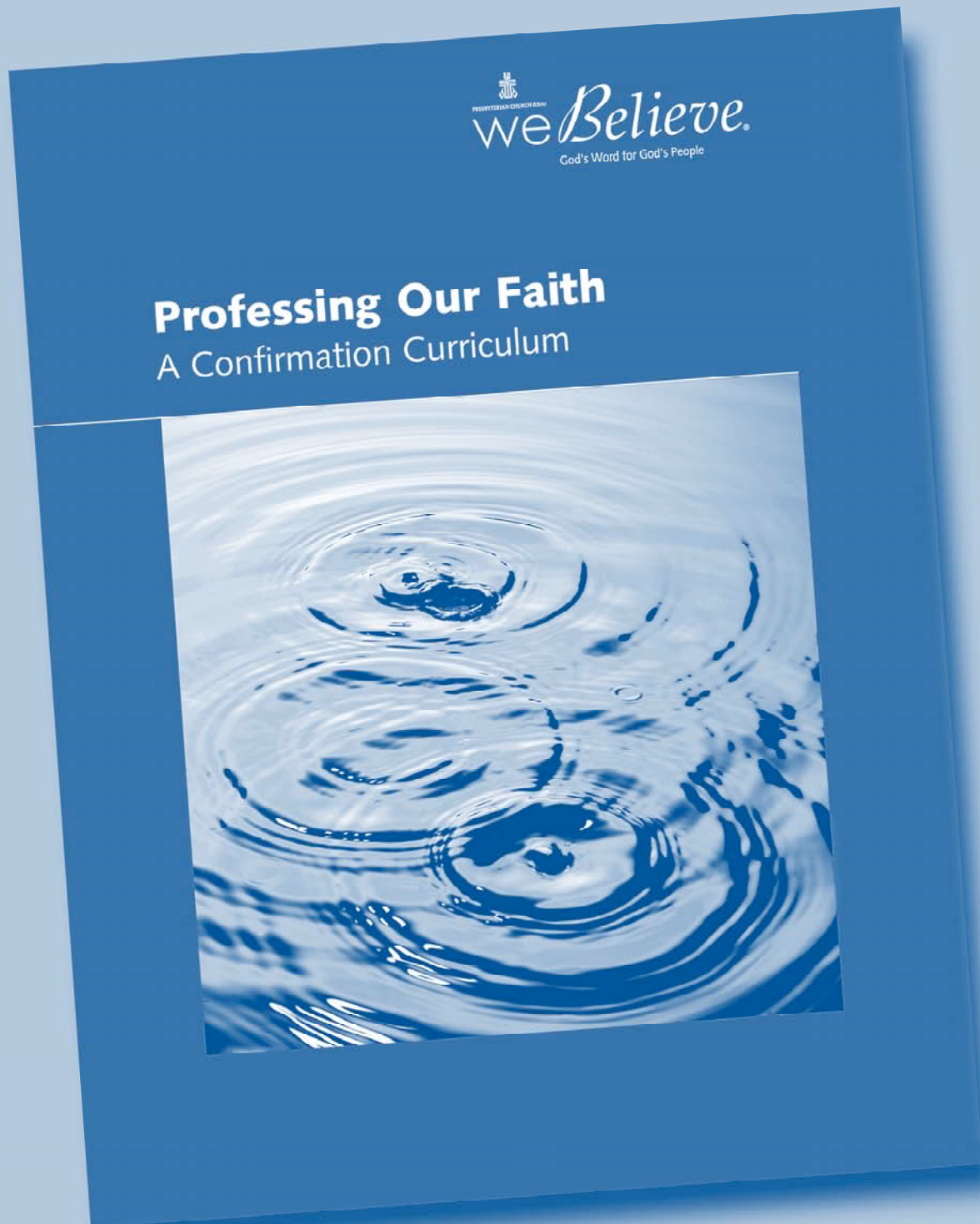


# Introducing A New Confirmation Curriculum



*Professing Our Faith* seeks to provide youth with a foundational understanding of our faith, tradition, and Presbyterian practices. It will be added to the *We Believe* line of Younger Youth survey courses. This “sampler” includes the Scope and Sequence of the full curriculum as well as a preview of the first session of the Leader’s Guide and Student’s Notebook.

The heart of the curriculum can be summarized in the answer to Question 4 of *The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version*.<sup>1</sup>



By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.

One of the strengths of *Professing Our Faith* is its usefulness in a variety of contexts. For example, the Leader's Guide is designed with two different formats in view. The full-length format includes 33 sessions plus two sessions for use at Christmas and Easter and is designed for use during the school year. A second format offers eight sessions that can be used as a stand-alone confirmation program or used in conjunction with the full-length program. Both the full-length format and the eight-session format come with a unique Student's Notebook that each participant can use and keep. Even if you are not thinking about confirmation right now, you may be interested in using *Professing Our Faith* because it offers such a strong background in teaching what we believe and what it means to belong to God and to the community of faith.

The Scope and Sequence (see page 11) is built around three principal elements: the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer. This learning model imitates the emphases of *The Study Catechism* as well as early church catechisms such as The Heidelberg Catechism and The Westminster Catechisms, in that it presents lessons that teach youth biblical foundations and theology. Additionally, *Professing Our Faith* invites young people to explore the meaning of their baptism and their participation at the Lord's Table, as well as to learn about church polity, stewardship, spiritual practices, worship, and mission.

*Professing Our Faith* is chock-full of the biblical and theological lessons you would want young Presbyterians to know and take to heart. Those who are leading the class have a unique opportunity to spend quality time with the young people in their congregation. The learners who participate in the class have a unique opportunity to delve deeper into what it means to be a Christian. *Professing Our Faith* provides foundational material from which everyone learns from one another and forges relationships that will strengthen the bonds learners share in the body of Christ. Each session offers students a fresh opportunity to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and to learn to do the good works God intends for our lives.

Item No.	Title	Description	Price
623007	<b>Leader's Pack</b>	Contains 1 Teacher's Book, 2 Student's Notebooks (a 35-session and an 8-session version), 1 set of 12 confirmation certificates with envelopes, 1 copy of the <i>The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version</i> .	\$89.95
623008	<b>Teacher's Book</b>		\$65.00
623009	<b>Student's Notebook (35 sessions)</b>	(Note: This book has more than 20 additional pages when compared with the 35-session student books for the other <i>We Believe</i> survey courses whose student books retail for \$7.50)	\$ 8.50
623010	<b>Student's Notebook (8 sessions)</b>		\$ 3.50

1. At the 215th General Assembly (2003) the Assembly recommended that any new confirmation materials published by Congregational Ministries Publishing be based on *The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version* approved for study by an earlier Assembly (1998).

# Components of the Teacher's Guide

## Teacher to Teacher

This section is written from the point of view of a teacher in dialogue with other teachers (see sample session, page L-1). It is similar to the Background for Teachers found in the *We Believe* Sunday school material, but it is presented in a more conversational style. Teacher to Teacher supplies the person who is preparing the lesson with a deeper understanding of the biblical, theological, and life-application concepts covered in the session.

## Lesson Plan

On the first page of each lesson you will find a summary of what is central to the lesson: a main idea; an excerpt from *The Study Catechism*, *The Book of Confessions*, or the *Book of Order*; and a suggested Scripture text. The Teacher's Guide has the familiar *We Believe* lesson plan (A-B-C-D) (see sample session, pages L-1 to L-4):

### Assemble: God Calls Us Together

This section suggests such gathering activities as games, simple crafts, songs, and an opening prayer.

### Beliefs: We Learn What Our Church Believes

The "B" in the confirmation curriculum has been changed from the Sunday school tag "Bible Study" to "Beliefs" since the focus of this study is on learning what it means to be a member of the community of faith. The Beliefs section of the lesson varies from session to session, incorporating Bible study as well as learning about the catechism, our confessions, and our faith tradition.

### Claim: We Live Out Our Faith

In this section, youth are challenged to make life-application of the Beliefs material through activities that appeal to different learning styles (i.e., multiple intelligences; cooperative and independent learning). While Claim uses a subhead worded differently than the *We Believe* Sunday school materials (*We Respond to God's Word*), it holds essentially the same meaning.

### Depart: God Sends Us Into the World

This section may include a closing prayer, a litany, a faith statement, or other suggestions for worship. The activities offer a meaningful closure and sending. Activities for the students to do at home during the coming week may also be included.

### Evaluate

This section contains questions for the teacher to reflect on in regard to the day's session.

### Future

This section helps the teacher look ahead to the next session, or subsequent sessions. It may include instructions regarding items to prepare in advance.



## Food for Thought

This icon represents the section called Food for Thought. It highlights tidbits that the teacher may find useful either in the preparation stage or in the handling of questions that arise in the course of teaching the lesson. Sometimes it summarizes an idea the teacher may want to interject as commentary or explanation of certain activities outlined in the lesson plan. Other times it provides relevant sidebar information and may be used in any way that captures the teacher's imagination.

# Components of the Student's Notebook

The Student's Notebook is designed so that young people will have a personal record of their confirmation experience. The Student's Notebook has three components(see sample session, pages S-1 to S-2).

## Did You Know?

### Did You Know?

This section appears on the first page of each lesson in the Student's Notebook. Some of the biblical and theological concepts covered in the Teacher to Teacher section of the Leader's Guide are reworked here in language that is more accessible to young people. Written in a conversational style, it is directed *to* the students, and is for their use in the session and during the week. The first page also includes Main Idea, Something to Remember, and Scripture Connection.

## My Journal

### Journal

Each week the Student's Notebook provides space for the spiritual practice of journaling. A "journal prompt" gives young people a starting place for writing down their thoughts or insights about that week's lesson. Each My Journal section also poses the following statement for the student's response: *God's activity in my life, in the lives of those around me, and in the world.* This is a weekly reminder for participants to consider where God's activity or presence is breaking into their everyday lives. As they reflect back on the past week, when and how was God present? In little ways? big ways? answered prayer? surprises? Participants can do journaling on their own during the week, or at the end of class as time allows.

## Q4U

### Q4U

Every week exercises or activities are printed in the Student's Notebook that can be used in connection with the lesson presented in the Teacher's Guide. Sometimes students will work on these individually and at other times in small groups. The "assignment" is not always a paper-and-pencil activity. Sometimes it gives space to create; other times it gives opportunities for worship. Sometimes it provides reference material; other times it offers opportunities for singing and dancing! The notes and activities will document each person's growth in grace and knowledge from the first day of class until the day of confirmation.

## About the Writers

The **Rev. Meg Rift** and the **Rev. Eunice McGarrahan** team up to write the curriculum. Meg is working as a freelance writer and a workshop leader after having served for five years as the denomination's POINT and Resource coordinator. Eunice (better known as Junior) is an associate pastor at National Presbyterian Church in our nation's capital. Meg brings an incredible talent for developing lesson plans that are interactive and fun and yet maintain a strong focus on the main points of the lesson. Junior has been actively involved in youth ministry for over thirty years and has an amazing gift for putting deep theological understanding into words and examples that relate well to the experiences of today's young people. She is largely responsible for the "Teacher to Teacher" sections in the Leader's Guide and the "Did You Know?" sections in the Student's Notebook.



# Teacher's Guide

## Belonging to God

### Main Idea

You belong to God and are part of God's family.

### Something to Remember

**(Q. 4)** How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?

By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life. (*The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version*)

### Scripture Connection

1 Corinthians 12:27; Galatians 3:26

### Things to Prepare

- Prepare a sign-in sheet with columns for name, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.
- Create the cards for "Q4 Game" in Claim (see page 7 for instructions).
- Make the Q4 Phrase Sheets for "Q4 in Order" in Claim (see page 8 for instructions).

### Teacher to Teacher

Growing up in a congregation, your students heard the stories of the people of Israel, of Jesus, and of the early church. Now, as they mature, it is time they understand that in belonging to God, those stories are also their stories, and that they themselves belong to God.

Their belonging is marked at baptism when each of them is called by name and told, "N., child of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ's own forever."<sup>1</sup>

As infants, their baptism was not their choice. Their parents, grandparents, or guardians decided to have them baptized. They and the congregation professed their own faith in Christ, promising to live that faith and to teach the faith to the child.

Because his or her family said "Yes" to God on behalf of the child, this young person's life has been different. Saying yes to God means saying no to other things. During this time of confirmation instruction, your students have the opportunity to understand more fully the church's faith and then to declare that it is also what they believe. They will stand before the congregation on their own and say "Yes" to the baptismal promise that they are indeed Christ's own forever.

### Assemble: God Calls Us Together

As your students gather, pass around the sign-in sheet you prepared before class. Gather in a circle and explain to the group that they will be playing a game to get to know one another.

Ask your students to think of an activity that they enjoy and a simple motion that represents that activity. This could be a sport, school activity, hobby, or special talent. For example, one person begins by saying, "My name is Josie and I like to play basketball." While Josie is saying "basketball" she acts out the activity (e.g., a fake pass or jump shot). The next person introduces himself or herself in the same way and repeats the first person's name and motion. Continue around the circle until everyone has had a turn. The last person obviously has the hardest task because he or she will have to remember everyone's name and every motion. After the game is over, offer the Opening Prayer in the sidebar on page L-2.

<sup>1</sup> Baptism liturgy, *Book of Common Worship* (Louisville:Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993), page 414.

## Beliefs: We Learn What Our Church Believes

### You Will Need

- Bibles
- Student's Notebooks (or copies)
- Sign-in sheet
- Chalkboard, newsprint, or flip chart
- Markers
- 32 index cards (4" x 6") for Q4 Game (see Claim)
- 4" x 6" index cards (1 per student)
- Poster board, (half a sheet for each student)
- 8 1/2" x 11" paper for Q4 Phrase Sheets (see Claim)
- Masking tape
- Pencils or pens

### Opening Prayer

*Gracious God, as we gather together in your name, we are thankful for [repeat all the names in the circle] and we celebrate the variety of things we enjoy doing. We are grateful for the experiences of our lives that have shaped who we are today. Be with us as we begin this journey of confirmation, of learning what it means to be claimed by you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

If your class is smaller than five students, do this activity as a whole class.

### Would You Rather?

Let your students know that you are going to read out loud some questions. Each student must choose the option he or she finds most appealing. Designate one side of the room for the first option and the opposite side of the room for the second option. Invite your students to move to the side of the room that best matches their preference. Repeat the activity for each of the questions below. As you read the two choices, point to which side of the room each represents.

- Would you rather take a vacation on the beach or in the mountains?
- Would you rather read the book or watch the movie based on the book?
- Would you rather fly an airplane or jump out of an airplane?
- Would you rather eat stinky cheese or mushy vegetables?
- Would you rather have the ability to move objects with your mind or be invisible?
- Would you rather be an observer or a participant?

### Belonging

Tell your students that we all belong to something, even if it is as informal as the "stinky cheese" group. One of the most basic human needs is the need to belong. People need a sense of connection to something "greater than," something beyond themselves. We were created to be in communion with God and with one another. Brainstorm for a few minutes on the following questions and write participants' thoughts on newsprint or a chalkboard:

- What groups do you belong to?
- How did you become a part of these groups?
- Which of these groups are more significant or meaningful than the "groups" you formed in the "Would You Rather?" game?
- What does it mean to belong?

Read (or summarize in your own words) Did You Know? in the Student's Notebook (see page S-1). Invite suggestions from your students about the relationship between belonging to a group and the belonging that comes as a result of our baptism.

### Open Your Bible

Divide your students into groups of three or four. Ask your students to turn to page S-2 in the Student's Notebook and to follow the instructions in Open Your Bible. As the leader, move from group to group making sure everyone can find 1 Corinthians 12. Allow the groups ten minutes and then encourage them to summarize their small group's responses to the questions from the Student's Notebook with the whole group.



Every few years a movie is made about high school life. It is almost inevitable that cliques or groups are identified (nerds, jocks, cool kids, etc.). Some of these movies are *The Breakfast Club*, *10 Things I Hate About You*, *Mean Girls*. Some groups seem to have more “honor,” while other groups seem to be the “less seemly,” to use Paul’s language. Paul’s imagery is that each group is a part of the whole. Paul’s message reminds us, in 1 Corinthians 12:27, that even though we are individuals, we all make up the “body of Christ.”

Ask for a volunteer to read Galatians 3:26–28. Ask your students what they think the passage means. Then ask these questions:

- What is similar in this verse to the passage you read in 1 Corinthians 12?
- What analogy or metaphor does Paul use in Galatians 3:27?
- What do you learn about Christian unity from the phrase “clothed yourselves with Christ” that is new or different from 1 Corinthians 12? Imagine the church as a “body.”

Share with your students that Galatians 3:26, in particular, identifies Christians as “children of God.” Ask them what it means that we are children of God. Allow time for as many answers as they can think of.

## Claim: We Live Out Our Faith Q4 Game



The answer to Question 4 (*The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version*) is a gold mine! It is an outline of what being confirmed is all about. Most sessions in this study highlight the answer to Question 4 in some fashion (the shorthand reference throughout the resource is “Q4”). By the end of your time together your students will be very familiar with Q4 and its affirmations.

Make one set of Activity Cards and one set of Word Cards using thirty-two index cards (16 cards per set) and follow the instructions found in the sidebar on this page.

Tell your students that the Q4 game gives them the opportunity to act, draw, or talk out the key words from Q4. If you have a small group, you can all play together taking turns being IT with the rest of the group guessing. If you have a large group, break into small groups of four to six people (you will need one total set of game cards for each small group).

Tell your students that they will take turns being IT. Shuffle each set of cards and then set each pile facedown. The person who is IT draws the top card from each pile. He or she will follow the directions on the Activity Card and the rest of the group will guess the word or phrase written on the Word Card.

### Cards for Q4 Game Activity Cards

On the back of sixteen index cards write the word “ACTIVITY” in large letters. On the front of these same cards write the following:

- Make five cards that say, “ACT: Act out the word. You may not speak.” (like charades).
- Make five cards that say, “DRAW: Draw the word without using letters or numbers. You may not speak.”
- Make six cards that say, “SPEAK: Use words to describe the word without using the word or any form of it.”

### Word Cards

Write “WORDS” in a different colored marker on the back of the remaining sixteen index cards. On the front of each card write one of the following:

Holy Spirit	Jesus Christ
Baptized	Body
Church	Member
Community	Trust
Word	Share
Lord’s Supper	God
Prayer	Grace
Knowledge	Good works

**Q4 Phrase Sheets**

By the Holy Spirit  
 I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ.  
 I am baptized  
 into Christ's body, the church.  
 As a member of this community,  
 I trust in God's Word,  
 share in the Lord's Supper,  
 and turn to God in prayer.  
 As I grow in grace and knowledge,  
 I am led to do the good works that God  
 intends for my life.

Take some time to explain the spiritual practice of journaling (see p. 4).

If you have more than ten students, some will need to have the same phrase.

**Closing Prayer**

*God, you call us your own children. You welcome all of us into relationship with you and for that we are grateful. Thank you for each individual person here, for their gifts and their energy. Thank you for calling us together as part of the body of Christ and for forming us as a confirmation class. May we take our promises to one another seriously and enjoy this journey together. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

**Q4 in Order**

Prepare "Q4 Phrase Sheets" in advance by writing the phrases of Question 4 as shown in the sidebar on sheets of 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Mix the sheets up so they are not in order. If you have a small group, do this activity together. If you have a large group, break into groups of four to six people using one set of phrase sheets for each group. Ask your students to put Q4 in order. Use tape to mount the phrase sheets in order in a prominent place. Once the group has set the phrases in the correct order ask participants to turn to page S-2 in their Student's Notebooks.



Over the next several weeks your students will grow mentally and spiritually in their understanding of Q4. The activity "Growing in Grace and Knowledge" in the Student's Notebook (see page S-2) gives them a "measure" of where they are today. Later in the year they can look back to Session 1 to see how they are growing "in grace and knowledge."

Draw attention to the My Journal section on the first page of the Student's Notebook and describe how it will be used throughout the course.

**Homework!**

Hand out an index card and half of a sheet of poster board to each student. Invite the students each to choose one phrase from Q4 and write it down on their index card. Encourage them to have a phrase that no one else has chosen. Tell them that the homework assignment for next week is to illustrate their phrase on the poster board. This can be done in any way they like (collage, words, pictures, colors, etc.) as long as the phrase appears somewhere on the poster.

**Depart: God Sends Us into the World**

Gather together in a circle and invite the youth to recite Q4 out loud with you. Close with the prayer (see sidebar).

**Evaluate**

What went well in the lesson? What needs improvement? What changes will you need to make for the next session? Did you feel as if you learned something about each student?

**Future**

E-mail or phone each student during the week to let them know you appreciate their presence in class, and to remind them about the homework assignment. Tell them you look forward to seeing them and that you are open to questions, concerns, or comments they have.

Gather ten grocery bags and an assortment of clothes, two of each kind of item, for the game in Session 2, Assemble (suggestions: old bathing suits, sports jackets, pants, shorts, dresses, shoes, shirts, etc). Make up ten complete "outfits" and place each in a grocery bag.



## Session 1

### Main Idea

You belong to God and are part of God's family.

### Something to Remember



How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit? By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life. (*The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version*)

### Scripture Connection

Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members.

(1 Corinthians 12:27).

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith (Galatians 3:26).

## Did you know?

As you begin this confirmation class, you are at the beginning of a journey. From the moment you were baptized you became part of a congregation. If you haven't been baptized yet, you will have that opportunity at the end of this class. It doesn't matter when you are baptized, because God chose you "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4).

Your baptism is the sign that you belong to God. You were marked as Christ's own forever. If you were baptized as a baby, you didn't make that choice. Your parents, grandparents or caregivers made that decision for you. In fact, maybe they even decided for you that you would be in this class. The reason you are in this class is because your parents or caregivers and the congregation made promises when you were baptized. They promised to help you learn the faith and this class is one of the ways they helped you do that. Growing up in a congregation, you have heard the stories of the people of Israel, Jesus, and the early church. In belonging to God, those stories are also your stories and you yourself belong to God and to God's people.

Because the people who cared for you said "Yes" to God for you, your life has been different. Saying yes to God means saying no to other things. Maybe you went to church when your friends were out playing sports or going to the beach. But now, you must make your decisions about what you believe. During your classes you will learn what the church believes and you will be able to say that this is not just your parent's faith; it's yours too. You will stand before the congregation on your own and say "Yes" to the baptismal promise that you are indeed Christ's own forever. You may declare in that moment that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior.



### Pray About

**God's activity in my life, in the lives of those around me, and in the world.** Little ways, big ways? Where have you seen God at work?

## My Journal

The phrase from Q4 that is most clear (or most confusing) to me is . . .

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Q4U** Open Your Bible


Turn to 1 Corinthians 12.

Paul responds to concerns of the Corinthian Christians about spiritual gifts. There were differing opinions among these new Christians. In verses 1–11 Paul writes that there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit. Then he gives an example using a metaphor of the body. Read verses 12–27. Imagine this is the first time you have ever heard the “body” metaphor used to describe a diverse collection of folks unified by common belief. Paul compares this group of believers—not yet called by the name “church”—to a living organism. He calls them the body of Christ. This was a radical concept!

- › What kinds of relationships exist in the body of Christ/believers?
- › How is diversity described?
- › How is unity described?  
Notice that parts still remain unique and individual; Jews are still Jews and Greeks are still Greeks, but they are incorporated into one body.
- › What might you draw from your own experience as a metaphor to describe the church?

*Growing in Grace and Knowledge*

Put an “x” in the column that best represents your response to each phrase listed below. As you make progress through the curriculum, you may want to check back to this activity and see how your wisdom and faith are blossoming.

	I understand what this means.	I think this is true in my life.	I'm not sure I know what this means.	I'm not sure if this is true in my life.
By the Holy Spirit I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ.				
I am baptized into Christ's body, the church.				
As a member of this community,				
I trust in God's Word,				
share in the Lord's Supper,				
and turn to God in prayer.				
As I grow in grace and knowledge,				
I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.				

## Scope and Sequence

All questions (Q.) are from *The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version* unless noted otherwise.

Session	Title and Scripture	Main Idea	Catechism Question/Something to Remember
1	<b>Belonging to God</b> (1 Corinthians 12:27; Galatians 3:26)	You belong to God and are part of God's family.	<b>(Q. 4) How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?</b> By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.
2	<b>Getting Dressed</b> (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:12–15)	Your baptism marks your entrance into this family of God, and is the beginning of your lifelong journey.	<b>Q. 1–3 (Q. 2)</b> I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.
3	<b>Text Messaging</b> (John 10:2–5)	Jesus, as revealed in Scripture, can be trusted.	<b>Q. 46</b> Yes. . . . [The basic function of Scripture, God's Holy Word] is to deepen our love, knowledge, and service of [Jesus] as our Savior and Lord . . . <i>The Theological Declaration of Barmen, The Book of Confessions</i> , 8.11 Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.
4	<b>This Is My Story</b> (Psalm 136:1b)	We are a community that lives by faith in the promises of God.	<b>(Q. 27)</b> God made a covenant with Israel, promising that God would be their God, that they would be God's people, and that through them all the peoples of the earth would be blessed. . . .
5	<b>Take a Stand</b> (John 20:31)	Learn from and build on the faith of those who have gone before.	<b>(Q. 5)</b> All that is promised in the gospel. A summary is found in the Apostles' Creed, which affirms the main content of the Christian faith.
6	<b>FAQs</b> (Deuteronomy 6:6–9)	A catechism is a way of sharing the basics of the Christian faith in a question-and-answer format . . . it's a tool for having a conversation with the whole church about what we believe.	<i>(The Second Helvetic Confession, Ch. XXV, The Book of Confessions, 5.233)</i> . . . [Therefore] the pastors of the churches act most wisely when they early and carefully catechize the youth, laying the first grounds of faith, and faithfully teaching the rudiments of our religion by expounding the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer. . . .
7	<b>Awesome God</b> (Psalm 8:3–4)	There is comfort in a God who is bigger . . . than categories, circumstances, and language.	<b>Q. 6–13 (Q. 6)</b> "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." <b>(Q. 7)</b> That God is a God of love, and that God's love is powerful beyond measure.
8	<b>Something Comes from Nothing</b> (Genesis 1:1, 26–27)	God has made the world and we have a place in it.	<b>Q. 15–21 (Q. 15)</b> First, that God called heaven and earth, with all that is in them, into being out of nothing. Second, that God rules and supports the creation in perfect wisdom, according to God's eternal purpose.
9	<b>God and the Broken World</b> (Romans 8:28)	As God redeems the world, nothing in our lives will be wasted.	<b>Q. 14, 22–23 (Q. 23)</b> The eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ watches over me each day of my life, blessing and guiding me wherever I may be. . . .

## Scope and Sequence

Session	Title and Scripture	Main Idea	Catechism Question/Something to Remember
10	<b>Something Good in the Neighborhood</b> (John 1:1–5, 14)	God became human and became a part of our lives	<b>Q. 24–29 (Q. 29)</b> First, that being born of Mary, Jesus was truly a human being. Second, that our Lord’s incarnation was a holy and mysterious event. Third, that he was set apart by his unique origin for the sake of accomplishing our salvation.
11	<b>Who Is Jesus?</b> (Philippians 2:5–11)	Jesus is truly God and truly human, and this truly matters.	<b>Q. 30–37 (Q. 30)</b> Only God can properly deserve worship. Only God can reveal to us who God is. And only God can save us from our sins. . . . <b>(Q. 31)</b> Being truly human, Jesus entered fully into our fallen situation and overcame it. . . .
12	<b>The One and Only Jesus</b> (John 9:29–33)	There is no Savior like Jesus and no salvation like the one Jesus offers.	<b>Q. 38–41 (Q. 41)</b> By the grace of God, Christianity offers the truth of the gospel. . . .
13	<b>Never Alone</b> (John 14:25–27)	The Holy Spirit makes Jesus as present to us as his physical presence was to the disciples.	<b>Q. 42–44 (Q. 43)</b> The Holy Spirit is the divine person who enables us to love, know, and serve Jesus Christ.
14	<b>Power of Love</b> (Romans 5:6–11; Colossians 3:13)	God’s love for us sinners is shown by what it cost God to redeem us.	<b>Q. 62–66 (Q. 62)</b> Because of Jesus Christ, God no longer holds my sins against me. Christ alone is my righteousness and my life. . . .
15	<b>Livin’ Right</b> (Exodus 20:3–11)	God’s commandments prescribe how to live in God’s family so that our life together reveals the character of God. Commandments 1–4 show how we honor God.	<b>Q. 68–78 (Q. 78)</b> [The first four commandments] teach me how to live rightly with God. . . .
16	<b>Livin’ Right—The Sequel</b> (Exodus 20:12–17)	God’s commandments prescribe how to live in God’s family so that our life together reveals the character of God. Commandments 5–10 show how we honor one another.	<b>Q. 79–94 (Q. 93)</b> [The last six commandments] teach me how to live rightly with my neighbor. . . .
17	<b>Can We Talk?</b> (Philippians 4:6–7)	Prayer involves both addressing God and listening for God’s word within our hearts.	<b>Q. 95–96 (Q. 96)</b> Prayer brings us into communion with God. The more our lives are rooted in prayer, the more we sense how wonderful God is in grace, purity, majesty, and love. . . .
18	<b>Pray This Way</b> (Matthew 6:9–13)	The Lord’s Prayer serves as a model for praying.	<b>Q. 97–106 (Q. 97)</b> Our rule or pattern is found in the Lord’s Prayer, which Jesus taught his disciples. . . .
19	<b>There Is a Time</b> (Ecclesiastes 3:1–8)	The people of God have always been shaped by the creating and transforming word of God as they hear it and respond to it.	<i>(Book of Order, Directory for Worship, W-1.3013)</i> . . . God created a rhythm of time and appointed seasons for worship. . . .



## Scope and Sequence

Session	Title and Scripture	Main Idea	Catechism Question/Something to Remember
20	<b>We Are What We Sing</b> (Psalm 149:1)	The songs we sing are particularly influential in shaping our thoughts and feelings. The psalms are models of prayer that God's people of all times and places have set to music.	<i>(Book of Order, Directory for Worship, W-2.1003)</i> Song is a response which engages the whole self in prayer. . . .
21	<b>Nailing It</b> (Ephesians 2:8–10)	The church is reformed and always being reformed according to the word of God.	<i>(Book of Order, G-2.0400)</i> The Protestant watchwords—grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone—embody principles of understanding which continue to guide and motivate the people of God in the life of faith.
22	<b>Shaping Up</b> (1 Peter 2:9–10)	What we believe shapes the community in which we live.	<i>(A Brief Statement of Faith, lines 65–74, The Book of Confessions, 10.4)</i> In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage . . . .
23	<b>Glory Be!</b> (Psalm 111:1; Isaiah 55:12; Hebrews 10:23–25)	The primary purpose of our lives is to give glory to God. We learn who God wants us to be by our participation in worship.	<i>The Westminster Shorter Catechism (Q. 1)</i> What is the chief end of [humankind]? A. [Our] chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy [God] forever.
24	<b>Surely God Is Here</b> (Isaiah 6:1–8)	Our worship flows from and depends on the holiness of God.	<i>(The Confession of 1967, The Book of Confessions, 9.50)</i> The church responds to the message of reconciliation in praise and prayer. . . .
25	<b>Walking Wet</b> (Romans 6:3–4)	The water of baptism stays with us throughout life and gives us a lifelong identity.	<b>Q. 53–59 (Q. 56)</b> My baptism means that I am joined to Jesus Christ forever. . . .
26	<b>Taste and See</b> (Luke 24:30–32; 1 Corinthians 11:26)	We come to know Christ in the breaking of the bread and in the drinking of the cup. We eat the bread and drink the cup because we belong to Christ.	<b>Q. 60–61 (Q. 61)</b> When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus Christ is truly present, pouring out his Spirit upon us. . . .
27	<b>Personal, Not Private</b> (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7)	In our baptism God calls us through Christ and empowers us by the Spirit to serve one another.	<b>Q. 48, 52–53 (Q. 52)</b> . . . Our communion with Christ makes us members one of another. . . .
28	<b>Presby-What?</b> (Acts 15:22; 1 Corinthians 14:40)	The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a representative form of government.	<i>(Book of Order, G-4.0302)</i> The nature of Presbyterian order is such that it shares power and responsibility. . . .
29	<b>Living Grateful Lives</b> (Matthew 6:19–21)	Stewardship describes the actions motivated by a grateful response to God.	<i>(Book of Order, G-2.0500)</i> . . . Related to this central affirmation of God's sovereignty are other great themes of the Reformed tradition . . . . <i>(The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 86, The Book of Confessions, 4.086)</i> [We do good works . . . ] so that with our whole life we may show ourselves grateful to God for his goodness and that[God] may be glorified through us . . . .

## Scope and Sequence

Session Title and Scripture	Main Idea	Catechism Question/Something to Remember
<b>30</b> <b>Can't Keep It to Myself</b> (Acts 2:1–8)	The gospel is too good to keep to ourselves.	<b>Q. 49–50 (Q. 49)</b> The mission of the church is to bear witness to God's love for the world in Jesus Christ.
<b>31</b> <b>You Have a Call!</b> (Matthew 25:37–40; Acts 1:8)	Call is both personal and communal. God uses the passion of our hearts to meet the needs of others.	<b>(Q. 51)</b> The hungry need bread, the homeless need a roof, the oppressed need justice, and the lonely need fellowship. . . .
<b>32</b> <b>Tradition and Transformation</b> (Ezra 3:10–13)	Your church has a history and a future. You can claim your part in the story.	<i>(Book of Order, G-4.0303)</i> The Presbyterian system of government calls for continuity with and faithfulness to the heritage which lies behind the contemporary church. . . .
<b>33</b> <b>I Will, with God's Help</b> (Matthew 28:6–20)	You are called, confirmed, and sent out.	<i>(Book of Common Worship, p. 442)</i> I will, with God's help [be a faithful member of this congregation.]
<b>34</b> <b>Glory to God in the Lowest</b> (Christmas session) (Luke 1:52–53)	Mary's song announces that Jesus' coming changes the world and turns human expectations upside down.	<i>(The Westminster Larger Catechism, Book of Confessions, 7.111)</i> <b>Q. 1.</b> What is the chief and highest end of [humankind]? <b>A.</b> [Our] chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy [God] forever.
<b>35</b> <b>I Have Seen the Lord</b> (Easter session) (John 20:16–18a)	Just as Christ appeared to the first followers, the risen Christ appears to us today and calls us by name.	<b>(Q. 35)</b> Our Lord could not be held by the power of death. . . .

## Use of Scripture in Sessions 1–35

Gen. 1:1, 26–27	Session 8	Mark 12:29–31	Session 15	Rom. 12:5	Session 27
Exodus 20:3–11	Session 15	Luke 1:52–53	Session 34	1 Cor. 11:26	Session 26
Exodus 20:12–17	Session 16	Luke 24:30–32	Session 26	1 Cor. 12: 4–7	Session 27
Deut. 6:6–9	Session 6	John 1:1–5, 14	Session 10	1 Cor. 12:27	Session 1
Ezra 3:10–13	Session 32	John 9:29–33	Session 12	1 Cor. 14:40	Session 28
Psalms 8:3–4	Session 7	John 10:2–5	Session 3	Gal. 2:20	Session 2
Psalms 111:1	Session 23	John 14:25–27	Session 13	Gal. 3:26	Session 1
Psalms 136:1b	Session 4	John 20:16–18a	Session 35	Eph. 2:8–10	Session 21
Psalms 149:1	Session 20	John 20:21	Session 30	Phil. 2:5–11	Session 11
Isaiah 6:1–8	Session 24	John 20:31	Session 5	Phil. 4:6–7	Session 17
Isaiah 55:12	Session 23	Acts 1:8	Session 31	Col. 3:12–15	Session 2
Eccles. 3:1–8	Session 19	Acts 2:1–8	Session 30	Col. 3:13	Session 14
Matt. 6:9–13	Session 18	Acts 15:22	Session 28	Heb. 10:23–25	Session 23
Matt. 6:19–21	Session 29	Rom. 5:6–11	Session 14	1 Pet. 2:9–10	Session 22
Matt. 25:37–40	Session 31	Rom. 6:3–4	Session 25		
Matt. 28:16–20	Session 33	Rom. 8:28	Session 9		

## Eight-Session Scope and Sequence

All questions (Q.) are from *The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version*.

Session	Title and Scripture	Main Idea	Catechism Question/Something to Remember
1	<b>You Are What You Wear</b> (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:12–15)	Your baptism marks your entrance into the family of God, as you are clothed in Christ, and is the beginning of your lifelong journey.	<b>Q. 1–4 (Q. 4)</b> By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.
2	<b>How Do You Spell Presbyterian?</b> (Genesis 12:2; 1 Corinthians 14:40)	The church is called to God's purposes in the world and organizes itself to fulfill those purposes.	( <i>Book of Order</i> , G-1.0200) The great ends of the church . . .
3	<b>Where Is God When It Hurts?</b> (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28)	God governs, supports, and redeems creation, so that nothing in our lives is ever wasted.	<b>Q. 6–23 (Q. 22)</b> God not only preserves the world, but also continually rules over it. God cares for every creature and brings good out of evil, so that nothing evil is permitted to occur that God does not bend finally to the good.
4	<b>Extravagant Love</b> (Luke 15:11–32; Romans 5:6–11)	There is no Savior like Jesus and no salvation like the one Jesus offers.	<b>Q. 24–37, 62 (Q. 25)</b> No one else will ever be God incarnate. No one else will ever die for the sins of the world. Only Jesus Christ is such a person, only he could do such a work, and he in fact has done it.
5	<b>We've Got the Spirit!</b> (John 14:25–27)	The Holy Spirit makes Jesus as present to us as his physical presence was to the disciples.	<b>Q. 42–45 (Q. 43)</b> The Holy Spirit is the divine person who enables us to love, know, and serve Jesus Christ.
6	<b>Can You Hear Me Now?</b> (Matthew 6:9–13; Philippians 4:6–7)	Prayer involves both addressing God and listening for God's word within our hearts. The Lord's Prayer serves as a model for praying.	<b>Q. 95–97 (Q. 96)</b> Prayer brings us into communion with God. The more our lives are rooted in prayer, the more we sense how wonderful God is in grace, purity, majesty, and love. . . .
7	<b>Going Out!</b> (Matthew 25:37–40; Acts 1:8)	When we pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," we are asking God to use us as instruments to fulfill God's purpose.	<b>Q. 49–51 (Q. 51)</b> . The hungry need bread, the homeless need a roof, the oppressed need justice, and the lonely need fellowship. At the same time—on another and deeper level—the hopeless need hope, sinners need forgiveness, and the world needs the gospel. . . .
8	<b>Grace and Gratitude</b> (Exodus 20:1–17; Ephesians 2:8–10; Colossians 3:16–17)	We obey God's law out of gratitude, confident that God gives us the grace to grow in love and knowledge daily.	<b>Q. 68–94 (Q. 69)</b> . . . With gladness in my heart I should obey God's law out of gratitude, for God has blessed me by it and given it for my well-being.

# Order *Professing Our Faith* A Confirmation Curriculum Today!

## The Leader's Pack contains:

One Teacher's Book  
 One 35-session Student's Notebook  
 One 8-session Student's Notebook  
*The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version*  
 12 Official PC(USA) Certificates of Confirmation with envelopes  
 #623007 \$89.95



## Additional copies of these resources may be purchased as needed:

- |   |         |             |
|---|---------|-------------|
| • Teacher's Book  | #623008 | \$65.00 ea. |
| • 35-session Student's Notebook                             | #623009 | \$8.50 ea.  |
| • 8-session Student's Notebook                              | #623010 | \$3.50 ea.  |
| • <i>The Study Catechism: A Confirmation Version</i>        | #097751 | \$9.95 ea.  |
| • Certificate of Confirmation<br>(set of 12 with envelopes) | #060006 | \$7.50      |

## Check Out These Survey Courses!

Recommended for grades (5) 6–8

*With All Boldness and Freedom: A Survey of the New Testament* (New Format)

Leader's Guide/Student Book #621000 \$79.95  
 Additional Student Books #621000A \$7.50 ea.

*The Bible—The Story of God's Faithfulness: A Survey of the Old Testament*  
 (Coming July 2005)

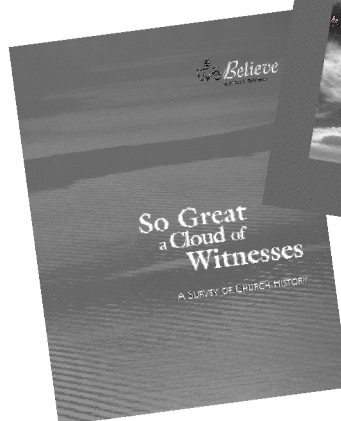
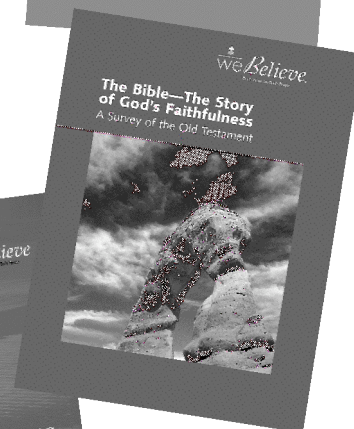
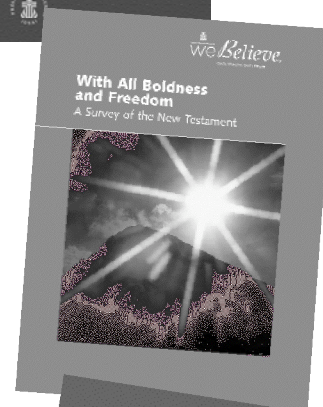
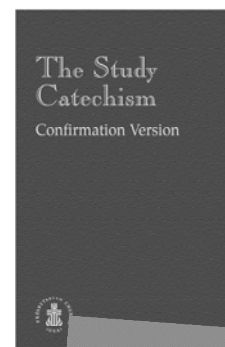
Leader's Guide/Student Book #621001 \$79.95  
 Additional Student Books #621001A \$7.50 ea.

*I Know My Bible*

Leader's Guide/Student Book #125032 \$79.95  
 Bookmarks (8 sets) #125034B \$ 9.95

*So Great A Cloud of Witnesses: A Survey of Church History*

Leader's Guide/Student Book #611000 \$79.95  
 Additional Student Books #611000A \$7.50 ea.



 (800) 524-2612  [www.pcusa.org/marketplace](http://www.pcusa.org/marketplace)