

Confirmation Theology Year, Week Three  
September 29: Holy Spirit. Pneumatology

- Roll/what do you like to do when it's hot outside?
- Holy Spirit Warm Up Questions
  - How would you describe the Holy Spirit?
  - What does the Holy Spirit DO?
  - What is different about the Holy Spirit, from the other two persons of the Trinity?
- Listen to Lady Antebellum , "Compass"
- Questions:
  - Who could be singing this song to you, if you were "thinking theologically"?
  - How does this song relate to the Holy Spirit?
  - What is like our compass? Who do we follow when we are lost?
    - How do we do that?
  - In your group, tell a story about a time you wanted to "give up cause it's dark", but you figured out you weren't alone.
- Holy Spirit in the Bible
  - Genesis 1:1-2
    - What is the "wind from God"?
  - Matthew 3:13-17
    - Small Group Questions:
      - Was the Spirit literally a dove?
      - What does it mean to be "beloved"?
      - Talk about a time someone has been proud of you, or you have felt "Beloved"?
        - This act of calling Jesus beloved is part of the Holy Spirit's function.
    - Talk about baptism and what it means/receiving the Spirit.
  - John 20:19-23
    - What Happened?
    - What function does the Holy Spirit serve in this story?
  - Acts 2:1-13
    - Small Group Questions:
      - What happened?
      - What does the Holy Spirit do in this story?
      - Could any of the disciples speak different languages without the Holy Spirit?

- If the Holy Spirit is part of God, what does this story say about God? Does God only want certain people included in God's family?
    - Romans 8:26-27
      - Small Group Questions:
        - What makes it hard to pray?
        - Have you ever experienced something that made it hard for you to believe, hard for you to talk to God?
        - Does the Holy Spirit "intercede" because we ask the Spirit to, or because God is active in us?
- Apostle's creed
  - What is a creed?
    - What are creeds in our culture today?
  - Importance of saying it together; "Faith is made whole in community".
- Read article 3 and Luther's explanation (can be found in the hymnal, in your catechism, or online)
  - Questions:
    - What does Luther say the "third article" means? Translation, please!
    - We say it's about faith, not works. Where does "faith" come from?
    - Holy Spirit forgives our sin, calls us together, helps us have faith...and empowers us to respond to all of this graciousness!
    - This is hard stuff, and we can't do it on our own.
- We are like trees bearing fruit
- Activity: "Minefield"
- Processing:
  - Those of you who were blindfolded, what did you have to do to succeed?
  - Those of you who gave direction, did you feel like you had a lot of power?
  - The Holy Spirit is like the person giving direction. We cannot believe, have faith, serve others, love God without the Holy Spirit's presence and action within us. We are like the blindfolded people, passively receiving the Holy Spirit. But the Spirit empowers us to respond.
- Summing it Up:
  - The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity.
  - We receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism, and through the Spirit we are able to have faith.

"Compass" by Lady Antebellum

Yea it's been a bumpy road  
Roller coasters high and low  
Fill the tank and drive the car  
Pedal fast, pedal hard  
You won't have to go that far

You want to give up cause it's dark  
We're really not that far apart

So let your heart sweetheart be your compass when you're lost  
And you should follow it wherever it may go  
When it's all said and done you can walk instead of run  
'Cause no matter what you'll never be alone  
Never be alone  
Never be alone

Forgot directions on your way  
Don't close your eyes don't be afraid  
We might be crazy late at night  
I can't wait til you arrive  
Follow stars you'll be alright

You want to give up cause it's dark  
We're really not that far apart

So let your heart sweetheart be your compass when you're lost  
And you should follow it wherever it may go  
When it's all said and done you can walk instead of run  
'Cause no matter what you'll never be alone  
Never be alone  
Never be alone

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