

NAME: _____

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH CONFIRMATION
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
Lesson 1: What is Christianity?"
Year 1 (7th Grade)

After completing this lesson the student will:

- *Know what Christianity is.
- *Know the chief beliefs of Christians
- *Know 5 Bible Verses that define Christianity
- *Understand how The Holy Spirit works to create and sustain faith
- *Realize blessings and challenge in their lives when it comes to Christianity.

1. Introduction:

Watch video:

2. Most Americans claim to be Christians, recent polls suggest that nearly 7 out of 10 people who live in America claim to be Christians. With your parents count how many churches that you drive by going to Walmart or Menard's, or even to attend worship services here. What was your number? What does it say about Christianity here?
3. If you and your parents would stand outside of your school, Walmart, Menard's or any grocery store and ask people as they leave if they are a Christian and why? What do you suppose they would say?

- I'm a good person.
- I believe that Jesus died for me.
- Good people are Christians
- I go to church
- I belong to a church
- Religion is useless
- Church is for losers
- A Christian is a person who believes in God.
- Your own; _____

Complete 5/7 of these. In other words, pick 5 and 2 you don't have to complete, you choose.

Circle the ones you desire to complete 4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10

4. Take out your Catechism. Go to page 47, Go to question 1.
Write down the answer. Read 3 Bible Verses that support that answer.
How does this question relate to what you thought people would say that Christianity is?

5. The Bible is a big book. Sadly, to many people The Bible is more furniture than it is literature. In other words, it sits on a shelf and is rarely opened. The Bible is God's revelation about Himself. To many people the Bible is really a book of rules and laws. To other people it's a book of myths and legends, much like fairy tales. The Bible is God's Word to us. The Bible is how God revealed Himself to us. Dr. Martin Luther, who lived nearly 500 years ago and truthfully proclaimed God's Word believed that no one can properly grasp or understand the Bible without realizing that Jesus is the center and the key to the entire Bible. Go to page 48 in your Catechism. Read and answer question 2. Below question 2 are Bible verses with numbers 6-10 listed on the side. Those are verses that support the answer. Read Bible verses 7 and 9, how do those two verses show that Jesus is the center and the key to the Bible, answer next to each verse;

Luke 24:27

Ephesians 2:20.

6. Christianity is simple, but it's not easy. The Bible teaches that we are born in sin and separated from God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, a person becomes a Christian by hearing that Jesus died for them and then believes it in their heart. A person can only believe and become a Christian by the power of God, The Holy Spirit, who changes and opens one heart to realize they are a sinner and in need of a savior. With that in mind, look up these Bible Verses in a Bible and summarize what is says about Christianity.

Matthew 28:19-20

John 3:16

1 John 1:8-9

1 Corinthians 12:3

Romans 10:9.

7. Jesus tells a parable, (a teaching lesson with Jesus as the center that shares an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. A parable corrects some and blesses others). In The Parable of the Sower, find it in Matthew 13, Jesus shares about a person who scatters seed and it falls into different types of soil. Some soil is hard and the seed gets eaten. Some seed is shallow and a plant grows, but gets burned up by the sun. Some seed falls among weeds and gets choked to death and some seed falls on good rich soil and grows and blossoms. The seed is the Gospel, Jesus died for our sins and the Word of God. The type of soil are peoples' hearts. Sometimes we can be all four types. A Christian is a person who by the power of the Holy Spirit has rich soil and received the Gospel gladly. When did you and your parents become Christians and what feelings did you have about that?

8. Go to Catechism pp. 275-283. There you will find a number of symbols/pictures representing Christianity. Draw 2 symbols that you believe touched you on what it means to be a Christian. Why did you pick those two? Use the back side if needed.

9. There are three essential components of being a Christian. Do you believe all three?
 - A. Believe in the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, see Matthew 28:19-20
 - B. Believe that you are a sinner in need of forgiveness, see 1 John 1:8-9.
 - C. Trust in your heart and soul that Jesus freely forgives you, see John 3:16.

10. Martin Luther discussed The Parable of the Sower, (Matt. 13) and explains that it's really easy to become a Christian. Luther explains that there is great joy when one becomes a believer and has the gift of eternal life. Luther then shares that it's difficult to remain a Christian as there are so many temptations that come at a person. Temptations that there are better things to do than to go to church, read the Bible or fellowship with other believers. There are a number of popular beliefs that contradict and tear one away from Jesus. There are scientists who make claims that the Universe doesn't need or was created by God. Satan, our enemy seeks to steal faith in Jesus from our hearts. There are those who claim that Christianity is close minded and hateful toward others. As our life changes its easy to fall away from believing in Jesus. Write down 3 specific things that you can do to make certain that doesn't happen to you. Read Revelation 2:10, what is the warning and blessing?

11. Say a prayer with your parents or a classmate thanking God that you're a Christian saved by grace by faith.