My Christian Faith

Response Book
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Introduction

My Christian Faith

Lost and Found

[Jesus said,] "What woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 15:8–10

Share with your group a time when you were younger and became lost.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
How did you feel when you first realized you were lost?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
In what way are people who don’t know Jesus “lost”?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
In the parable that Jesus told, the woman is like God. How does God feel about lost people and what has He done to find them?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

The Shepherd and His sheep

[Jesus said,] “I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep” (John 10:14–15).

Use a drawing app or paper and markers to draw a poster picture of this Bible passage. Be sure to include in your illustration the Father, the Shepherd (Jesus) and yourself, one of His sheep.

God’s People Make Choices

These people faced real life situations that called on them to make tough decisions. Choose one of the passages listed and answer the following questions for the situation the people faced.

Joseph
Genesis 39:5–10
Rahab
Joshua 2:1–7, Hebrews 11:31
Daniel
Daniel 6:6–10
Andrew, Peter, James, and John
Matthew 4:18–22
Paul and Silas

1. What choice did the follower of God face?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

2. How did his or her faith in God influence his or her decision?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

3. What did he or she decide to do?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

4. How did it turn out in the end?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Time for Reflection

Complete the following information about yourself. Then respond to the questions about your Christian faith right now. You may want to refer to what you have written sometime in the future.

The Growing Family

• Interview your parent or parents using the questions on the Activity Sheet. Sign and date on the spaces provided after completing your interview. Keep this sheet with your Response Book to reflect upon in the future.

• Ask your parents to tell you their goals for your participation in this confirmation study program. Consider together, How will we know one year from now that this confirmation program has been a success? With your parents, establish one or two goals to share with the pastor by the next session.

• Ask your parents to tell you what their relationship with Jesus Christ means to them in their daily lives. Tell your parents what being a follower of Jesus means to you.

2. How did his or her faith in God influence his or her decision?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

3. What did he or she decide to do?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

4. How did it turn out in the end?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Time for Reflection

Complete the following information about yourself. Then respond to the questions about your Christian faith right now. You may want to refer to what you have written sometime in the future.
Name: ________________________________________ Age: __________

Church affiliation ______________________________________________________
Pastor: __________________________________________________________________
Others in your class: ______________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

In what ways is your Christian faith important to you?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
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What plans do you have for your personal relationship with Jesus Christ in the future?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Write a prayer, thanking God for the gift of faith that He has given you. Sign and date what you have written.
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

2

Priority One

The First Commandment

By Faith We Belong to God

Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. John 20:29–31

What Do We Believe?

It was Saturday. Jake and Antheis sat waiting for the rehearsal to begin. Tomorrow their spring community concert would be held in this church—St. John Lutheran—the biggest Lutheran church in the city. As they sat admiring the size and beauty of the new structure, Andy walked over and sat by them. Several minutes later, he joined in their conversation by asking the question, “What do Lutherans believe?” If you were Jake or Antheis, how would you answer Andy’s question?

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
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____________________________________________________________________________

With My Mentor

• Ask your mentor for a favorite Bible passage that helps him or her understand the heart of the Christian faith. What passage best explains the way of salvation and offers words to live by?

• Ask your mentor to share with you a recent major decision. Ask him or her to share how faith in Christ helped influence the decision and how he or she felt after the decision was made. Talk about how a strong and informed faith helps a Christian make tough decisions.
Two Young Lives

Ama Wowana trusts in Jesus as her Savior, and though she is sometimes afraid, she feels she has to do what she knows to be right. Though the political majority in her country has succeeded in passing laws that persecute Christians, Ama refuses to hide what Jesus means to her. Ama knows that refusing to keep her faith a secret could disqualify her from many privileges including the field of study she would most like to pursue for a career. Ama and her Christian friends face their situation confidently.

Regularly, they meet together to praise and worship Jesus for living, dying, and living again for them. Together they find comfort, direction, and encouragement through their study of God’s Word and in their conversations with one another about how God is working in their individual lives. Ironically, the group of Christians in their country is thriving under persecution.

Though the same age as Ama, most everything about Brian is different from Ama. Brian lives in New York, on the other side of the globe from Ama’s home. Here everyone is free to worship as he or she pleases.

Brian’s family members have been Christians for many generations. Though he was brought up in the church, these days Brian attends church infrequently. He usually goes to church with his family just to carry on a Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving tradition.

Brian always identifies himself as a Lutheran when asked about his religious affiliation, but he doesn’t think much about the faith into which he was confirmed. Only when he fears the possibility of something dreadful happening does he pray. “Jesus is something for little kids to believe in,” Brian once said to a friend.

For Reflection

1. Contrast the blessings God has given Ama with those He has given to Brian.

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

2. The Christian church often thrives during times of persecution. Why do you think this is true?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

The Growing Family

• With your family reflect upon the commandment, “You shall have no other gods.” Share what Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection mean for you. Talk about the ways you, either individually or as a family, can show your desire to “fear, love, and trust in God above all things.”

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.
What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Here I Stand!

On an afternoon in April 1521, Martin Luther, respected pastor and teacher, stood in the middle of the great castle hall at Worms, Germany. In his many writings, Luther had criticized the leaders of the church for their mistaken views. He insisted that God’s Word was reliable: we are saved by God’s grace alone, because of Christ’s death and resurrection. Some people, however, taught that true faith was not enough: people must also work for their salvation, to make certain that God’s forgiveness is complete.

The emperor demanded once more. “Do you wish to recall and retract your books and all the errors of your teachings?”

Luther realized the serious nature of his situation. His next words were critical. In the past, men and women had been killed for their refusal to follow the authority of the church.

“Since you ask for a simple answer, I will give it: Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures … I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.”

God had made Luther’s faith strong enough for him to risk everything for
Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:21–24

In a conversation with the Samaritan woman, Jesus teaches about His heavenly Father and true worship. What does it mean to “worship [the Father] in spirit and truth”? Complete the statement “Worship is …”

A Name and Time for God

In Spirit and in Truth

With My Mentor

• Interview your mentor about ways he or she shows God to be “priority 1” in his or her daily life—at home and on the job.
• Contact your mentor by phone to encourage him or her in the desire to live the Christian faith. Pray with him or her over the phone, thanking God for His blessings and asking for His strength and power to help both of you to fear, love, and trust in Him above all things.

Name: __________________  Date: ___________________