experience, point beyond yourself to Jesus. And pray. Pray, pray, pray, consistently.