

St. Paul 2017 Faith Focus: The Small Catechism
Week 5: Confession and Forgiveness
Participant Sheet

Teaching

Audio Segment 1: Confession in Small Catechism

Feel free to take notes here

Audio Segment 2: Lutheran Worship and Confession and Forgiveness

Feel free to take notes here

Application: Confession

What is Confession?

Confession embraces two parts: the one is, that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution, or forgiveness, from the confessor, as from God Himself, and in no wise doubt, but firmly believe, that our sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even of those which we do not know, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But before the confessor we should confess those sins alone which we know and feel in our hearts.

What should one confess?

Here consider your station according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are a father, mother, son, daughter, employer, employee, co-worker; whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, lazy; whether you have grieved any one by words or deeds; whether you have stolen, neglected, or wasted aught, or done other injury.

Prayer: Praying through Confession

Luther emphasizes praying through the parts of the catechism. It is probably easiest to pray through Commandments or petitions of the Lord's Prayer. In light of the connection between Baptism and Confession, you may wish to consider praying through Baptism today.

- + Meditate -- Ask God what does your Baptism mean for you this day?
- + Thank -- Thank God for the way in which God has placed his name on you: Father, Son and Holy Spirit and has claimed you as your child.
- + Confess -- Confess to God the parts of your life that need to be drowned and repented from.
- + Pray for binding -- Ask God that you would be an instrument of God's will in this world.

Don't forget your coloring sheet!