



BIG GOD BIG QUESTIONS

CONFIRMATION FOR A GROWING FAITH

12 Tips for Adapting *Big God Big Questions*

1. Use a video chat for each session and conduct it as if you were in person.
2. Send the BIG Journal home with confirmands before you have your first meeting. During the session, the confirmands may use the journal to reflect on prompts provided in the session. This allows youth time to think before responding.
3. Send out the Home/Mentor Guide to parents and/or caregivers and mentors before your first meeting.
4. Invite the mentors and different congregation members to be part of your video chat as directed in the session plan.
5. Anytime the curriculum suggests making a list with the group on newsprint or a poster, use a tool such as Microsoft Word, Google Doc, or Pages and share your screen with the group as you type the list. You can also use the breakout function of your video chat software to make smaller groups for discussion.
6. Invite one or two people to read something instead of reading aloud together.
7. Share resource pages on your screen or email them. Adapt activities as necessary.
8. Purchase the downloadable Infographics to use and share on your screen.
9. If a closing activity is too complex for an online format, a closing prayer works well. Often there is a prayer provided.
10. Send out the video to watch before or after the actual session instead of during the video chat. You will need to purchase the downloadable videos.
11. Use the Bible studies and questions, engaging in discussion as much as possible. Listed below are several suggestions for adapting activities.
12. Encourage mentors to follow to your church's child protection policy as they meet digitally or in person with confirmands.

Session Adaptations and Substitutions

- In the "Covenant Loyalty in the Bible" section, use online image searches (such as www.google.com, www.bing.com, www.pexels.com, or www.unsplash.com) to share pictures instead of making a collage. Images may be collected on sites such as Pinterest (www.pinterest.com) or Trello (www.trello.com). You may also create a slideshow using a slideshow or movie app.
- Use the questions from "Covenant Loyalty in Our Church." Form small groups of confirmands and mentors using online breakout rooms.

Session 2:

- In the “Trusting God in Our Church” section, provide an electronic version of or link to your church’s worship bulletin.
- Use option 2 or 3 from the “Close with Worship” section.

Session 3:

- Open with the activity as it is without the hacky sack.
- Close with the following prayer: “God, you sent Jesus to us so that we can be forgiven and free. Help us to remember to turn from sin and to follow Jesus Christ. Amen.”

Session 4:

- In “Serving the Lord in the Bible” as part of the Philippians Bible study section, share your screen to show the picture of the fountain in Ephesus (bit.ly/2jTWoip).
- In the same section, make a document or slide with an outline or silhouette of a head.

Session 5:

- Before the session, bookmark some online ads to show in the opening activity.
- In the opening activity, and throughout the session, you will not be able to do the graffiti portion of the activity.
- In the closing activity, invite the confirmands to get a small amount of olive oil, cooking oil, or baby oil on a piece of paper towel, napkin, or cotton ball.

Session 6:

- In the opening activity, adapt the individual crosses activity. Before the session, invite the confirmands to go on a cross scavenger hunt around their home and/or neighborhood. Tell them to take photos of crosses or cross-like shapes with their phones. Have the youth share their pictures when you meet. Pictures could be made into a photo collage or slideshow to be shared with your congregation.
- In the closing section, invite each confirmand to share a picture of one of the crosses they found while you prompt them to say the line provided.

Session 7:

- In the closing activity, invite each confirmand to trace their foot on a piece of paper. Encourage them to display their footprint where they can see it as a reminder of what they will do to follow Jesus.

Session 8:

- Before the session, create a document with the four questions in the opening activity. Ask the confirmands to write their responses using the group chat feature.
- In the “How Do I Fit?” section, instead of making a mural, invite the youth to choose a person who has been a good role model of faith in their life. This person may be living or deceased. Have them write a letter to this person. Encourage the youth to send the letter or share it with the group if they are comfortable doing so.

Session 9:

- In the opening activity, begin with the prayer and move to the BIG Journal activity.
- In the closing activity, encourage the confirmands to write something positive about each person in the group chat. Suggest that everyone write about the same person at the same time to keep the chat more organized. Save the chat from the session and email it to each confirmand so that they have a copy. Encourage them to print the parts about themselves and tape them into their BIG Journals.

Session 10:

- Before the session, choose one of the following bread-making activity options:
 - Have each mentor deliver bread to their confirmand(s). Remember to check for any allergies.
 - Make bread together in a video chat like a cooking class.
 - Ask each confirmand to have bread available.
- At the end of the “Breaking of Bread in the Bible” section, announce each step and have everyone eat together at the same time. When you get to “Give,” invite the confirmands to share their bread with others in their household.

Session 11:

- In the “Prayer in the Bible” section, adapt the activity because confirmands will not have clay to make a heart. Follow the instructions, inviting the confirmands to imagine the clay in their hands.
- In the “Prayer in Our Church” section, choose option 2 and adapt the activity by reading Psalm 103 and having the confirmands write words that stand out to them from the passage. Invite the confirmands to turn those word into art. Suggest that they can write a word in big letters and draw around it, create a drawing that showcases words, or doodle around the words. Play music while they work.
- In the closing section, invite the confirmands to imagine the clay hearts in their hands.

Session 12:

- In the opening activity, invite the confirmands to find a picture of a river that speaks to them in some way instead of making a river. Have them share their picture with the group and explain why they chose it.
- Before the session, invite the confirmands to find a small stone and have it near them for the “Crossing Over in the Bible” activity. Encourage the youth to hold up their stone when invited to choose a stone. Continue with the session.
- In the closing activity, invite each confirmand to go to a place in their home or outside that feels holy or special to them. If they cannot move to another place because of their internet connection, encourage them to picture this place in their mind. Invite mentors to pray the prayer, holding their hands out as if laying their hands on their confirmand’s head.