

Name: _____

Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church Confirmation

Forgiveness, Salvation, and the Resurrection

After completing the lesson, the student will be able to:

- Describe two reasons why forgiveness is an important concept for Christians to understand.
- Define Confession and Absolution
- Explain how confession and absolution is not a good work that we do, but a gift that God gives.
- Describe what happens to our soul after we die
- Explain how the bodies of both believers and unbelievers will be resurrected.
- Define “Eternal Life”

FORGIVENESS

As Christians, forgiveness is an important concept for us to understand for a couple of reasons. First, because God forgives our sins. This forgiveness was accomplished on the Cross as Jesus took our sin upon Himself, suffered, and died. Forgiveness is delivered to you as the Holy Spirit applies the Gospel to you personally, both at the beginning of your spiritual life, but also daily and continually. Without forgiveness of sins, the only thing awaiting us as sinners is punishment and judgment. But with forgiveness, God is covering and removing our sin from us, and promising us life in Christ.

Second, forgiveness is important for us as believers, as it is something we have been called to do to others when they sin against us. As the Holy Spirit forgives our sin, He is sanctifying us, that we might forgive all those who sin against us.

1. Read Ephesians 1:7 and Luke 17:3-4 and write down what each teaches us about forgiveness.

CONFESS & ABSOLUTION

Confession is a time that we tell, or confess, our sins to someone else. Sometimes, we do this in our worship services when we confess to everyone else in the congregation, and they confess to us, the fact that we are all sinners. Other times, we might confess our sin privately to someone else, like a parent, another Christian we respect, or someone like a pastor.

Whether we confess our sin as part of the whole church, or we confess our sin privately to someone, it is good for the person you confess your sin to, to give you Absolution. Absolution is a declaration of God’s gracious forgiveness that is offered by someone else (either a pastor or another believer) speaking on behalf of the Lord. Through someone else giving us Absolution for our sin, we are then assured that we have been forgiven by God Himself, and are free from the guilt and punishment for our sin. (Note: in the worship services here at Abiding Savior, we usually call the Absolution a “Declaration of Grace”. These two words mean the same thing).

2. What is confession?
3. What is absolution?
4. Read 2 Samuel 12:7-13, and write down the following information:

What was King David's sin?

What words did David use when he Confessed his sin?

What words did Samuel use when he gave David absolution?

It is important we see confession and absolution not as a good work that we do, but a gift that God gives us to forgive our sin and heal our conscience. Just like God works through a pastor to teach us His Word and help us grow in our faith, in Confession and Absolution God is working through someone else to remind you that God really has forgiven you, and is forgiving you, all your sin.

5. Read 1 John 1:9. Who is faithful? Who is the one who gets credit for forgiving us and cleansing us from unrighteousness?

JESUS RETURNS AND THE RESURRECTION

Resurrection is vital to our faith. In I Corinthians 15:12-19, the Apostle Paul teaches us that without Jesus' resurrection, our faith is empty and futile. While death isn't the sort of talking point you'd bring into casual conversation with your friend or at supper with your family, it is something that Christians have an invested interest in. To make things as easy to follow as possible, let's look at life after death in the order in which things will happen.

- We die physically.
- If we believe in Jesus, our souls go to be with Jesus in heaven.
- Jesus Returns (we call this His "Second Coming")
- Our bodies are resurrected from the dead and they are made new or glorified.
- Jesus will Judge Everyone: Believers (our glorified body and soul) will live without suffering or sin forever... non-believers will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever.

Jesus is coming back... that's a promise from God's Word! On the last day, when the Jesus returns to earth, all the bodies of the dead will be made alive, or resurrected, and reunited with their soul. This

means that everyone is going to be raised from the dead: not only the person who puts their faith in Jesus, but also anyone who refused to believe in Jesus. After the resurrection, and everyone has their body again, everyone will be judged. Those who believed in Jesus will enter eternal life in the New Heavens and the New Earth. But those who died in unbelief will be condemned to eternal death and cast into the Lake of Fire.

6. Read Mark 13:32 and Revelation 1:7 and write down what we learn from each about Jesus' Second Coming.

7. Read Daniel 12:2, John 5:28-29 and Matthew 25:46, and write down the two options that of what could happen to someone when they are resurrected.

8. Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and Philippians 3:21 and explain how each passage describes the believer's resurrected body.

EVERLASTING SOUL

The Bible teaches that our souls live on after we take our last breath and our hearts stops beating. What happens to our soul at this point? The answer to this question is found in the blessed words from Jesus to the thief on the cross.

9. Read Luke 23:43 and write down where Jesus said the thief would be.

ETERNAL LIFE

We have been promised an eternal life with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What does the Bible mean when it says eternal life? Eternal life is the blessed state in which believers will live for all eternity in close fellowship with God. In this paradise, we will live free from sin, pain, struggle, and hardship. Eternal life is a state of unending and everlasting delight and contentment, where we will experience a loving fellowship with Jesus and other believers. We will continually praise our God in the company of angels and live forever in peace and joy.

10. Read Revelation 21:1-8, and answer the following questions:
 - Where will God dwell? (v.3)

- What difficult or bad things will believers no longer experience because of God? (v.4)
- Unbelievers will be cast into a lake. How does this verse describe the lake? (v.8)

John 3:16 teaches us that eternal life with Christ is not something we do or earn, but is something God has given to us. As we believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin, we are given a guarantee of an eternal life with the Lord. That is Good News... that's the Gospel!

STUDENT & PARENT QUESTIONS: *for the student and a parent to discuss and answer together*
 Students and Parents, read through the explanation of the Third Article of Sanctification (the section titled “What does this mean?”) out loud together, then answer the following questions. (You can find it on p.10-11 in your catechism) This section describes one thing the Holy Spirit does for believers is “*daily forgives abundantly all my sins....*”.

1. Do you believe you have sins that need forgiveness?
2. How is this promise comforting to you... that the Holy Spirit “daily forgives abundantly” the sins you commit daily?
3. Students and Parents, read through questions #255-262 in your catechism together (p.98-100). Write down one of these questions that you found interesting, comforting, or that stuck out to you, and explain why.

STUDENT & PARENT SIGNATURE:

By signing below, we affirm (1) this lesson is complete and that (2) we completed the “Student & Parent Questions” section together.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____