

Hello, parents. Here is a summary of the last confirmation class, held on Sunday, 12-10-17 from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

### **Review of Activities List**

Confirmands should complete 10 church/outreach activities during the course of this Confirmation program. An Activities List was passed out to all confirmands. This list will help them to track the projects they work on. This document can be kept in their journals. As confirmands complete an activity, they will have a parent or event coordinator sign off.

### **Bible Quiz**

Pastor David asked the confirmands to locate the following passages from scripture, read it aloud, and state its meaning in their own words.

Psalms 23:1. Beginning of one of the most famous and beloved Psalms.

Matthew 5:1-3. Beginning of the Beatitudes.

Ecclesiastes 3:1. There is a time for everything.

John 3:16. God so loved the world that He gave us eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 11:1. Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

John 6:35. Jesus is the Bread of Life.

### **What is God Like**

As we continue this Christmas season, we reviewed last month's discussion of "What is God like" with some seasonal references:

Incarnation – God became flesh

Advent – the coming of Christ to the world

Emmanuel – God is with us

### **Discussions on this month's Letters**

#### **Doubt**

Pastor David started on this topic. From our Words for the Journey book (page 18), sometimes doubt plays an important role in the life of faith. Everyone has doubts. It does not make us less of a Christian if we doubt. In fact, doubting can help us along our life journeys. By questioning, wondering, and doubting we can eventually strengthen our faith.

#### **Suffering**

When there is suffering, people often ask, “Where is God?” Pastor Bill cited the ongoing California wild fires. There is much suffering amidst the terrible devastation, but so many people are helping. There are opportunities to assist those who are suffering and opportunities to find meaning in life.

Pastor David shared about his dark days as a child in an orphanage. One Christmas a local church brought toys for the children, and he received a Lego set which he enjoyed. His early sufferings helped him become more resilient later in life.

Everyone suffers. It is tough to suffer by yourself. The church has people who have gone through many challenges who can help. Suffering can help us to develop strengths. As one confirmand stated, “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.”

### **Sin**

As stated in our book (page 24), people liken sin to obvious bad actions, such as killing, stealing or lying. But sin is not only overt wrong actions, but also good actions we do not do. Pastor Bill mentioned a possible activity the confirmands could do. They could track what items they buy in a day or a week, then research how those goods were manufactured. Do the companies produce goods in third world countries that treat their workers badly? Do they employ child laborers? We should strive to be good consumers.

### **Closing Prayer**

Pastor David closed in prayer, thanking God for all of the confirmands, the “shining lights” of our church.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, January 14, 2018, from 11:30am to 12:30pm in SCC’s Green Chair Room.** Please read Letters 8 through 14: Grace, The Church, Worship, The Church Year, Prayer, Music, and Baptism.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!

