

Topic 1: What is Christianity?

*Christianity is the life and salvation God has given
in and through Jesus Christ.*

1. People believe in many approaches to salvation. What are the basic two approaches?
2. The Bible uses words in special ways. What is meant by the word “life” in John 14:6 and 17:3?

Topic 2: What is Christianity?

*God wants to save every person by Jesus Christ through faith.
(Justification by Grace through Faith)*

1. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What are you expected to contribute to your salvation?

What does Ephesians 2:10 say about our efforts?

2. What do John 3:16 and 1 Timothy 2:4 say about who can be saved?

Why aren't all saved?

3. A “Reformation Christian” (Lutheran) lives by the 5 Solas. What are they?

Topic 3: The Bible

The Bible is the cradle that holds the Christ.

1. How can we miss the main message of the Bible?
2. Generally it is good to read any piece of literature on its own terms, that is, according to the standards it suggests. What does the Bible say about itself?
3. In addition to the Main Character of the Bible what is its main message?

Topic 4: The Bible

The Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and is therefore God's inerrant Word.

1. What does "inspired by the Holy Spirit" mean?
2. How can we say that the Bible is "inerrant," that is, without error?

Topic 5: The Holy Trinity

The only true God is the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct Persons in one Divine Being.

1. Christianity is one of three major monotheistic religions of the world. Please name the other two.
2. Using the root word "theist" (god), please write the words for belief in (a) no god, and (b) many gods.
3. Please diagram and explain the "Godly teamwork" that goes on among the three persons of the Holy Trinity.

Topic 6: The Holy Trinity

Our Father God gives us all that we need to sustain physical and spiritual life.

1. What is a creed?
2. What are the names of the three "Ecumenical Creeds" and how do we use these three creeds?
3. Please name a symbol used to represent each of the Persons of the Holy Trinity.

Topic 7: Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father, from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary.

1. Please reproduce the diagram used during this session and write out the three important truths we should understand about Jesus Christ. (You may use a single sentence for each truth.)

Topic 8: Jesus Christ and the "Great Exchange"

1. What "great exchange" takes place when Jesus dies on the cross?
2. Since Jesus died once and for all for our sins, why do we have to continually go to church and hear about our sins and God's grace (undeserved love)?

Topic 9: Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit brings us to faith and empower us to lead godly lives

1. What role does each person of the Holy Trinity play in the drama of life?
2. What classic words did Martin Luther write to explain the work and power of the Holy Spirit?
3. In the final hours of His earthly ministry, what did Jesus Christ say about the Holy Spirit? (Hint: see John 14:26; 15:26; 16:14)

Topic 10: The Power of the Holy Spirit

The Gospel is the means by which the Holy Spirit offers us all the blessings of Christ and creates faith in us.

1. What is the Bible's "dynamite" passage? Why?
2. Why can't someone be saved who sins against the Holy Spirit?

Topic 11: The Guide for Christian Decision-Making

God's Law teaches Christians what we should and should not do to lead God-pleasing lives.

1. What does God's Law teach and do?
2. Please identify and explain the three ways God's Law works?

Topic 12: The Power for Christian Decision-Making

*The power to live according to God's Law
comes from the Gospel.*

1. Must you be a Christian in order to live a good life?
2. From where does the power come to live the Christian life?

Topic 13: The Bible

**We should gladly hear, learn, and
meditate on God's Word.**

1. What is the Bible?
2. Why do we have a Bible?
3. What claim does the Bible make about itself?
4. What is the proper and improper way for our minds to explore the Bible?
5. What are good strategies for learning more about the Bible?

Topic 14: The Means of Grace

A sacrament is a sacred act (a) instituted by God, (b) in which God Himself has joined His Word of promise to a visible element, and (c) by which He offers, gives, and seals the forgiveness of sins earned by Christ.

1. A "sacrament" has what three components?
2. Based on the definition in #1, what are the sacraments of the Lutheran Church?
3. Why are the sacraments so important?
4. Why are the Bible and the Sacraments called "the means of grace?"

Topic 15: Holy Baptism

*In Baptism, God the Holy Trinity receives us
into fellowship with Himself.*

1. Why is Baptism a sacrament?
2. What is the significance of baptism "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?"

Topic 16: The Power of our Baptism

*By Baptism, we have been made to share
in Christ's death and resurrection.*

What are important truths about Baptism that Paul teaches us in Romans 6:3-14? Fill in the following blanks.

1. Baptism is something _____ does, not us! (vs. 3,4,5,6)
2. Baptism _____ us on to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (v. 5)
3. Our death with Jesus frees us from _____ (vs. 6-7).
4. Our freedom from sin gives us _____ to change the way we think (v. 11) and act (v. 13).
5. We live by _____ (v. 14).

Topic 17: Holy Communion

***Holy Communion is the true body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ
in, with and under the bread and wine.***

1. Holy Communion has several names. What are they?
2. What was special about the Old Testament feast Jesus Christ was celebrating when He established Holy Communion?
3. On the basis of 1 Corinthians 11:23-29, explain the three primary Christian views of Holy Communion and which one most closely sticks to the Bible.

Topic 18: The Power of Holy Communion

***Holy Communion gives us (a) forgiveness of sins,
(b) victory for the new life, and (c) opportunity
for publicly declaring our faith.***

1. What is the main reason for receiving Holy Communion?
2. How can we say that Holy Communion gives us "victory for the new life" in Jesus Christ?
3. Isn't Holy Communion between God and me? Why is it a public act of declaring our faith?

Topic 19: Prayer

We should pray (a) in the name of Jesus, (b) with confidence, and (c) according to God's revealed will.

1. What is prayer and why should it be part of our daily lives?
2. What does it mean to pray "in the name of Jesus?"
3. How can we pray with confidence when we know that we sometimes receive a "no" answer?
4. How do we know what God's will is?

Topic 20: The Ingredients for a Church

The Church is found where the Gospel is proclaimed purely and the Sacraments are administered according to the pure Gospel. The Church consists of believers (a) cleansed by the blood of Christ, and (b) serving Christ with holy living.

1. What are the "building materials" God uses to construct, maintain and grow His Church?
2. How does the architecture of a sanctuary show what that church values? What do Lutheran churches value?
3. How does the Bible use the word "saint"? According to that definition, are you a "saint?"
4. What does it mean when Pastor Ahlersmeyer says that you have been made "good for something"?