

Connection Times

General Flow of each Connection Time:

Life Check-in

Both share the highs and lows of your week/month/since last time you met.

Prayer for things in life

Base this prayer on the conversation you just had. Don't start the habit of you always being the one to pray. Invite your youth to lead the prayer sometimes or to simply add-on to your prayer.

Session Topic

Please cover the topics listed below, in any order (except confidentiality for the first one). If you want other topics, or other questions come up, feel free to talk with Pr. Laura

Ministry check-in

Ups and downs of their ministry opportunities in the church

Upcoming challenges (in life and faith)

Talk about any challenges they might see coming down the road. Faith and life challenges are appropriate here. Talk about yours as well!

Prayer for those challenges

Again, be careful of setting the precedent of you being the pray-er and your youth listening. Get them actively involved in prayer as well as conversation.

Connection Time Topics

First Session Topic:

Confidentiality

Other topics when they seem appropriate:

Membership responsibilities

Voting

Giving of our Time, Talents, Possessions

Rite of Affirmation of Baptism

Talking about the promises to be made

My Life in Christ

What discipleship is all about

You may find this takes two Connection Times

Confidentiality

Objective: To reach an understanding about what confidentiality is and how you will be utilizing it in your time together.

Talking Points:

Define "confidentiality" together.

Remember to iterate these things:

- They may talk with their parents about ANYTHING that you talk about in your Connection Times.
- You will not tell ANYONE about the conversation you have during your Connection Times.
- The only time you will disregard confidentiality is when you think or know that your mentoree is thinking of harming him/herself or others.

Membership Responsibilities

Objective: During this topic, you will want to focus on some aspects of what it means to be part of our family.

Talking Points:

You may want to start by talking about responsibilities they have in their families (i.e. Chores), sports, school, etc.

Then, you can work your way into the concepts of responsibility in our congregation:

Voting

Giving (Time, Talents, Possessions)

You may also want to talk about how it is that Giving is part of what it means to be a disciple. That we give in response to the goodness that God shows to us. It is part of our spiritual growth.

Finally, have a conversation about how your mentoree sees that he/she might be able to be held accountable for these parts of our responsibilities. Who keeps them accountable at home? At school? With sports or music? What about in his/her faith?

Rite of Affirmation of Baptism

Objective:

To review the promises that the mentoree will be making at their confirmation.

Talking Points:

Start with what they are confirming at their service: their faith. That in the confirmation service (or Affirmation of Baptism Rite) they are confirming the promises their parents made for them at their baptism.

You will need an ELW (the red hymnal) for this exercise. Turn to page 234 in the front of the hymnal. Read through the service together (notice that there is a 4th page that has to do with the whole congregation affirming their baptism, you can skip this part). Answer any questions that may come up. If you don't have the answer, write down the question and ask pastor.

On page 236 are the promises that each confirmand will make:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Spend some time looking at those promises together to understand them. Again, if questions arise that you don't have answers to, write them down to ask pastor.

My Life in Christ

(you may find you want to break this into two Connection Times)

Objective: To share how God is calling us in discipleship.

Talking Points:

Start by making "faith time lines" together. Map out your life on a piece of paper in terms of significant faith moments. These could be sacraments (baptism, first communion) or rites (membership in a new church) or significant conversations with others or God. Also, you will want to note when you realized that there were other people of God who were faithful. Note anything that seems important (particularly meaningful retreats, Sunday School classes, prayers, people, etc.)

Talk about how this is the Spirit calling us through our life. At baptism, we are set on a journey, a journey in which God never leaves our side. The Holy Spirit is in our lives molding and shaping us.

Now, talk about where God is leading the youth. Have them extend their time line into the future: 5 years, 10 years (that is probably enough for now). What is God calling them to? How can they best use the gifts and talents that God has given them? How will what they do "proclaim the good news of Christ" (from the confirmation promises)?