

SESSION PLAN

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

9

I want to be part of this

Are you ready to decide?

AIMS

1. To reflect on the work done so far in this programme.
2. To understand the concept of being a 'Witness to Christ' and reflect on the experience of St Peter and the apostles in being witnesses.
3. To identify and discuss real life situations when we need to be Witnesses to Christ as Confirmed adult Christians.

PRAYER

- Welcome candidates and explain that they have already took part in a lot of work, discussions and reflections as part of this programme.
- Introduce and read the opening prayer which is about following, courage and hope for the future.

KEY WORDS

- Witness/Witnessing
- Follow
- Disciple

RESOURCES

- Worksheet 9
- Prayer Sheet 9
- Poster of St Peter

NOTES

The task of writing a letter addressed to the Parish Priest could be followed up by a visit/address by the Parish Priest to the Confirmation Group at a future sessions. This can be useful especially if the priest is not normally part of the confirmation team.

MAIN SESSION

- Lead on from the initial prayer and introduce the first aim of this session. Invite candidates to think about the work done so far in previous sessions and provide a few examples of things they remember or that which struck them.
- Introduce the word '**Witnessing**'. Discuss one or two real life examples of giving witness in court or in similar situations. Ask candidates to write brief notes about something they witnessed in the space provided in Part B of the worksheet.
- Explain that 'Being a Witness' is key to being a Christian. As Confirmed Christians we need to commit to witness to our Lord Jesus in all situations in real life. This includes school, work and family. It means that we decide that we want to **follow** Christ in our entire life. At Confirmation we are invited to make this commitment.
- Show a poster of St Peter. Ask candidates what they already know about him. Establish the fact that having met Jesus his life changed. Read through the captions in the second part of Part B to illustrate how being a witness to Christ led Peter to work hard within the early Church and eventually to give up his life for him.
- Move on to Part C. Invite candidates to provide examples of real life situations when we need to be a '**Witness**' to Jesus. Briefly comment on these situations and explain that is not always easy to behave as a Christian and be a witness in today's society. You may wish to discuss other examples not referred to in the discussion e.g. when faced with moral issues as discussed in Session 6.
- Introduce Part D. Say that at this point in the Confirmation Programme candidates should have acquired a reasonably good idea of what it means to be a Confirmed Christian - taking a positive decision to be a follower of Christ, to be his witness and to be his **disciple**.
- Invite them to find some time to reflect on whether they are ready to take this commitment ... to see if they are truly ready to be Confirmed.
- Read out the caption at the bottom of Worksheet 9. Explain the task of writing a letter to show the willingness to take this next step in Christian life and be Confirmed. Suggest they do this privately in their own time and ideally after praying about it.

CONCLUSION/REFLECTION

- Create a prayerful atmosphere. Introduce the prayer on Witnessing (Prayer Sheet 9).
- Invite one of the candidates to read in a reflective way.
- Invite candidates to share prayers for situations when they have to witness: 'Lord Jesus, help me to follow you/be your witness when.....'