



———— HOLY CROSS ————

Foundations

INTRO SESSION WORKSHEET

1. What two books serve the Evangelical Lutheran Church and Holy Cross as the source for learning about God?
2. The “benefits of partnership,” that is, what we hope happens in the lives of our partners (members) are known as what?
3. Where in the Bible does Holy Cross get the idea of calling its members “partners?”
4. Our first desired outcome for our partners is **M**_____ **C**_____.
5. By His very nature, our God is a **S**_____ God.
6. Our second desired outcome for our partners is **S**_____ **F**_____.
7. Galatians 2:20 tells us an amazing reality. Paul says, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is not longer ____ who live, but _____ who lives in me.”
8. Our third desired outcome for our partners is Baptismal **V**_____ **D**_____.
9. God calls and works **t**_____ us to take care of His world.
10. What are the different “hats” that you wear in living out your vocation (calling) from God?



Table Talk Discussions

INTRO SESSION

Missional Commitment

1. What do you think most new church members would say when told, "You are now a part of God's mission to reach lost people"?
2. Pastor Merino said, "I believe unbelievers are afraid to talk to pastors." Do you agree?
3. Do you agree with Chad Van Meter's statement, "Everyday Christians don't feel worthy enough to be missionaries."?
4. Pastor Merino said that, "Even babies are commissioned to be missionaries." Has anyone told you this before?

Vocational Discovery

1. Can changing be a sacred act done for God?
2. How can being "results oriented" hinder our work for Jesus?
3. How does a person take risks for God?

Spiritual Formation

1. "It's the stuff you hate, that makes you grow as a Christian." What do you think?
2. "Growth for the Christian is not optional". Do you agree?

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LORD'S PRAYER WORKSHEET

1. What important lesson about prayer do we learn about from Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane ? (Hint: Check out Matthew 26:39,42).

2. The opening petition of the Lord's Prayer – Our Father – binds or connects us in two directions . . . it connects us to _____ (hint: *Our FATHER*) and it connects us to _____ (hint: *OUR Father*).

3. Missional Commitment involves centrifugal living, that is, being pushed outward into the world to be involved in God's mission. How does Luther's explanations to the second, third and fourth petitions of the Lord's Prayer explain our relationship to God's mission?

4. When we can turn to God and acknowledge Him as the source for every blessing in our lives, then we are on the road to *what*?



Table Talk Discussions

LORD'S PRAYER

1. God commands prayer and promises to answer. Could this change the mind of a person who hasn't tried prayer?
2. "If you know your needs, you will pray." Do you agree or disagree?
3. Do you think people generally forget to pray or would rather do life on their own?
4. Desperate. Do most people feel this way about themselves and their lives?
5. Prayer does work. God answers all prayer. If this is true, then what is the problem?
6. Why is praying out loud with your voice so important?

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APOSTLES' CREED WORKSHEET

1. What are the three ecumenical creeds and special times they are used in Christian worship?
2. "Trinity," though not a Biblical word, describes what Biblical teaching about the essence of God?
3. If the three members of the Holy Trinity put on a play, what roles would they play?
4. What three realities about Jesus Christ are depicted in Pastor Ahlersmeyer's diagram of Jesus?
5. When Jesus died on Calvary's cross did God die? If so, how come? If not, why not?
6. What is the relationship between the Apostles' Creed and missional living?



Table Talk Discussions

APOSTLES' CREED

1. How would you define spirituality? Do you think it is the same or different than Christianity?
2. God the Holy Trinity is a God who saves. How is this different than other religions?
3. What is the connection between faith and feelings?
4. Why do think most churches are not very accepting? What could be done about it?
5. "No performance review" How was this term used to explain the grace of God?



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BAPTISM WORKSHEET

1. God can be found in a number of different ways. What are the three ways Lutheran Christians believe we find God or, better still, God finds us?
2. How does the architecture of a Lutheran church reinforce the three ways that God finds us?
3. Traditional reasons used to support infant Baptism are (a) infants are included in the “all nations” of Matthew 28:19 supported by Acts 2:38-39; (b) Jesus especially invites infants to come to Him in Luke 18:15-17; and (c) Ephesians 2:3 and John 3:5-6 teach that infants are sinners and thus in need of what Baptism offers. What additional reasons does Pastor Ahlersmeyer provide for believing in the power of infant Baptism?
4. In describing what is accomplished in our life through Baptism, Romans 6:3ff. uses a great deal of *passive* language. Please describe the significance passive language for our faith life.
5. Romans 6:4 tells us that Baptism connects us with the **D**_____ and **R**_____ of Jesus Christ.
6. What word picture does Paul use in Romans 6:5 to describe how Baptism *unites* us with Jesus’ death and resurrection?
7. The “Baptismal pattern” of life, begun in our Baptismal union with Jesus Christ, is a pattern of **D**_____ and **R**_____.
8. To remember our Baptism means to realize that something that happened years ago in another location – then and there – has ongoing power in my life **H**_____ and **N**_____.



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TEN COMMANDMENTS WORKSHEET

1. We don't keep the Ten Commandments in order to gain God's A_____. We strive to live by the Ten Commandments because through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we already have God's A_____ and the gift of H_____.
2. After Saul (Paul) is converted to Christianity, he asks the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ a very important question in Acts 22:10 – “What shall I do, Lord?” What does that say about the role of the Ten Commandments in a Christian's life?
3. How do the Ten Commandments function as a “protective fence” in our lives?
4. The pattern of the Ten Commandments is *don't do//do . . . put off//put on . . . dying//living*. In other words, we have been saved F_____ sin-death-devil's power and F_____ righteous living that glorifies God and serves others. Luther caught this pattern found in Ephesians 4 and incorporates it into his explanation of the commandments. For example, his explanation to the eighth commandments says, “We should fear and love God so that we **do not** tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, **but defend** him, **speak well** of him, and **explain everything in the kindest way**.”
5. What one rule sums up the Ten Commandments?
6. Of what does Luther's “Table of Duties” in the Small Catechism remind us?

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Table Talk Discussions

TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Why does God seem "mean" in the Old Testament?

2. Why does Pastor Merino believe we should read the Old Testament?



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HOLY COMMUNION WORKSHEET

1. In what three ways does the Bible understand the word “communion?”
2. What Christian group believes you receive only bread and wine (grape juice) when receiving the Lord’s Supper? Which group believes you receive only body (and blood)?
3. Lutherans accept the apparent contradiction in believing that we receive **both** bread and wine **and** Christ’s body and blood. What two other “both/and” beliefs are mentioned in the video?
4. The belief that you receive only bread and wine (grape juice) in Holy Communion is called the **S**____ position. The belief that you receive only body and blood is called **T**____. The Lutheran position is called **R**____ **P**_____.
5. On the basis of what Bible passage from Paul does the Lutheran Church draw its conclusion about what is received in Holy Communion?
6. The *key thing* to remember about Holy Communion is that we hear and taste what from God?
7. When Jesus says to receive His supper (Holy Communion) “**in remembrance of me,**” He allows us to participate in history as though we are there. What happened in the past – **T**_____ and **T**_____ -- is real and alive. We are participating in it **H**_____ and **N**_____.
8. Holy Communion allows us to respond how to the old gospel hymn, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?”



Table Talk Discussions

HOLY COMMUNION

1. Although neither Pastor nor Chad could explain the mystery of the Lord's Supper, they still believe it is important. Why?
2. How can attending church and receiving the Lord's Supper be compared to what you had for lunch five days ago?
3. Rhythm and re-set. What does Chad mean by this?
4. How can attending a church be compared to driving a car or flying a plane?



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CONFESSION WORKSHEET

1. What happens in worship that perhaps is the most honest activity in the world?
2. What are the most powerful words that can be spoken on our planet?
3. How dare the pastor presume to forgive sins? Isn't that God's job?
4. According to *Forgive and Forget: Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve* by Lewis Smedes, forgiveness heals our **P**_____, changes our **P**_____ and opens up our **F**_____. Through forgiveness, Christ accomplishes **S**_____.
F_____ in our lives.
5. Forgiveness helps us to remember God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ, thus taking us to calvary's cross_____. Forgiveness also involves **F**_____, freeing us from the past so that we don't have to relive our sins over and over again.
6. Holy Cross considers our connectedness to one another and God to be very important. Christ is formed in our lives as we acknowledge that God created us to live in **C**_____. In that **C**_____ we discover who we are and what we can become in **J**_____ **C**_____.



Table Talk Discussions

CONFESSION & CLOSING THOUGHTS

Confession

1. Do you think confession is necessary? Why or why not?

2. What does Chad mean when he says, "You keep running into yourself?"

Closing Thoughts

1. Chad and the Pastors gave advice on the best way to grow. Which way fits you the best?