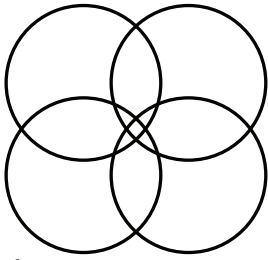


BIG

JOURNAL





BIG GOD

BIG QUESTIONS

CONFIRMATION FOR A GROWING FAITH

BIG Journal

"My heart I offer you, Lord, promptly and sincerely."

—John Calvin

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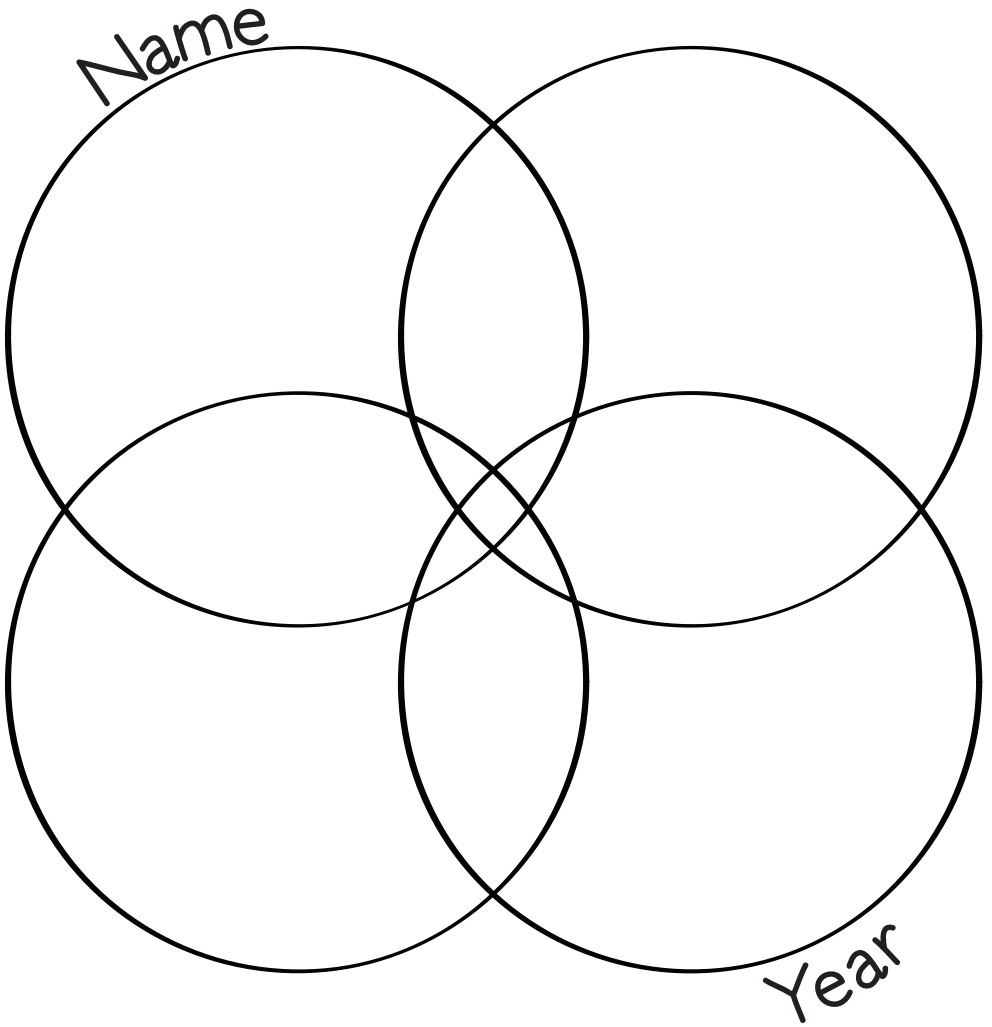
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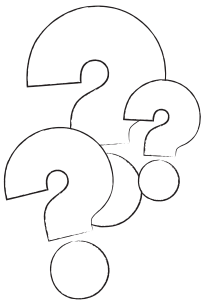
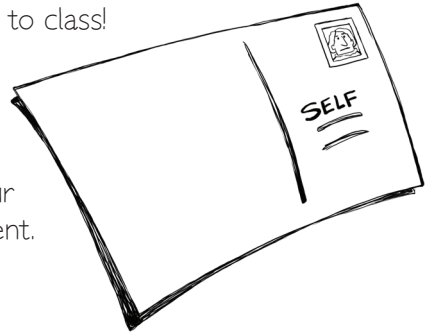
Hi! Welcome to Confirmation. We're excited you're here.

This is YOUR journal. Take it home. Some of the pages are yours, and yours alone. Use them to reflect, ponder, or scribble on. Other pages will be used in class. So, bring your journal each time your Confirmation class meets and each time you meet with your mentor.

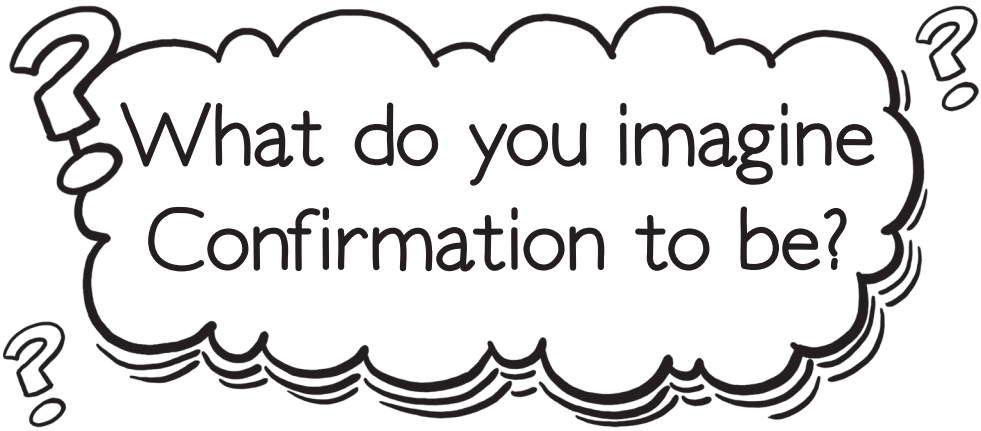
Turn to page 2. It tells you a little bit about what Confirmation means. On page 9, find the BIG questions of Confirmation. To be confirmed, you will need to figure out how you will answer them.

BTW, did you hear? Bring YOUR journal to class!

Keep an eye out for the “postcard pages.” Fill these out each week. They will help you with words and ideas if your church asks you to write a faith statement. SERIOUSLY!



We—your church, your leaders, your family, and your mentors—are here to walk alongside you as you consider the BIG questions about our BIG God. No question is too BIG or too little, so ask them! We may not know the answers, but together, we'll wrestle with the questions and have some great conversations along the way.



Words We Use

Covenant is a relationship started by God with God's people. A hallmark of covenant is the expectation that each party will remain loyal to the relationship. Confirmation is an opportunity to affirm and reaffirm the covenant the church makes in Baptism.

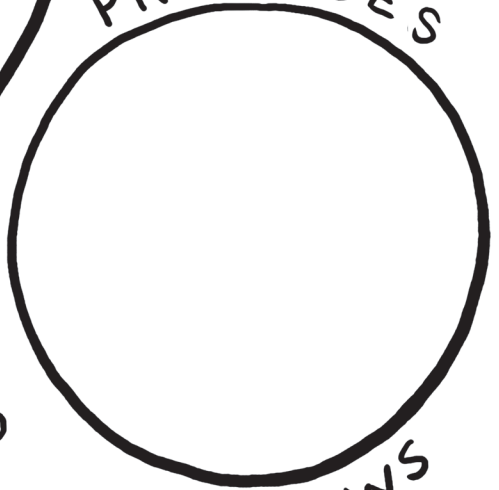
Confirmation is an act of covenant renewal that includes three parties: 1) God confirms a student's baptismal identity as a child of God, whether Baptism occurred in childhood or at the Confirmation worship service; 2) the student confirms his or her faith in Jesus Christ and the teachings of the church; and 3) the congregation confirms the student's spiritual gifts for ministry and active church membership.

Membership in the church happens at Baptism. Confirmation signals a shift from being a baptized member to an active member (that is, active in the ministries and governance of a congregation).

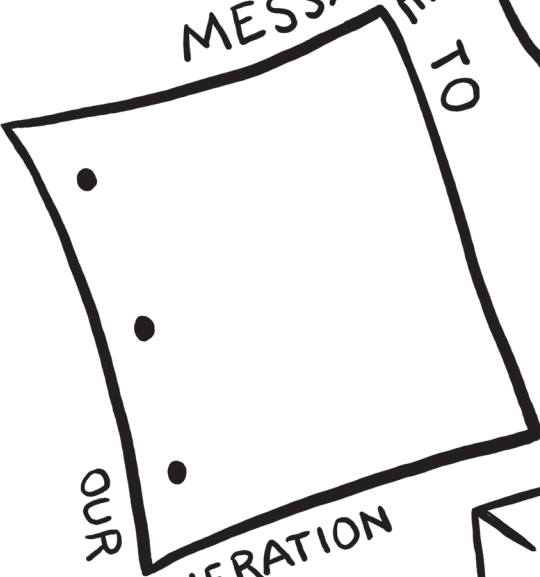
LOYALTY TO GOD



PROMISES



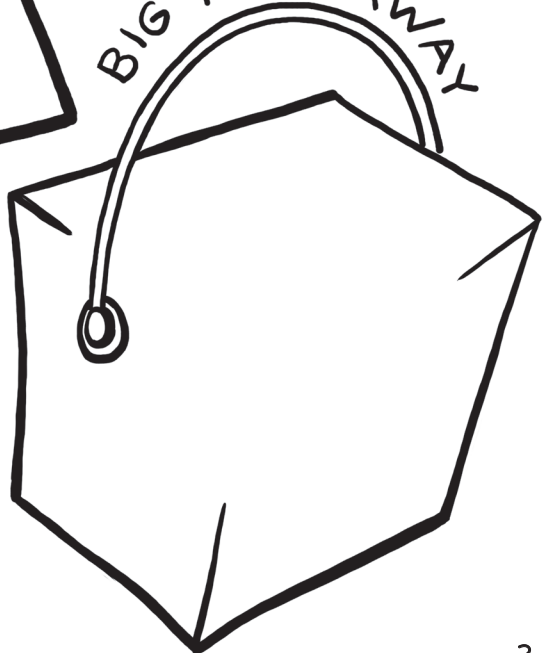
MESSAGE TO



OUR GENERATION

& VOWS

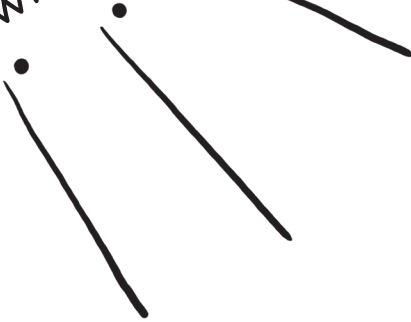
BIG TAKEAWAY



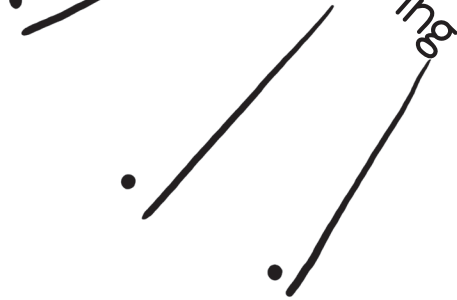
PWE PROMISE

Working with your mentor, write what each of you brings (tangible and intangible) to Confirmation. What promises will you make to each other in this process?

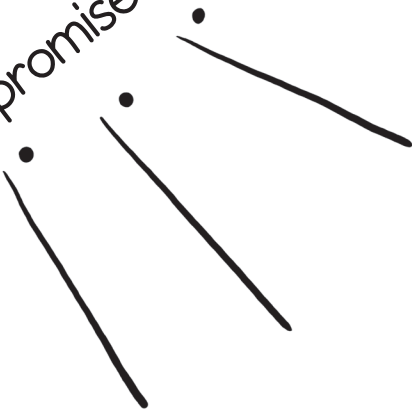
I will bring .



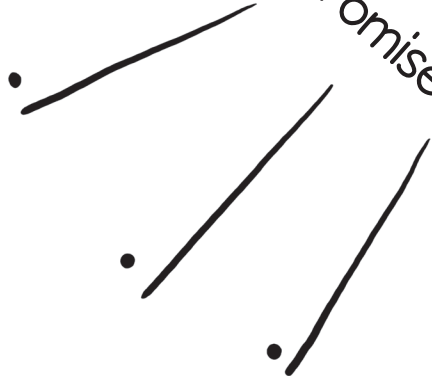
I will bring



I promise



I promise



Date

Student signature

Mentor signature

For Me and My House

What questions do you have about being a child of God?

In what ways do you want to practice your

your family to support you in Confirmation?

faith during Confirmation? How do you want

Sign as a covenant with a family member and say a brief prayer of thanks for one another to God.

Student signature

Date

Family member signature

Use the story of Joshua 24 to reflect on your own faith story:



What is your first experience of church?



What is one of your earliest memories of God?



What are three key moments in your life so far and how was God involved?

1)

2)

3)

YOUR FAITH JOURNEY

What are some of the barriers to your faith?

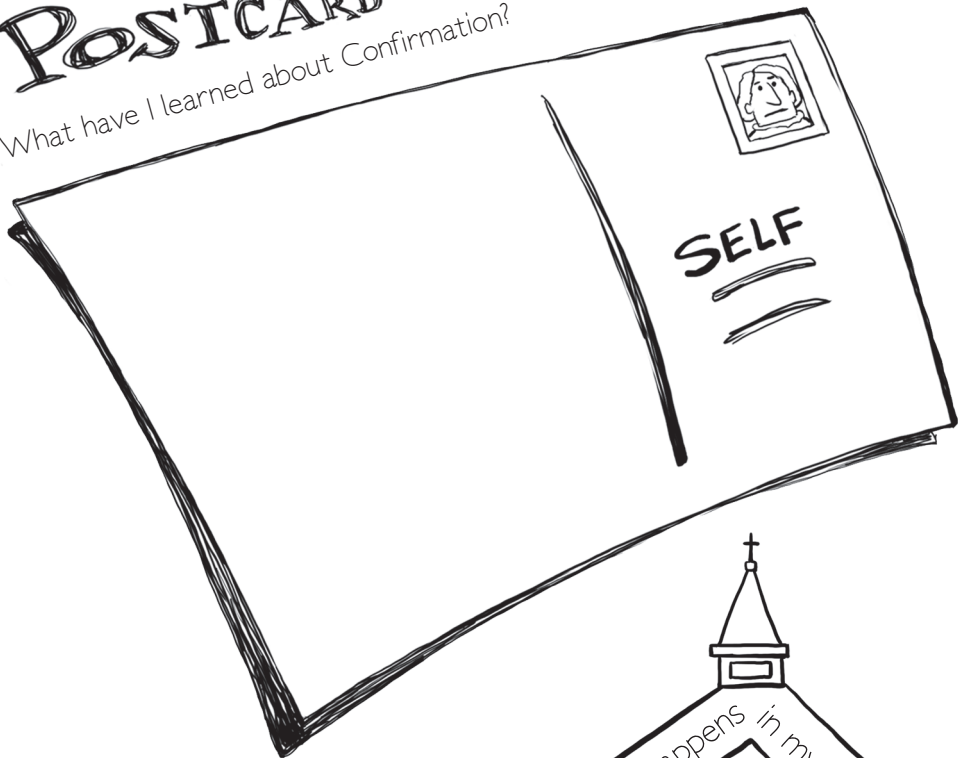


What do you think a profession of faith should include?

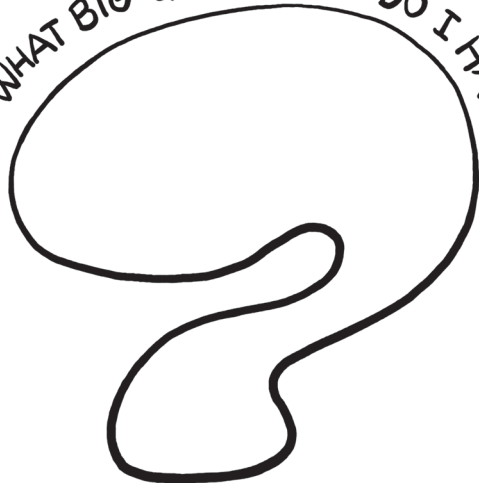


POSTCARD

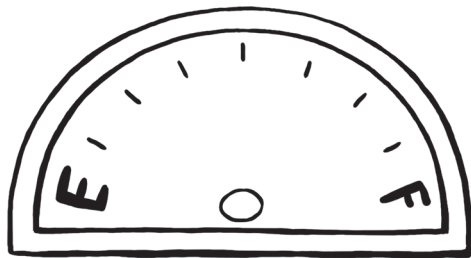
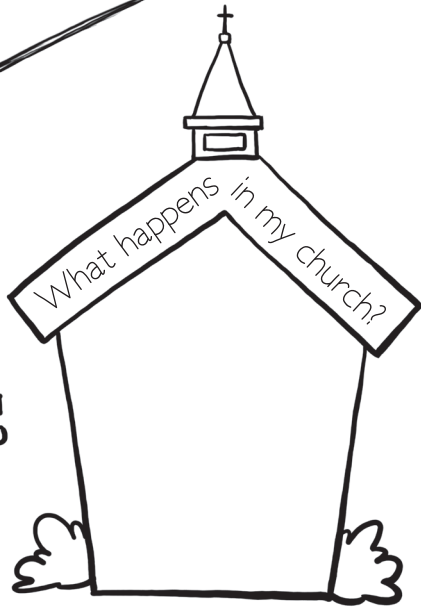
What have I learned about Confirmation?



WHAT BIG QUESTION DO I HAVE?

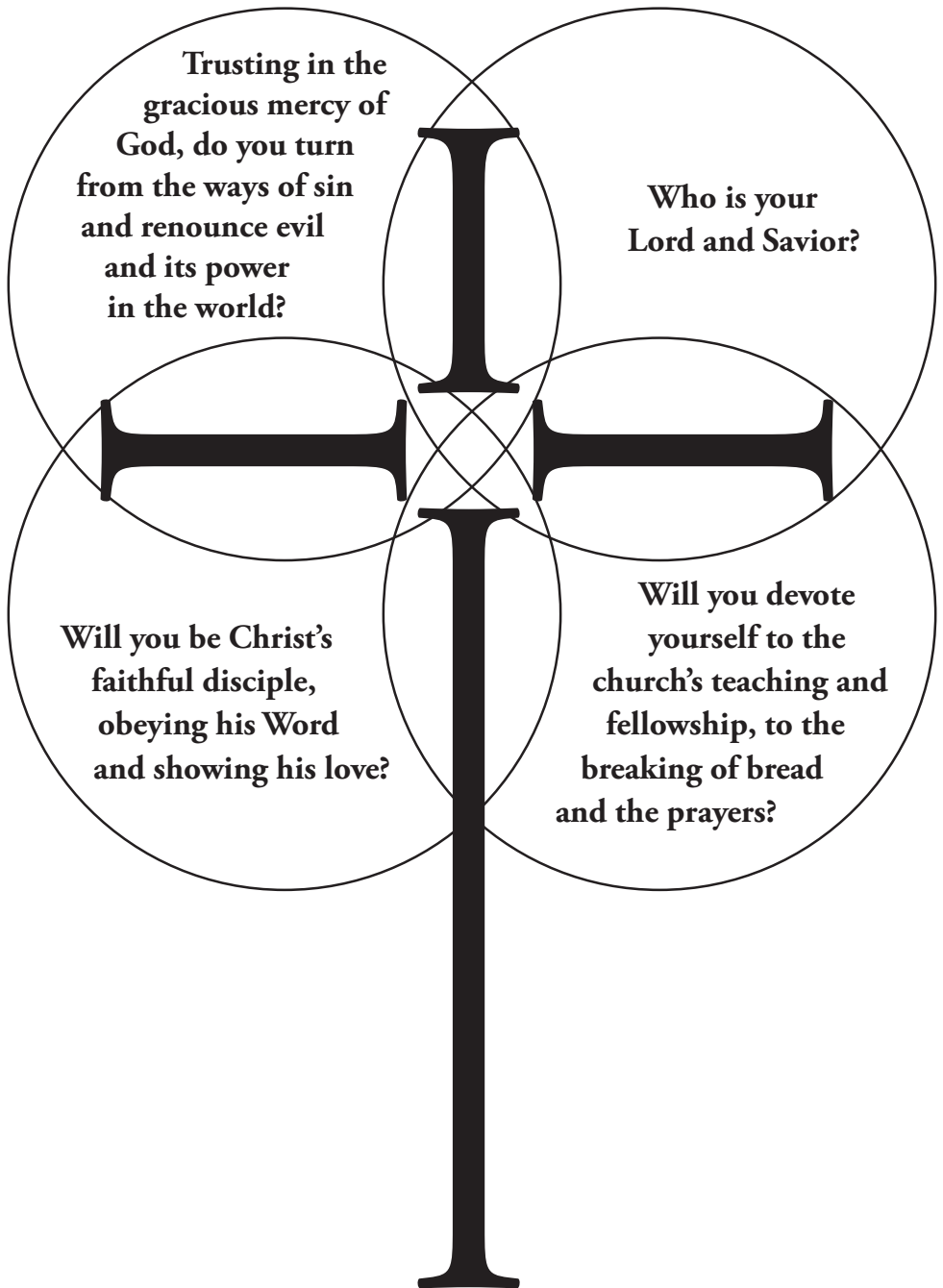


WHAT LITTLE QUESTION DO I HAVE?



How do I feel about being confirmed?

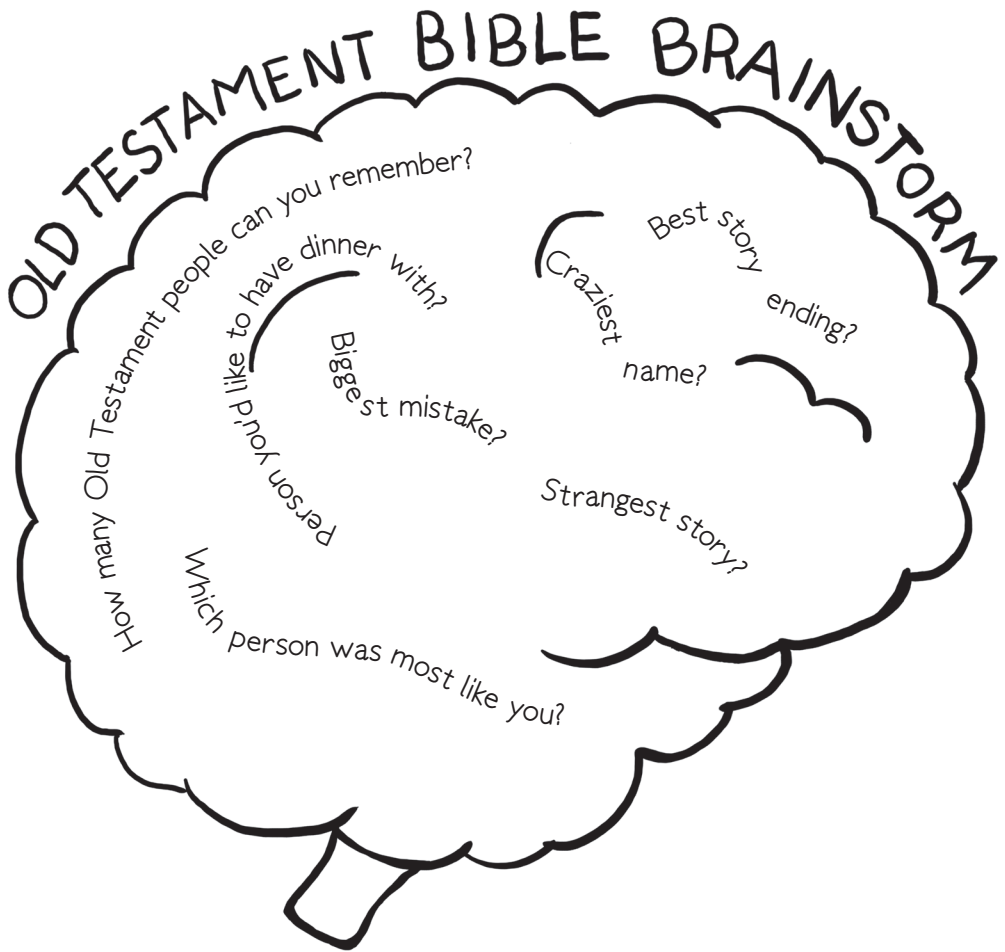
THE BIG QUESTIONS



Looking Ahead:

Next session,

we will focus on the Old Testament and the stories of God's faithfulness to the people.



What does it mean to know?
What does it mean to trust? ?

Words We Use



Trusting God means believing (having faith) that God acts faithfully in the world. Loving God is the greatest of all the laws. Loving God and trusting God go hand in hand. Belief means “giving your heart to something.” To whom do you give your heart?

Grace is the love that God gives to us—not because we have earned it but because God loves us despite our mistakes. Grace is a love bigger than we can imagine.

Mercy is God’s willingness to forgive us again and again, even when we break our promises to God and one another.

Covenant is the agreement in which God vows to be faithful to the people and the people promise to be faithful to God. The Bible shows us that God is trustworthy when it comes to God’s promises.