

CONFIRMATION WORKBOOK

FALL 2025

FOLLOW ME

ANSWERING THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP



WALNUT HILL CHURCH | LEXINGTON, KY

INTRODUCTION

Included in this workbook, you will find the following materials:

Topical Lessons

- Bible Study: The Gospel according to Mark
- Church History: A Very Brief Telling of Christian History
- Theology/Doctrine/Beliefs: On Being a Theologian
- Worship: Celebrating God's Love
- Living as Followers of Christ
- Faith Development and Commitment

Extended Assignments

- Faith/Life Interview
- Mission Ministry Report
- Four (4) Experiences Report
- Personal Faith Statement

Your Mission . . . Should You Choose to Accept It . . .

- Complete all the Topical Lessons and Extended Assignments.
- Attend at least 4 (four) of the 6 in-person sessions.
- Submit your completed workbook at the conclusion of the study.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Mark was written during a time of great distress and persecution for the early church (ca. 70 CE). Although it is not the earliest New Testament writing, it is considered to be the earliest Gospel (which means “good news”) about Jesus.

Mark is thought to have been a companion of Peter, who was one of the original 12 disciples. Mark wrote to Gentiles (persons who were Greek or Roman rather than Jewish) about Jesus, so that those who had not known him when he was alive would be able to understand what he came to teach people about God.

At right: The beginning of the Gospel According to Mark from the Codex Rossanensis, 6th century.



ASSIGNMENT for THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK:

1. Read the Gospel According to Mark from the New International Reader's Version (NIRV) accessible with the QR Code at right.
2. After you have read Mark, answer the following questions using the text as well as your own thoughts.



Mark does not begin his Gospel with Jesus' birth but instead focuses on John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:1-11). What does Mark say happened when Jesus was baptized?

What do you think was important about the story?

What do you know about your own baptism (if you have been baptized)? What happened on that occasion? Who was there? Why was it important?

Jesus was sent by God, was raised as a devout Jew, and considered a teacher. Instead of calling attention to himself, Jesus called average people to become followers of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:16-20). We know them as “disciples.” Who were they? Where did Jesus find them?

What did they do when Jesus called them?

What did Jesus ask them to do, and what do you think he meant?

How would you feel if someone came to you and asked you to “follow”? What would you need to know? What kind of sacrifices would you have to make?

In Mark 4, Jesus talked to the disciples about being “light” and “seeds.” What do you think he was trying to say?

If you can imagine Jesus calling you, what do you think he is calling you to be and do?

In Mark 13, Jesus talks about the “end times,” which can describe times in history that have been difficult for people of faith. How does faith help us through hard times?

Select two (2) passages (sections/stories) from the Gospel of Mark that you found to be interesting or troubling. Note them below along with any insights or questions you have about them.

MORE FROM YOUR READING OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

What is God like?

What is Jesus like?

What does Jesus’ death upon the cross mean?

What does it mean to “follow” Jesus?

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

The story of the Christian faith extends over two millennia and touches every continent on the globe. As a faith tradition, Christianity traces its roots to the story of Jesus of Nazareth, a first century prophet and teacher in the Jewish tradition, in whom a collection of followers sensed the presence and power of God. Upon Jesus' death these disciples (students) became apostles (messengers) proclaiming that Jesus, with whom they had lived, was now Christ (the anointed one) whose Spirit continued to live in and through them.

The apostles spread throughout Palestine with a message of salvation through Jesus, the Christ. They taught his ways, baptized those who embraced their message, and organized churches for worship, fellowship, and evangelism (proclaiming the good news). Traditions abound about the apostles, their travels, and exploits. Peter, it is said, ended up in Rome. Legend has it that Thomas went to India. John traveled to the region that is now Turkey. Paul traveled through Asia Minor and into Macedonia and Greece, and eventually all the way to Rome. So the stories go. By the end of the first century, the Christian faith had a foothold throughout the Middle East, into Europe, and parts of Asia.



The early years were difficult ones for the followers of the Way, who came to be called "Christians." Often misunderstood, they were at times met with suspicion and persecution, beginning on a local basis in various cities and towns, and then Empire-wide emanating from Rome. Theirs was not the first faith to be persecuted, nor the last. Nonetheless, they were often admired for the quality of care demonstrated within and beyond their congregations. They endured and continued to spread. Finally a measure of tolerance was afforded to them, and by the fourth century the Christian faith, now an organized religion with church buildings and organization was given official status as a religion of the Empire. This new status brought both benefits and costs.

A quite different challenge to this still new religion came from within the faith community itself. As the faith spread, and people from different places and backgrounds began to follow, talk, and write about it, differences of belief began to arise. Questions were asked and debated such as, "What is the nature of the person of Christ?" Christians began to criticize and, at times, condemn those who thought differently. Church leaders assembled to discuss these questions and decide what opinions and beliefs would be considered orthodox (correct belief). The most famous of these church councils was held at Nicaea

(in modern Turkey) and gave rise to the Nicene Creed, which continues to be used around the world today and is included in the Walnut Hill Worship Book.

Now established and organized, the Christian Church settled into life as an institution of growing influence, wealth, and power. In many ways the Church continued to proclaim the good news from which it had begun. In other ways it began to look and act much like the world around it. A major event occurred in the 12th century when the Church east and west experienced a schism (a split) between those who followed the traditions of the west (Rome) and those who followed the traditions of the east (Byzantium). The Latin (western) and the Orthodox (eastern) traditions continue to this day.

By the end of the middle ages, an exciting combination of circumstances came together. In learning, ancient writings were rediscovered. In science, the beginnings of modern discovery were taking shape. In art, beauty and form were finding new expressions. In politics, the old Roman Empire had crumbled and nation states were on the rise. In religion, power, wealth, and corruption were being questioned. For the Christian tradition, these factors exploded in what is now known as the Reformation. Martin Luther, a German monk, openly questioned the practices and teachings of the church in Rome. John Calvin, a Frenchman, argued for a scholarly approach to belief. The King of England openly defied the Pope's authority over his personal and political affairs. The protestant churches were born out of this sometimes-bloody conflict, giving rise to traditions known as Lutheran, Reformed, and Anglican. Even within the remaining Catholic Church, a Counter Reformation was in progress, but it was too late to stem the revolt. There followed a period in which these protestant traditions established themselves in different parts of Europe, often arguing with each other and persecuting minority traditions and beliefs within their territories of influence. The notorious Inquisition and the persecution of the Anabaptists were expressions of this difficult time.

Christianity came to the Western Hemisphere with explorers, conquerors and settlers. The particular tradition to root in a particular area depended upon who settled it (Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, etc.). Missionaries often accompanied explorers seeking to evangelize the indigenous inhabitants. Some of this work was genuine; often it was self-serving and destructive of indigenous cultures and ways. In North America, for instance, indigenous populations sometimes embraced the new faith readily. At other times they were forced to convert, or be exiled, or destroyed.

Right: Painting of Martin Luther (1483 - 1546), Workshop of Lucas Cranach the Elder, probably 1532. Collection of the MET, New York.



Colonial North America became a patchwork of European cultures and traditions. By French influence, Catholicism took root in what are now Canada and the Louisiana territory. Anglicanism was established in the middle colonies. Congregational and Reformed churches were planted in the northeast. Could these varied traditions coexist together in this new place? The framers of the United States Constitution were well aware of the possible dangers and sought to establish freedom of religious expression and practice, the details of which we continue to work out today.

By the late 18th century, settlers began to move west across the Allegheny and Appalachian Mountains and into Kentucky. Walnut Hill's story began in the early days of the settling of Lexington. In 1785, the Rev. James Crawford built a small log church on land provided by Levi Todd and gathered a nucleus of congregants from the surrounding farms. They were all within range of walking or riding horseback to the church over the rough paths and fields. Within two decades, they were ready for a more permanent building. In 1801 the Sanctuary was built and Walnut Hill's ministry thrived. By the mid 20th century the congregation had declined, and finally closed its doors in 1953. Two decades later, neighbors and other interested persons formed a committee to renovate the building and resume services of worship. Many persons, adults and youth, offered their resources, time, and energy to bring Walnut Hill back to life. In 1975, the sanctuary was rededicated and services resumed.

A new congregation was gathered with a particularly ecumenical mission. The dream was of a place of worship and a community of faith where persons from various traditions could gather, finding common ground in the commandment to love one another as God has loved us. So it has been since 1975.

In 1976, the new congregation at Walnut Hill called its first pastor, the Rev. Dr. John Cavendish. Dr. Cavendish served Walnut Hill for 24 years until his retirement in 2000. After an interim period, the congregation called a second pastor, the Rev. Dr. Michael Ward, who continues to serve as pastor today. Throughout all these years since 1976, Dr. Angela Hurley has provided music leadership. Since its renewal, Walnut Hill Church has seen a variety of special occasions and developments, including celebrations of the bicentennials of the original congregation (1985) and the sanctuary (2001). Trinity Hall was built and dedicated in 1985. The Walnut Hill Day School, operated separately from the Church, opened in 1986.

The second half of the 20th century, now into the 21st century, has brought a variety of new challenges and opportunities to the world and to the Christian tradition and Church. People long oppressed because of race, gender, or lifestyle have rightly demanded equal treatment and opportunity. Sometimes the Christian Church has been at the forefront of such change, while at other times holding them back. How does the Church decide when to lead or resist such change? Enhancements to travel and communication have brought people from varieties of places and cultures into contact with one another. How should

the Christian tradition interact with other faiths? Growing populations, consumption oriented living, and their ensuing demands upon resources create particular demands upon the natural world. What does the Christian faith call us to be and do in regard to nature and the environment? People born and raised today view the world quite differently than those living in the times of the Bible, the formation of much Christian doctrine, the writers of hymns, etc. Can youth and adults of today and tomorrow still hear the Christian message through its sometimes ancient words? These are just some of the many questions before the Church today.

Such is a very brief glimpse of the history of the Christian Church over these past 2000+ years. Some of that story has been courageous and glorious, some of it embarrassing and regrettable. In that sense it is a very human story of women and men seeking to respond to the ongoing echo of the good news that was heard and seen in Jesus, the Christ. The future of the Christian faith and Church depends largely on our ability to continue to hear that good news and translate it into words and deeds that will bring hope and healing to our world today and tomorrow. All of us will contribute to that future as we seek to participate in the unfolding of God's love that is known as Christianity.



Above: Early deed records detailing land given to Levi Todd
on which Walnut Hill Church now stands, 1780

ASSIGNMENT FOR CHURCH HISTORY

There is more to Church history than we can possibly consider in this setting. Our hope is to simply get you thinking about it. Consider and offer your thoughts about the questions below. You are welcome to talk with your parents and others about them!

The above “essay” refers to Christianity “faith tradition.” Define the word “tradition.” What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of any “tradition?”

The Nicene Creed was a product of one of the early church councils. Examine the Nicene Creed (QR Code at right). What do you think the writers of the Nicene Creed were trying to say about Jesus?



The Reformation occurred at least in part because of changes that needed to be made within the Church, but which the Church was unwilling to make. As you think about the Church today, what are some changes that you think need to be made?

At the time of the founding of the United States, the framers of the Constitution wrestled with the proper relationship between the Church and the Government. We often speak of the separation of Church and State. What does this “separation” mean to you?

We read that Walnut Hill was reopened in the 1970s “with a particularly ecumenical mission.” Find a definition of the word “ecumenical” and write it below.

In the paragraph concerning “the second half of the 20th century and early 21st century,” several questions are asked. Choose one of them, and offer some thoughts in response.

Our history, brief as it is, can only offer a sketch of the history of the Christian faith. Many details, places, events had to be omitted, among them any discussion of other faith traditions found in the world. Choose one of the other world faiths, and write a brief description of it in the space below.



At right: ‘Cause, baby, now we got bad blood . . . Luther hammers his 95 theses to the door, Ferdinand Pauwels, 1872. Eisenach.

ON BEING A THEOLOGIAN

Do you ever wonder what God is like? Do you ever talk with your friends about what is right and wrong? Have you ever said a prayer and wondered if God really heard that prayer? If you have ever done any of these, then you can safely say that you are “theologian.” A theologian is simply a person who thinks about God, and wonders, perhaps explores, what God is like. Some theologians teach in the Church or in schools, others write books; still others talk among their friends, or think within themselves.

One writer a long time ago put it this way, “Theology is faith in search of understanding.” Since its origin, the Church, the community of faith, has sought to understand that One in whom it trusts. That search has given rise to what is known as “doctrine,” or teaching.

Obviously, with so many people in so many places and times engaged in this search, disagreements were bound to occur. At particularly critical times along the way, those in authority have created statements of belief, or creeds, to guide the community in right teaching (orthodoxy). In every age there have been those who have disagreed. In its best moments the Church has been open to discuss and debate various opinions. At other times it has been closed, and those who disagreed have been called “heretics.” Over the years, some beliefs originally thought of as heresy, have later become accepted as doctrine.

Theology is always a work in process, never completely finished. At best, our beliefs can point toward the reality of God, which is beyond all our understanding. A few years ago, one writer said much in a light hearted way:

Theology is the study of God and his ways. For we all know, beetles may study us and our ways and call it humanology. If so, we would probably be more touched and amused than irritated. One hopes that God feels likewise.

Frederick Buechner

All of this is said to give you freedom to explore, discuss, and express what you believe about God. As the years go by, your beliefs will probably change as you change. Indeed, what we believe about God probably says as much about us at any given moment as it does about God.

Some basic Christian doctrines and questions to start your thinking follow on the next page. Have fun!

SOME BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES

- **God** - God is the Creator of all that is, visible and invisible. In more recent times, God has been described as the Source of all Being, out of which all life springs. Central to Christian belief is the notion that God is loving, just, and merciful.
- **The Trinity** – The Trinity is a specifically Christian doctrine affirming that God is One, yet known in three “persons,” the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer).
- **Jesus, The Christ** – In traditional Christian doctrine, Jesus is understood as being both fully human and fully divine. He was a prophet and a teacher, but also an incarnation (an embodiment) of God with us. Some say that Jesus is the only incarnation of God. Others say that Jesus embodied God in a way open to others as well.
- **The Holy Spirit** – The Holy Spirit is the Christian phrase for the experience of God within us, the sense we have that God’s presence dwells within us, making us alive.
- **Creation** – Creation encompasses all of reality, including us, the world, the universe, and all that is. At its most essential nature, Creation is good and has been fashioned by, or has sprung forth from, God.
- **The Sovereignty of God** – God is often spoken of as being “sovereign,” or ruling the Creation. Some have thought this to mean that nothing can happen in the Creation without God making it happen. Others understand this to mean that God’s concern and activity extends to all of Creation.
- **Revelation** – Revelation is the action of God making God’s self known to the Creation, to us. General revelation is the term used to describe the ways in which God is made known in nature and our ordinary experiences. Special revelation is the term used to describe special ways and events in which God is made known.
- **The Bible** – The Bible is traditionally understood as an example of special revelation, having authority to guide us in matters of life and faith. The Bible was written by human beings in various places and times and bears the flavor, perspectives, and limitations of those people and times. The Bible is the witness of faithful people bearing witness to their experience of God.
- **The Image of God** – Christians traditionally believe that human beings are created in the image of God in the sense that by nature and by calling we exhibit the love and care of God. The presence of the image of God in all people is one basic reason to treat others and one’s self with love and respect.
- **Sin** - We know by our experience that the Creation, and we within it, in many ways seem broken. We act toward others out of jealousy. People voice and exhibit hatred toward others. Sin is the word often used to denote the ways in which the Creation, including humanity, seems less than what God would have it be.
- **Grace** – Grace is the word used to describe the nature of God in that God loves us unconditionally without our having to do anything to earn it.

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- **Salvation** – Salvation is the work of God, in ways great and small, to bring the Creation back to wholeness, health, and a right relationship with God and with itself.
 - **Faith** – To have faith is essentially to trust God, that God's love for us is real, and that God desires and creates for us that which is good.
 - **The Church** – The Church is the name given to the gathering of people in worship, nurture, fellowship, and mission. The Church is often described as the Body of Christ, one Body throughout the earth, with many members/parts.
 - **Worship** - Worship is the act of celebrating the goodness and love of God and expressing what that goodness and love mean for our lives. Worship can be formal as in a church setting, or informal as in the celebration of a beautiful place or joyful occasion.
 - **Prayer** – Prayer is the experience of fellowship with God sometimes through words, song, and silence. Prayer can include celebration, thanksgiving, confession, prayers for others, and for ourselves.
 - **The Sacraments** – The sacraments are actions that help us to understand the love of God. The two commonly accepted sacraments include Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism emphasizes our welcome into God's household. The Lord's Supper emphasizes God's continued presence with us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
 - **Judgment** – Judgment is the action of God to set the Creation in order as it was intended to be, to bring justice and peace to the world and its inhabitants. Such judgment is a welcome gift for those who long and labor for God's justice and peace. Judgment can be a harsh reality for those whose lives are founded on injustice, exploitation, and other qualities opposed to the peace of God.
 - **The Resurrection** – Resurrection is the word used to describe the Christian belief that God never loses that which God has made. Death is not the last word upon life. In some way, beyond our knowing, God is able to make the Creation, including us, live anew.
 - **Heaven and Hell** – Heaven is the word used to describe the state of living fully in the presence of God. Hell is the word used to describe the state of living completely in the absence of God. In times past, heaven and hell were thought of as specific places. Many now think of heaven and hell as experiences, which can even be known on this earth.
 - **New Heaven/New Earth** – The New Heaven and the New Earth are the names given to the Creation when God's work of salvation is complete.

ASSIGNMENT FOR “BEING A THEOLOGIAN” and “CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES”

We mentioned that a theologian is a person who has questions about God and thinks about those questions. List three questions you have about God.

In your “theology,” what is most important to believe about God?

Do you think that the theory of evolution is opposed to the doctrine of creation, or more generally that science and faith are opposites? Why, or why not?

The Bible comes from a very different time and place. Can the Bible still guide us today?

What are your beliefs about Jesus? What does it mean that he was human and divine?

The Holy Spirit is the experience of God within us. How might the Holy Spirit make itself known to us?

What is the difference between “believing” something and “having faith?”

What do you think people should do when they disagree about what they believe?

CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE

The activity most immediately associated with the Church is “worship.” In the best sense, worship is an act of celebration -- celebrating God's love in the world and in our lives. Worship need not be formal like it often is on Sunday mornings. We can worship wherever we are, alone or with others. That said, our worship together helps us to celebrate God's love, amplifying our individual worship. Some typical elements of worship include:

Prayer - speaking to God our praise, thanks, and concerns. Prayer also involves listening for God, sometimes referred to as contemplation or meditation.

Scripture - hearing the story of God's goodness as experienced by the Israelites (Old Testament), Jesus and his disciples (New Testament - Gospels), and the early church (New Testament - Letters). Hearing the scripture often includes some explanation, which is known as the sermon.

Sacraments - acting out God's love in Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Offering - our faith, time, talents, and treasure in the world. Sometimes the offering occurs during the worship. Other times our offering follows when we return to our homes and other activities.

Music is, of course, an important part of the worship experience and can be included in any/all of the elements of worship listed above.

Worship is intended to be a participatory activity, so even though there are often designated worship leaders, the congregation is not an “audience” but rather the “producer” of worship through its thoughts, words, songs, and actions.

WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Worship is better “experienced” than “discussed.” With that in mind, take part in a worship service at Walnut Hill (or elsewhere) and report on the experience....

Date:

Church:

Identify the “elements of worship” you experienced:

What aspects of the worship experience “connected” for you, helping you to celebrate God’s love?

What aspects of the worship experience did not help you celebrate God’s love?

If you were leading this worship experience, what might you do differently?

LIVING AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

Members of the early Church were known as “followers of the way” before they were known as “Christians.” That early description highlights that being Christian is not only about what we believe about God and Jesus, but also, and even more, how we live.

Jesus said as much when he was asked about what someone must do to “inherit eternal life.” Read the story as found in Luke 10:25-37 and summarize Jesus’ teaching.

Much of the New Testament is composed of epistles (letters), many by the Apostle Paul, sent in the first century to churches in various places. These letters were written to help the Christians in those communities live as followers of Christ in their particular time and place. In a letter to the church in Rome, Paul offers a vivid description of Christian living. Read Romans 12:9-21 and list the characteristics of Christian living mentioned by Paul.

Guidance for living as Christ-followers is not limited to the New Testament. The Old Testament, or Hebrew scripture, is also a source of guidance for us, as it was for Jesus. We immediately think about the so-called Ten Commandments. Jesus knew the Ten Commandments, as well as others, and he encouraged his disciples to follow them. Read Exodus 20:1-17. Pick out two commandments and comment on what they mean for you.

Long before Jesus, there were prophets who worked among God’s people to remind them of God’s instructions for living together. One such prophet was Micah, who summarized what God “expects” of people. Read Micah 6:8 and list the three things God expects of us.

Later on Jesus summarized all the commandments of God in one “Golden Rule.” You will find it in Matthew 7:12. Write it below. What does this commandment mean for the way you live your life today?

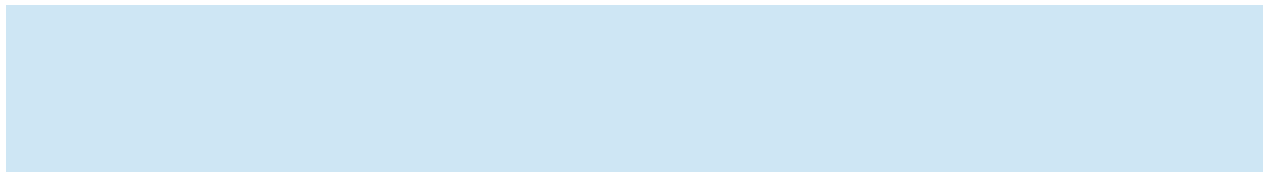
COMMITMENT AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Over these last several weeks you have had opportunity to think and talk about the Christian faith. What you have studied is by no means all there is to know. The fact that this lesson brings our study to a close does not suggest that you should now end your questions, explorations, and learning. Our goal has been to provide you with enough information to make a decision that is now before you. The decision is simply this:

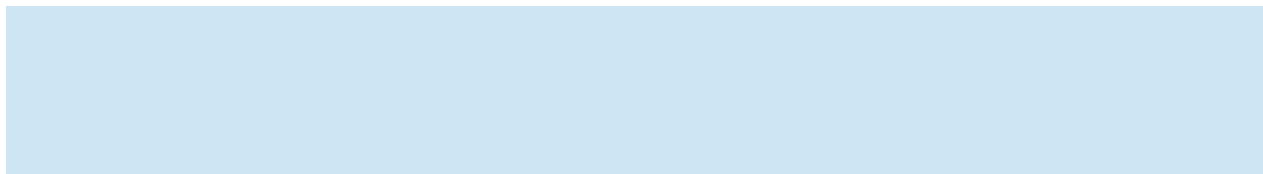
*Do you desire now to make your profession of faith
and become a confirmed member of the Church?*

Why now? This is a time of your life when you are changing from a child, to a youth, to a young adult. The evidences of that change are experienced in your body, your interests, as well as the freedoms and responsibilities given to you. Over the next few years, you will be making decisions that will literally last a lifetime. We hope that this decision is one of them.

List some things about your life that are changing.



What are some decisions you will soon be making that might “last a lifetime?”



What does it mean to make a profession of faith? First, let’s be clear that it does not mean that you have all the answers to all the questions of life, or that you ever will. Nor does it suggest that you will always think about God in the same way as you think about God now.

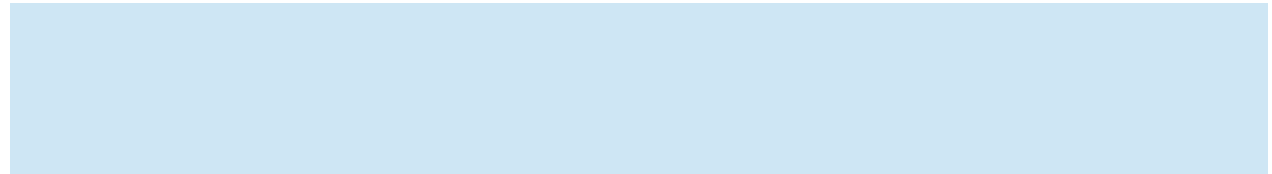
What it does mean is that in what you have learned and seen in these weeks and over the years, the story of Jesus reveals to you an image of the love of God for you and for this world, and that, to the best of your strength and understanding, you wish to follow in the path that Jesus revealed. You have faith in him. In other words, you trust him as a guide

to your life with God. In Matthew 4:18-22, we read as Jesus calls people to be his disciples, his followers. What do you think it means for you to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

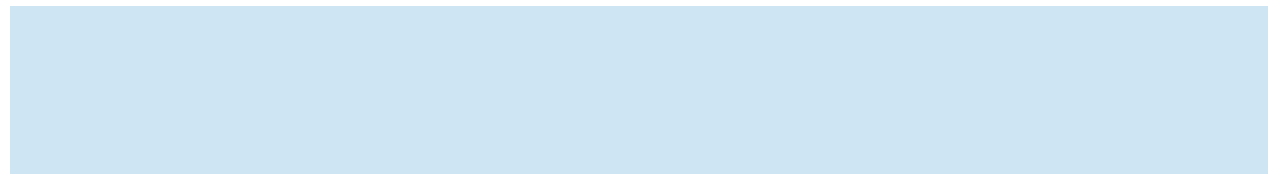
What does it mean to become a member of the church? Again, let's first be clear that it does not mean that Walnut Hill Church, or any other church, has all the answers about God or is perfect in any way. What it does mean is that in what you have learned and seen in these weeks and over the years, those people who call themselves Christians, among them the people at Walnut Hill Church, have done their best to be faithful to the path that Jesus has shown us. And, since Jesus called us to live our lives with others, you are willing to live your life of faith with us. Once you become a confirmed member of the Church, we look for you to take increasing responsibility for your own participation in the life of the church and for your part in the church's life and work.

Why is this process called confirmation? Many of us were baptized as infants and small children. If so, at that time your parents or guardians expressed their hope that when you were grown you would learn of and embrace the love of God for your life. They made promises to help you understand that love through their words and actions. Your decision to make your profession of faith "confirms" their hopes and promises. If you were not baptized as an infant or child, then baptism will be part of this decision for you, and the experience of baptism will "confirm" God's love for you, which you now joyfully claim.

Discuss with your parents about whether or not you were baptized as a child. Either way, what are their hopes for you regarding your experience of the love of God?



What happens now? The first thing that happens now is for you to do some thinking about what you have heard and discussed. Gather any questions that might affect this decision for you. List any questions that you would like to discuss as you consider your decision about confirmation.



If you decide this is not the time for you to make your profession of faith and join the church, that is o.k. You will still be recognized for having completed this study, and hopefully it will continue to be a resource for you. If you decide that this is the time for you to make your profession of faith and join the church, then we will arrange for you, and others taking the same step, to be presented before the congregation that they might celebrate with you. If you have not been previously baptized, you will receive the sacrament of baptism at that

time. All those making their profession of faith are asked the following questions:

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

And what then? When this study is completed, we hope that you will continue growing in a life of faith, worship, and service including:

1. Participation in the life of the church, at Walnut Hill or wherever your life takes you.
2. The practice of personal practices such as prayer, reading (Scripture and other sources), and reflection.
3. Outreach to others with the love of God through your words and actions.

List three specific activities that you will do to continue to grow in your life of faith.

Congratulations on completing the course, and blessings to you as you continue your life and faith journey!

EXTENDED ASSIGNMENTS

1 FAITH/LIFE INTERVIEW

Select an adult other than an immediate member of your family to interview him/her regarding faith and life. We can help you identify a person to interview if needed! Arrange the interview for a convenient time and place. Be sure to advise your parents regarding who you will be interviewing, when, and how.

CONDUCTING THE INTERVIEW

Ask the person to introduce him/herself by sharing a little bit about themselves including their family, work, hobbies/interests, etc?

Ask about significant life events and people who have been important in forming the person he/she is today?

Ask about his/her "faith" including:

- His/her experience in the Church/faith community?
- Events and people who have encouraged him/her in faith?
- How his/her life is influenced by faith?
- What are his/her primary beliefs about God/Jesus?

Ask about any advice he/she might offer to you at this time in your life?

Ask what he/she might like to know about you?

#2 MISSION MINISTRY REPORT

Interview an agency/organization in the community that serves people in need (ex. Habitat for Humanity, Nathaniel Mission, God's Pantry, Catholic Action Center, etc.) and report:

Name of the Organization:

Purpose of the Organization:

Goal of the Organization:

What needs exist:

How they are funded:

Whart kinds of volunteers are needed:

Ways that Walnut Hill could help:

3 OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE

Over the course of this study, you are expected to participate in at least four (4) experiences at Walnut Hill. These experiences can include Sunday morning worship, youth conversations or activities, outreach opportunities, etc, as might be available during this time. Watch the church email for activity opportunities and/or contact Shawn or Jessie in the office for suggestions. Record your experiences below along with any comments, questions, insights, etc, that you might have.

Experience 1:

Experience 2:

Experience 3:

Experience 4:

#4 PERSONAL FAITH STATEMENT

An important part of the confirmation process is some exploration regarding your own faith (what you believe), what it means for you to be a follower of Christ (a member of the Church), and your plans to put your faith into action. This represents your personal faith statement and might include (but not be limited to).

I believe I am a child of God . . .

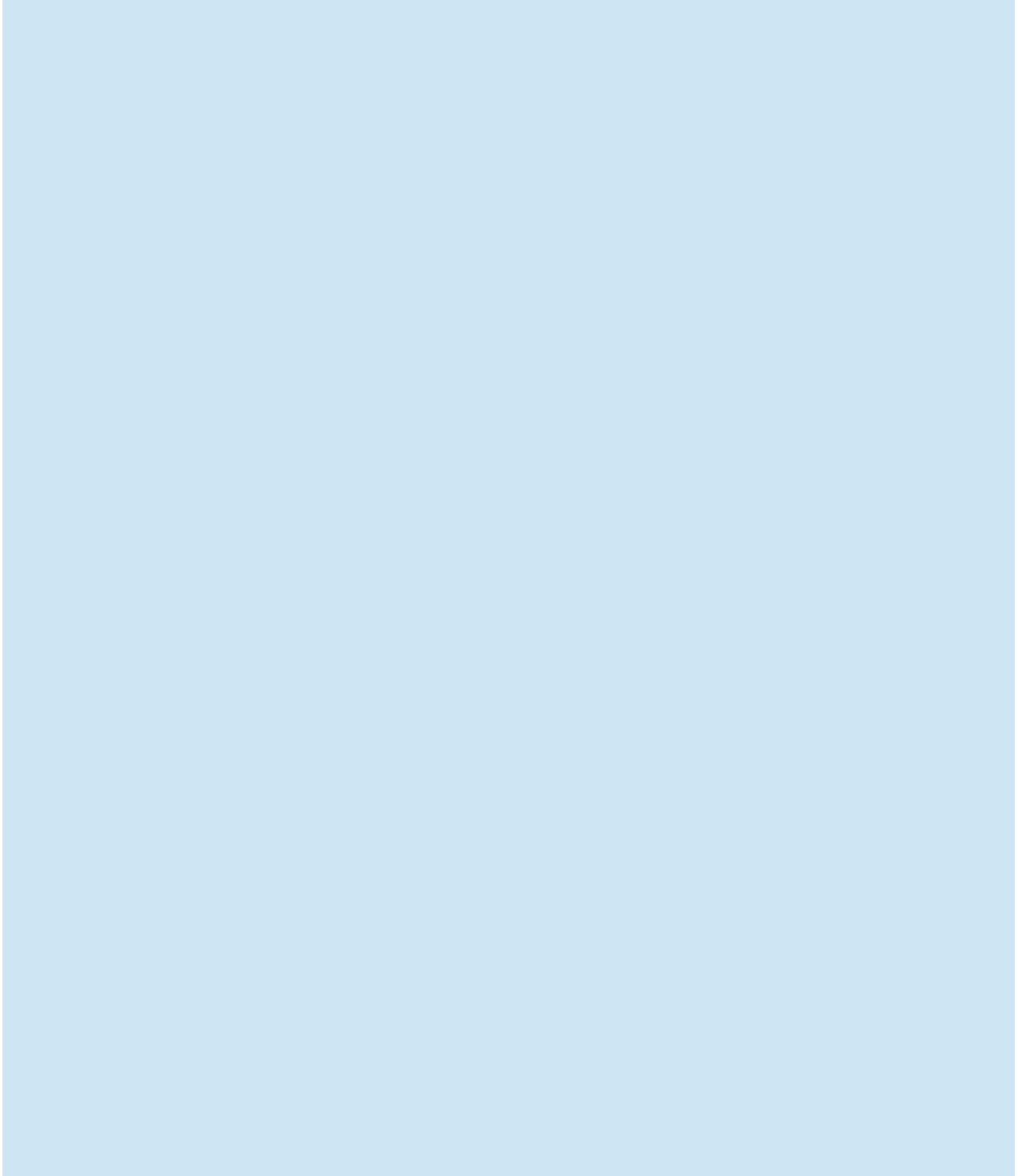
Becoming a member of the Church is important to me because . . .

To say that I have faith in Jesus means . . .

I will continue following of Jesus in my life by . . .

NOTES

NOTES





Walnut Hill Church

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