

# CONFIRMATION



## The 2024-2025 CONFIRMATION COURSE

### Member Handbook

*This Handbook Belongs To:*

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New Hope Presbyterian Church  
3737 New Hope Way  
Castle Rock, CO 80109

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# 2023-2024 CONFIRMATION COURSE CALENDAR

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUTH & MENTORS:

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Nov. 10</b>	<b>11am-Noon</b>	Encouragement Meeting – The Underground
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 8</b>	<b>11am-Noon</b>	Encouragement Meeting – The Underground
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan. 12</b>	<b>11am-Noon</b>	Encouragement Meeting – The Underground
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Feb. 9</b>	<b>11am-Noon</b>	Encouragement Meeting – The Underground
<b>Friday &amp; Saturday March 8-9</b>			Confirmation Retreat
<b>April 16<sup>th</sup></b>			Statement of Faith Due <a href="mailto:jordan@newhopepres.org">jordan@newhopepres.org</a>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 13<sup>th</sup> (6:30 – 7:30 pm)</b>	Discipleship Celebration. More information coming about this later. PARENTS SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND THIS EVENT TOO!	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 20th (9:30am)</b>	Congregational Reception of Confirmands on Easter Morning!	

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR DISCIPLESHIP ACTIVITIES

### *Session Meeting Dates – You only need to attend 1 session meeting.*

<b>November 10th</b>	12:00 p.m.	Session Meeting meets in Louviers Room
<b>December 8th</b>	12:00 p.m.	Session Meeting meets in Louviers Room
<b>January 12th</b>	12:00 p.m.	Session Meeting meets in Louviers Room
<b>February 9<sup>th</sup></b>	12:00 p.m.	Session Meeting meets in Louviers Room
<b>March 9<sup>th</sup></b>	12:00 p.m.	Session Meeting meets in Louviers Room
<b>April 13<sup>th</sup></b>	12:00 p.m.	Session Meeting meets in Louviers Room

### *Funeral Dates*

- Consult the church office (303-660-0057) for an up-to-date schedule of funeral dates

### *Service Ideas*

We will be working on a class service project. Date TBD.

## WHY THIS APPROACH TO CONFIRMATION?

### 4 Reasons Why

Traditional confirmation classes were previously structured akin to school-like settings, emphasizing passive absorption of information through lectures and memorization. However, this approach, though effective in the past, may not be the best strategy for engaging today's youth with the vibrant essence of the Gospel.

#### **Reason #1: The goal of confirmation is to create disciples.**

The upcoming Confirmation Class at our church will deviate from this standard approach for a few compelling reasons. Firstly, our primary aim is to cultivate disciples, not just individuals knowledgeable about Christianity. We aspire to guide them toward a personal relationship with Christ and active participation in the church, providing them with the tools needed to lead a life of discipleship.

#### **Reason #2: Learning is best done through experience.**

Moreover, we believe that learning best occurs through practical involvement. As youth transition into full church membership, we intend to immerse them holistically into the church community, encouraging a personal experience in the disciple's way of life. Our goal is to make Confirmation the beginning of an ongoing, deeper spiritual journey rather than a conclusion.

#### **Reason #3: Faith is communal.**

Recognizing that faith thrives in community, we understand the importance of mentorship. While educational resources have their place in discipleship training, nothing surpasses the guidance and example provided by mature Christian mentors.

#### **Reason #4: Faith isn't about certainty, but the questions.**

Lastly, faith isn't solely about certainty, but about exploring questions and doubts. In our Confirmation process, students are encouraged to delve into their queries about faith and life, as we believe there's room for both belief and uncertainty in the church, echoing the sentiments in Matthew 28:17. Confirmation serves as a secure space for students to explore the depths of their faith journey.

## **The Discipleship Covenant**

What is being asked of Confirmation Class Members?

*In order to make the most of this year's confirmation course, you'll be asked to contribute your unique personality, time, and energy to the learning process. Your commitment will be supported by a dedicated mentor, as outlined in the covenant below.*

**I PROMISE** to support and engage with my mentor in exploring Christ and the Church.

**I PROMISE** to complete the 13 Discipleship Activities before the Discipleship Celebration, offering insight into the Christian life.

**I PROMISE** to attend Encouragement Meetings, engage in conversations about your learning journey, and ensure consistent progress.

**I PROMISE** to join the Discipleship Celebration at New Hope, share experiences with mentors, offer a confession of faith, and, if desired, join the church as a member.

**I PROMISE** to attend the Congregational Reception of Confirmands on Easter Sunday to declare your faith and become a member of New Hope.(See Course Calendar for date)

**I PROMISE** to read the entire Gospel of Luke and note significant passages in your guidebook.

**I PROMISE** to attend worship services and take notes on meaningful aspects during the confirmation experience.

**I PROMISE** to familiarize myself with the Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, and Lord's Prayer.

**I PROMISE** to attend the Confirmation Retreat for deeper exploration of sacraments, creeds, and theological concepts.

*Upon understanding and agreeing to these commitments, kindly sign your name, affirming your dedication to learning about being a disciple of Jesus Christ within the Presbyterian Church (USA).*

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Student Signature

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Mentors Signature

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Date

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Date

## DISCIPLESHIP WORK COMPLETION LOG

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep a running record of all the discipleship work you complete during this course by putting either a check mark in the box or a date on the line as indicated. May God bless you in all of your explorations!

### Chapters of Luke's Gospel Read:

Chap 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 7 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 13 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 19 <input type="checkbox"/>
Chap 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 8 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 14 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 20 <input type="checkbox"/>
Chap 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 9 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 15 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 21 <input type="checkbox"/>
Chap 4 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 10 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 16 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 22 <input type="checkbox"/>
Chap 5 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 11 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 17 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 23 <input type="checkbox"/>
Chap 6 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 12 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 18 <input type="checkbox"/>	Chap 24 <input type="checkbox"/>

### Worship Services Attended: (Try to Attend 4 and record the date)

### Discipleship Activities Completed:

Learning About The Old Testament

### Date Completed:

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Learning About The New Testament

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Learning About Biblical Genre (Encouragement Meeting 1)

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Learning About Church Government (Encouragement Meeting 2)

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Learning About How Others Worship

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Learning About The Christian View of Life & Death

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Learning About Salvation

Learning About Mission

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Learning About Stewardship (Encouragement Meeting 3)

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Learning About Presbyterianism (Encouragement Meeting 4)

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Learning About The Life of Faith in Jesus

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Learning About Spiritual Gifts

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Learning About Christian Worship

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**Documents Turned In:**

Membership Application (Retreat)

**Date Submitted:**

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Personal Statement of Faith (Turn in Copy March 31)

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## **Scripture Reading Notes**

### **The Gospel of Luke**

#### **.....Notes on Chapters 1-3.....**

I found the following verses Interesting (I), Confusing (C), or Helpful (H) because...

One of Jesus' teachings that comes through in this chapter is...

One thing that this passage tells me about God or Jesus is...

One thing from passage that I can apply to my life is...

## **Scripture Reading Notes**

### **The Gospel of Luke**

#### **.....Notes on Chapters 4-6.....**

I found the following verses Interesting (I), Confusing (C), or Helpful (H) because...

One of Jesus' teachings that comes through in this chapter is...

One thing that this passage tells me about God or Jesus is...

One thing from passage that I can apply to my life is...

## **Scripture Reading Notes**

### **The Gospel of Luke**

#### **.....Notes on Chapters 7-9.....**

I found the following verses Interesting (I), Confusing (C), or Helpful (H) because...

One of Jesus' teachings that comes through in this chapter is...

One thing that this passage tells me about God or Jesus is...

One thing from passage that I can apply to my life is...

## **Scripture Reading Notes**

### **The Gospel of Luke**

#### **.....Notes on Chapter 10-12.....**

I found the following verses Interesting (I), Confusing (C), or Helpful (H) because...

One of Jesus' teachings that comes through in this chapter is...

One thing that this passage tells me about God or Jesus is...

One thing from passage that I can apply to my life is...

## **Scripture Reading Notes**

### **The Gospel of Luke**

#### **.....Notes on Chapters 13-15.....**

I found the following verses Interesting (I), Confusing (C), or Helpful (H) because...

One of Jesus' teachings that comes through in this chapter is...

One thing that this passage tells me about God or Jesus is...

One thing from passage that I can apply to my life is...

## **Scripture Reading Notes**

### **The Gospel of Luke**

#### **.....Notes on Chapters 16-18 .....**

I found the following verses Interesting (I), Confusing (C), or Helpful (H) because...

One of Jesus' teachings that comes through in this chapter is...

One thing that this passage tells me about God or Jesus is...

One thing from passage that I can apply to my life is...

## **Scripture Reading Notes**

### **The Gospel of Luke**

#### **.....Notes on Chapters 19-21.....**

I found the following verses Interesting (I), Confusing (C), or Helpful (H) because...

One of Jesus' teachings that comes through in this chapter is...

One thing that this passage tells me about God or Jesus is...

One thing from passage that I can apply to my life is...

## **Scripture Reading Notes**

### **The Gospel of Luke**

#### **.....Notes on Chapters 22-24.....**

I found the following verses Interesting (I), Confusing (C), or Helpful (H) because...

One of Jesus' teachings that comes through in this chapter is...

One thing that this passage tells me about God or Jesus is...

One thing from passage that I can apply to my life is...

## **Gospel of Luke Overview**

(To be completed by youth by the end of the course)

*Having read the whole Gospel of Luke I have the following thoughts:*

I have come to appreciate the following qualities in Jesus..

The most disturbing or puzzling part of the whole Gospel for me was... because...

The people in the Gospel stories I most identified with were... because...

The teaching of Jesus recorded in this Gospel that means the most to me is...

Other thoughts:

## WORSHIP NOTES

Date of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture Reading(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Preacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

*Message I got from Sermon:*

*Things I found Interesting, Confusing or Inspiring:*

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Date of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture Reading(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Preacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Message I got from Sermon:*

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*Things I found Interesting, Confusing or Inspiring:*

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## DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY

### Learning About the Old Testament

1. Many Christians differ on how they understand the creation story in Genesis 1-3. Do you believe that this story is:
  - a. *Literal History* - the actual way that the world and humanity came into being - or is it -
  - b. *Allegorical Truth* - a story which captures mysteries too big for the human mind to comprehend - or is it -
  - c. Some Combination of History & Allegory - or is it -
  - d. *Pure Fantasy* - a myth having a little real value anymore?

On what do you base your belief? Do you think it matters what we believe about the Genesis story?

2. The Old Testament is a collection of 39 separate books, each telling its own story about how God has attempted to communicate his personality and purposes to the world. These books can be split up into the books of Law, History, Poetry, and Prophets. Without cheating, place each book of the old testament under one of these titles.

Law:

Poetry:

History:

Prophets:

How did your guesses differ from the real answers? (Quick Google Search will give you the books of each)

3. **Watch the video with Rachel Held Evans on Old Testament and New Testament**, which can be found on our website – Youth - Confirmation. After, discuss this question: For Rachel, God's presence in the difficult stories of the Bible reveals the depth of God's love for humanity. In what ways do you see God's love playing out in the stories of war and slavery and murder that are part of the Old Testament?
4. What stories from the Old Testament don't sit well with you? What stories of the Old Testament are meaningful to you?

End your time in prayer.

## DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY

### Learning About the New Testament

1. Working on your own, or by dividing up the questions, see if you and your partner can each come up with answers to the following quiz:
  - a. What does the word “Gospel” mean?
  - b. How many gospels are there?
  - c. Which book was written to a man named Theophilus?
  - d. Which book is the hardest for you to pronounce?
  - e. Which book begins with the words: “In the beginning was the Word...”
  - f. Who wrote the book of Revelation?
2. Although it is all contained within one cover, the New Testament is actually a collection of many books. Each of these books is one of 5 kinds of literature:
  - a. *Biography (Gospels)* - the story of someone’s life.
  - b. *Church History* - the story of the growth of the church.
  - c. *General Letters* - an open letter to the people of a certain town.
  - d. *Paul’s Epistles* - a personal letter to the people of a certain town or church.
  - e. *Apocalyptic/Prophecy Material* - figurative or poetic descriptions of truths about the final days of the world.

Based on this idea, try to figure out which kind of literature each of the following books is. You may work separately or as a team. Circle the appropriate letter.

<i>Matthew</i>	a-b-c-d-e	<i>1 &amp; 2 Timothy</i>	a-b-c-d-e
<i>Mark</i>	a-b-c-d-e	<i>Titus</i>	a-b-c-d-e
<i>Luke</i>	a-b-c-d-e	<i>Philemon</i>	a-b-c-d-e
<i>John</i>	a-b-c-d-e	<i>Hebrews</i>	a-b-c-d-e
		<i>James</i>	a-b-c-d-e
<i>Acts</i>	a-b-c-d-e	<i>1 &amp; 2 Peter</i>	a-b-c-d-e
		<i>1, 2 &amp; 3 John</i>	a-b-c-d-e
<i>Romans</i>	a-b-c-d-e	<i>Jude</i>	a-b-c-d-e
<i>1 &amp; 2 Corinthians</i>	a-b-c-d-e		
<i>Galatians</i>	a-b-c-d-e	<i>Revelation</i>	a-b-c-d-e
<i>Ephesians</i>	a-b-c-d-e		
<i>Philippians</i>	a-b-c-d-e		
<i>Colossians</i>	a-b-c-d-e	Do you notice any patterns here?	
<i>1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians</i>	a-b-c-d-e	Can you find the 1 exception to the pattern?	

3. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and Romans 3:9-20. Jesus and Paul repeatedly refer to the Old Testament. What does their high view of the Hebrew Bible tell us about the way we ought to approach it with the New Testament?

End your time with Prayer.

## DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY

### Learning About Biblical Genre (Encouragement Meeting 1)

1. Watch the video by Jose Morales on our website – Youth - Confirmation. Have you had the experience of feeling out of step with the Bible? Like the rhythm is off and you can't seem to get the beat? How do you deal with that?
2. Jose points out that we are comfortable with the concept of genre in our music, movies, and literature. So why do we sometimes wrestle with the idea that the Bible is filled with different styles of writing?
3. Read the story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9) as history, now read it again as allegory. How do the implications of the story change when you shift genres?
4. We're naturally drawn to certain types of music. The same is true with the Bible. Which types are you drawn to? Circle those that you are attracted to:

## Law

## History

## Poetry

## Prophets

## Gospels

## Letters

## Apocalv

End your time in prayer.

## DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY

### Learning About Church Government (Polity) (Encouragement Meeting 2)

Attend at least one full hour of a “Session” meeting together during the next few months. The Session is the governing body that oversees all the ministries of our church. See the [Course Calendar](#) to find out when the Session is scheduled to meet. Here are some things to know before you attend the Session meeting.

- Our church is governed by 12 elders.
- Each of these elders is elected by the members of the church.
- Each elder serves on the Session for 3 years.
- All of the pastors are permanent members of the Session.

1. Slip out of the meeting after an hour or so. Spend some time together afterwards talking about your impressions of what you saw there.
  - a. What was interesting to you?
  - b. What sorts of decisions was the Session trying to make?
  - c. Were you surprised by anything you saw or heard?
  - d. What other thoughts or questions did the meeting raise for you about the way our church is governed?
2. Once you are a member of the church, you will be entitled to serve on almost any committee or commission you like. In most cases, all you need to do is tell one of the pastors you'd like to volunteer. To become an elder or a deacon, then you must also be elected by the congregation. If you could be a part of any mission or ministry at New Hope which one would it be? Write down your answer below:

End your time in prayer.

**DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY**  
**Learning About How Others Worship**

Do a quick Google search for churches in your area. Once you find a church you would like to attend a worship service find their worship service times on their website.

Make a date with your partner to attend the worship service of one of the following religious groups:

- a. Assembly of God (or Pentecostal- The Rock church qualifies)
- b. Jewish (Synagogue)
- c. Greek or Russian Orthodox
- d. Roman Catholic

Attend the service, dressed nicely, and showing respect for the religious traditions of someone else. If asked what you are doing there, don't be embarrassed to say that you are Presbyterian and going through confirmation, one of the exercises is to gain an appreciation for someone else's tradition.

1. After the service is over, spend a few minutes together talking about what you observed.
  - a. What parts of the service were most stimulating, interesting, or inspiring?
  - b. What parts were hardest to follow or understand?
  - c. How was the service similar and different to what our church does in worship?
  - d. What did you think of the music?
  - e. What role did symbolism play in the sanctuary and service?
  - f. How much congregational participation was there?
  - g. How tuned in was the service to visitors/strangers?
  - h. What sorts of ideas about God were advanced through the service?

End your time in prayer.

**DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY**  
**Learning About the Christian View of Life & Death**

Set a time and date to attend together a funeral or memorial service held in a church building (not a funeral home). If the pastors of our church can't tell you when a service is to be held in our church, then go to one at another church. You can find out when one of these is going to be held by looking in the newspaper under the "Obituary" listings. These announcements will usually tell you where and when a service is to be held.

When you attend this service, be sure to dress in dark clothes, sit quietly towards the back of the sanctuary, and demonstrate by your attitude that you have real respect for the seriousness of this occasion and the pain of the people who have lost a loved one.

1. After the service is over, spend some time talking together about what you saw.
  - a. Where was God at this service?
  - b. What message did this service give about God's nature, power, and purpose?
  - c. What message did it give about how Christian's view life?
  - d. About how they view death?
  - e. What else did the service tell you about Christian beliefs and attitudes?

End in Prayer.

## DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY

### Learning About Salvation

On our website got to Youth – Confirmation to find the video titled: “Salvation with Shane Hipps” watch that and go through these questions together.

1. When you think of salvation, do you think of it as being saved *from* something or *to* something?
2. How does our sense of salvation influence the decisions we make, the life we live now?
3. Read John 14:5-6 what does it mean that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life? How does that fit in with what Shane was talking about of Salvation?
4. Have you ever had those moments of feeling your salvation? Like Shane and his moment with his dad, when things felt perfect and right? Share your experience with one another

**DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY**  
**Learning About Mission**

1. Mission means literally “sent”. Before he left earth, Jesus said to his disciples: “*As the Father has sent me, so I send you!*” (John 17:18) Because of this, Christians since the first century A. D. have always made the mission of offering forgiveness, hope, and love to the needy a very high priority of its life. When was the last time you were a “mission-ary”?

Consult the Course Calendar in this guidebook or the church office to get information about mission activities of our church, or of a local mission or volunteer opportunity within our community, in which you might get involved. Spend at least 2 hours volunteering with your partner at a local service-oriented ministry or event. Hours spent in youth-sponsored Mission events may be counted towards this goal.

2. After you have done this, spend a few minutes together discussing the following questions:
  - a. Why is the church/community involved here?
  - b. What is it accomplishing?
  - c. What does it have to do with Jesus Christ and his teachings?

End your time in prayer.

**DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY**  
**Learning About Stewardship (Encouragement Meeting 3)**

1. Take a minute or two for each of you to jot down below a definition of “stewardship” in your own words.
  
  
  
2. Now google the definition. Write it down below.
  
  
  
3. Each of you look up a set of the following Biblical passages and try to figure out what each of them has to do with the subject of stewardship. Jot down your thoughts on each. Then describe each of your passages to your partner and tell him/her what you think each is saying about stewardship.

Genesis 1:27-31

Genesis 2:8-15

Genesis 28:22

Matthew 25:14-30

Matthew 6:19-24

Luke 12:13-21

Luke 21:1-4

Luke 12:48

4. Someone once said that there are five reasons to give for those who call themselves Christians. By putting a number in each of the blanks, rank these reasons in the order of importance you think they should have. Work by yourself. Then tell your partner which reasons made your personal “Top Two” and why.

(  ) We give because Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, was willing to give up even his life for us.  
(  ) We give because all that we have is God’s and is only on loan to us.  
(  ) We give because the Bible clearly tells us to do so.  
(  ) We give as a statement of trust and faith in God to provide for our needs.  
(  ) We give because God is looking for avenues through which he can pour out his blessings to a very needy world, and the church is his chosen method for meeting those needs.

End your time with prayer.

# DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY

## Learning About Presbyterianism (Encouragement Meeting 4)

We will watch a video about the summary of the Presbyterian Church and what it means to be Presbyterian (or Reformed).

1. What seems confusing or strange to you about Presbyterianism?
2. List a few things that you learned about being Presbyterian that you didn't know before.
3. Write down in your own words, "What I like about the Presbyterian tradition".
4. Identify two questions that you have about what Presbyterians believe or do.

### Question 1:

## Question 2:

End your time with prayer.

## DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY

### Learning About The Life of Faith in Jesus

Watch “Mark Scandrette Life of Faith in Jesus” on our website – Youth - Confirmation.

Jesus said: “I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). It was this vision for an abundant life that drew the original disciples and helped to form the early church. For this reason, we continually seek to model our lives as Christians and as a Church, after the example set by Christ and his early band of followers.

1. Jesus said and did plenty of strange things in his life. Which stories stick with you? What was at stake for Jesus when he did those things?

**Key Point:** All of us have personal needs. The need for intellectual stimulation, understanding, and insight lead us to seek **education**. The need for close, intimate relationships, support, fun and encouragement leads us to seek **fellowship**. The need for a relationship with our Creator, inspiration for daily living, and a chance to express our deepest longings, joys, and hurts leads us to **worship**. And the need to use our resources (time, talents, and treasure) in a way that gives our life satisfaction, significance, and a legacy beyond our days lead us to **ministry & evangelism**.

3. Can you find these 5 ‘spiritual foods’ (education, fellowship, worship, ministry & evangelism) which nurture Christian faith and life in the following activities of the church.

\_\_\_\_\_ ‘devoted themselves to the apostles teaching’  
\_\_\_\_\_ ‘devoted themselves to the fellowship’  
\_\_\_\_\_ ‘they broke bread in their homes and ate together’  
\_\_\_\_\_ ‘they devoted themselves to prayer’  
\_\_\_\_\_ ‘praising God with glad and sincere hearts’  
\_\_\_\_\_ ‘continued to meet together in temple courts’  
\_\_\_\_\_ ‘had everything in common...selling their possessions & goods, they gave to the needy’

Jesus understands those needs and has called us to life within a community of faith that feeds our hunger. Our church’s life is patterned after Christ’s vision. As a member of the Body of Christ we are called to serve so that we may become a movement of radical love in this world.

End your time in prayer.

**DISCIPLESHIP-ACTIVITY**  
**Learning About Spiritual Gifts**

1. Read through I Peter 2:4-9. What do you think that Peter means by calling you “a holy priesthood”? Aren’t the people who wear collars on Sundays (the ones we call ‘Reverend’ or ‘Father’) the only real ‘priests’ in the Christian faith? Why or why not?
2. Read through Acts 1:1-8 aloud. What does Jesus promise that his disciples will receive? What do you think that this gift is for?
3. Read Romans 12:1-13 and I Corinthians 12:1-11. What are four things that these passages are saying about spiritual gifts?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.

Find the link to a spiritual gifts test on our confirmation page on our website.

End your time with prayer.

## **WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?**

### **Writing Your Personal Statement of Faith**

#### **Introduction**

Although an active Christian life will involve regular participation in worship, education, fellowship, and service, the only real requirement of membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a willingness to publicly confess him as your Lord and Savior. You will be given the opportunity to do this soon before the church elders, at which time you will read a Statement of Faith you have prepared in advance. A Statement of Faith is:

- a personal statement of religious belief
- a summary of ideas about God and the church that are important to you
- a document by which you declare your loyalty to Christ and to his family, the Church.

#### **Step One**

Using the first side of the attached form, write out a page of personal reflections on the phrase *“To me, Jesus Christ is...”* Some of the sorts of thoughts you may wish to include are:

- who Jesus is to you
- how you've seen him at work already in your life
- what qualities or actions you admire in him
- what role you want him to play in your life from now on
- how significant he is to the world and to the problems the world faces.
- how Jesus moves you to put your faith in action (give an example)

#### **Step Two**

Using the second side of the attached form, write out a page of personal reflections on the phrase *“To me, the Church of Jesus Christ and membership in it means...”* Some of the sorts of thoughts you may wish to include in this essay are:

- how it feels to you to be becoming a full member of Christ's family
- what role you hope the church will play in your life from now on
- what you hope you'll be able to contribute to the church
- how important the church is to the problems and challenges of our world.

#### **Step Three**

When you have finished both essays, sign your name and date the document in the spaces provided. Then put a check mark next to the statement that indicates whether you wish to join the church right now or not. Once you have done this, turn the document in to the class teacher.

May God bless you as you declare your faith to the world!

**HERE I STAND:**  
**My Personal Statement of Faith Form**

*To me, Jesus Christ is...*

*To me, the Church of Jesus Christ and membership in it means...*

*This is my statement of faith.-----*

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My Signature

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Date

Please check one:

Yes, I want to join the church  
 No, I do not wish to join right now