

Name:

Confirmation Theology Year, Week One

September 15: Who is God?

1. What is a great experience or memory from the summer? What are you looking forward to this school year?

2. What is Theology? Watch the following video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJNPCL1ZurA&t=3s>
 - a. How does Kyle define theology?

 - b. What kind of words or phrases are theological statements we use all the time (like "God bless America")?

 - c. Are all Christians theologians?

3. Theology helps us unpack what may otherwise seem like empty words...
 - a. Do you ever have trouble answering questions like "Where do you experience God's presence"? Why or why not?

4. Theological Themes in Secular music
 - a. Throughout this fall, we will begin every class with a secular song and explore the theological themes. These are themes like...
 - i. Sin
 - ii. Grace
 - iii. Hope
 - iv. Forgiveness

- v. Call/purpose
- vi. Jesus
- vii. God
- viii. Spirit

b. Watch the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bc6HloRYZGc>

c. Questions:

i. What themes in this song relate to God?

ii. What words do the Wailin' Jennys use that remind you of God or how some people think about God?

iii. How does this song relate to the Trinity?

5. Who is God?

a. Write down adjectives you might use to describe God, in the space below:

6. Google images of "God, Sistine Chapel", "God, in Simpsons", and "Steph Curry pointing to God"

a. Questions

i. What do these images have in common?

ii. How would you describe God based on these images?

- iii. Do these images fit with the adjective you wrote on your paper? Why or why not?

7. Watch the following video:

<https://vimeo.com/47417890>

- a. What did you think was interesting about this video?
 - b. What is a metaphor?
 - c. How does this video help you think about God?
8. Trinity: We believe God is three in one (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
- a. How would you describe the Trinity?
9. Read Exodus 20:1-6
- a. What did God say?
 - b. What are idols?

c. Activity: In 2020, the 9 people with the most followers on Instagram are as follows:

Cristiano Ronaldo
Dwayne Johnson
Kylie Jenner
Ariana Grande
Lionel Messi
Salena Gomez
Kim Kardashian
Beyonce
Justin Bieber

d. Based on these names, and their Instagram feeds filled with muscles, expensive clothing, seductive poses, meticulously styled looks, and LOTS of filters, what would you say our idols are?

10. Hanging with Martin Luther this fall...who is he?

Watch the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tox2TfIUH90>

11. Luther wrote the Small Catechism, filled with his understandings about things we believe.

a. Martin Luther responded to all ten commandments. Check out what he said about the first commandment:

12. The First Commandment: *Thou shalt have no other gods.*

13. What does this mean? "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things." (Luther's words)

14. Who do we say God is?

a. Every week we say the Apostle's creed in church.

b. What is a creed?

c. What are some "creeds" in our culture today?

15. The Apostle's Creed has three "articles." Let's read the first article and what Luther says about it.

a. Article 1: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth

i. What did Luther say about it? "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them; in addition thereto, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and homestead, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all danger, and guards me and preserves me from all evil; and all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I owe it to Him to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true."

b. Where does Luther think everything we have comes from?

c. What do you think about this idea?

16. Who does scripture say God is?

a. Bible readings: Who is God/what does God do according to each passage?

- i. Genesis 1:1-5 (creator)
- ii. Exodus 34:6 (slow to anger)
- iii. Psalm 16 (protector)
- iv. Psalm 44:23-26 (Sleeping, absent)
- v. John 1:14-16 (made human)
- vi. Matthew 22:37-40 (Loving, neighbor love)
- vii. John 20:14-18 (didn't stay dead)
- viii. Acts 2:1-4 (wild, holy spirit)

b. When have you felt God's presence? If this question is hard for you to respond to, Think about what you know about God (scripture, tradition) and God's character. Then, think about places you have experienced things like love, kindness, slowness to anger, etc.

c. Say the Lord's Prayer