**At Home Confirmation Class #4 – March 7, 2021**

**Instructions for Parents:** Please guide your 5th grader through this 7 page at home confirmation class experience. You should plan on at least 90 minutes to complete Class #4. It does not need to be completed in one sitting! Please prepare your child that this class will deal with some “tougher” topics. We recommend you read this class over first before you begin with your child, and if possible, watch the videos on your own before you watch them with your child. In total, the videos are about 11 minutes. When you and your 5th grader have completed the entire class together, please email**michaely@damascus.com**using the following subject line *“First and Last Name of Student- Completed At Home Class #4.”*

This class covers four topics related to the 6th and 7th core beliefs of DRCC: the church, the kingdom of God, heaven, and hell. The kingdom of God, heaven and hell are related to the 7th belief of DRCC. Prior to exploring these topics, there is a Quiz for your student to take on some of the key things that they learned during the 3rd confirmation class on February 28th. Please have your student complete the Quiz after you print the quiz OR after you save the Quiz as a separate document, in which case they can complete it right from your computer.

The page after the quiz is the Answer Key. Please have your 5th grader take the quiz without seeing the Answer Key or looking at any handouts or notes from last week. After he or she is done, ask them to share their answers with you and compare those against the Answer Key. Remember, any quiz in the confirmation class is not graded! The idea is to help the students learn and review key concepts from the week before.

**SAVE THE DATE for these upcoming Zoom sessions (registration coming soon):**

* Thursday, March 25th from 7-8pm: *Live Q&A with a panel of Elders*
	+ Does your student have questions about what they are learning in the confirmation class? If so, have them attend with their questions!
* Sunday, April 11th from 6-7pm: *Live Session w/ DRCC Youth Pastor Roger Record*
	+ This is for students in the at-home confirmation class as Pastor Roger will be teaching the in-person class earlier that same day.
* Wednesday, April 28th from 7-8:15pm: *Middle School Here We Come and We’re Bringing Jesus with Us!*
	+ This will be led by 2 middle school teachers that attend DRCC and is for any student who will be entering a public middle school in the Fall. Student session is from 7-8pm, parents join for the last 15 minutes. Get the inside scoop on what middle school is really like!

**Quiz on Key Ideas from February 28th Confirmation Class**

1. Write out John 3:16 (without looking it up)
2. Why does sin separate us from God?
3. What is the biblical definition of “children of God?”
4. Can you earn your salvation by living a good life? Why or why not?
5. What verse in the bible helps us answer the last question?
	1. Ephesians 2:8-9
	2. Matthew 1:1
	3. Romans 10:2
	4. Revelation 21:1
6. What is communion and why is it important?
7. Where and when was the first communion celebrated?
	1. At DRCC led by Pastor Rajendra in the year 2001
	2. By the Red Sea right after the Israelites crossed it
	3. In a large upper room at Passover
	4. In Bethlehem shortly after Jesus’ birth
8. BONUS: What is Passover and how is it connected to Jesus’ death on the cross?

**Quiz Answer Key on Key Ideas from March 15th Confirmation Class**

1. Write out John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (NIV)
2. Why does sin separate us from God? In the beginning, there was no separation or distance between God and people. The Bible tells us that God dwelled or lived with people in the Garden of Eden. However, when Adam and Eve sinned, everything changed. Imperfect people who sin (that’s everyone) could no longer dwell or live with God, who is perfect and without sin. (Romans 3:23:Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God’s glory. NIrV)
3. What is the biblical definition of “children of God?” A child of God is anyone who accepts Jesus and believes in Him. (John 1:12. “Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.” NIrV) The good news is, through faith in Jesus, we are no longer separated from God and someday will live with Him again!
4. Can you earn your salvation by living a good life? Why or why not? No, we can’t because in order to save ourselves from our sin we have to stop sinning and be perfect. That’s impossible for us, but it’s not impossible for God – which is why He sent Jesus to save us!
5. What verse in the bible helps us answer the last question?
	1. Ephesians 2:8-9 (look it up one more time)
	2. Matthew 1:1
	3. Romans 10:2
	4. Revelation 21:1
6. What is communion and why is it important? Communion is a sacred meal that followers of Jesus Christ will typically take in church on a regular basis. It consists of bread and wine (in our case, juice). It’s important because it reminds us of Jesus’ death on the cross for our sins (the bread represents Jesus’ body that was broken for us and the wine or juice represents Jesus’ blood that was shed for us.)
7. Where and when was the first communion celebrated?
	1. At DRCC led by Pastor Rajendra in the year 2001
	2. By the Red Sea right after the Israelites crossed it
	3. In a large upper room at Passover
	4. In Bethlehem shortly after Jesus’ birth
8. BONUS: What is Passover and how is it connected to Jesus’ death on the cross? The story of the first Passover is told in Exodus 12 when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. God gave them instructions to kill a lamb and put the blood of the lamb over the doorframes of their houses. The blood of the lamb literally saved their lives as the plague of death passed over them that first Passover night. In John 1:29, John the Baptist refers to Jesus as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” It is Jesus’ blood that protects us and causes death to ultimately pass over us (even though we will die, God will bring back to life all people who follow Jesus).

# The Church

1. *Last week you reviewed the 5th and 6th beliefs of DRCC by focusing on salvation, the fruits of the spirit, and communion. The 6th belief of DRCC is largely focused on the church. Before diving into the 7th belief of DRCC, start off with a Bible study on the church so your 5th grader has a good understanding of what is meant when the term “church” is used.*
	* *Open in Prayer.*
	* **Ask: “When you hear the word church, what is the first thing that comes to your mind?”**
	* Say: “The word church comes from the Greek word ecclesia, which means assembly or gathering of God’s people.”
	* *Share with your 5th grader your experience with church – which ones you have attended, etc….*
	* Explore Key Verses about the Church and Discuss:
		+ Ask: “What do we know about the church from the following passages of scripture?”
		+ *First, have your 5th grader look up and read the verses to you. After they read each of the passages, ask them what they think it is saying about the church. Then share the answer if needed.*
			- Colossians 1:15-18 (Answer: Christ is the head of the church)
			- Matthew 16:18 (Answer: the church is made to last!)
			- 1 Corinthians 12:12 (Answer: the church is called to unity, yet it is also diverse)
		+ *Have your child look up and read the following passage:* Mathew 28:18-20
		+ *After they read this, ask them*, “What is the church’s role or job in 2021?” Pause and wait for their answer. If necessary, share the answer. (Answer: Go and make disciples or followers of Jesus! This is called the Great Commission and it was Jesus’ call for his first disciples, but it is also his call for all of his followers today.)
2. *Explain to your 5th grader that the rest of today’s lesson will focus on 3 ideas: the Kingdom of God, Heaven, and Hell. (Each of these 3 ideas relate to the 7th Belief of DRCC.)*

# The Kingdom of God

*First, watch the 5 minute Bible Project Video:* [*https://bibleproject.com/explore/gospel-kingdom/*](https://bibleproject.com/explore/gospel-kingdom/)

*See if they have any questions about the video. If they ask any questions you are not able to answer, that’s ok. Just be honest and tell them you are learning as well (the truth is, we all are!). If support is needed for any questions your child may have, email* *childrensministry@damascus.com**. Also, as you read the below description of the Kingdom of God, some of their questions might be answered. In addition, you will watch another video later in the lesson on “Heaven and Earth.” This may also help answer some questions your child may have.*

*Since this next part of the lesson is heavier on reading, allow your child to take turns reading this with you and encourage them to stop at any point if they have questions. The idea is not to rush through this, but to take your time. This may be the first time your child is being introduced to some of these ideas.*

Read the following with your child:

All 4 of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) talk about God’s kingdom. However, they use different words to describe the same thing. For example, the Gospels of Mark and Luke use the phrase the “kingdom of God.” Matthew uses the phrase the “kingdom of heaven” and John uses the words “eternal life.” They are all describing the same thing, but with different words. Simply put, the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven, and eternal life all refer to God dwelling with or living with His people. In the beginning, Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. Before they sinned, God was actually dwelling with them or living with them. The Kingdom of God was fully present at that time. There was no separation or distance between God and people. However, when Adam and Eve sinned, everything changed. Imperfect people who sin (that’s everyone) could no longer dwell or live with God, who is perfect and without sin.

However, when Jesus returns to earth someday, all of his followers will be living with God once again. We will read more about that later in this study.

The Bible tells us that Jesus will come to earth two times. This is a very important detail. His first coming has already happened. During his first time coming to earth, the following things took place: he was born as a baby (Christmas), died on the cross (Good Friday), rose from the dead (Easter), and went up to heaven 40 days after he rose from the dead (Acts 1:9-11). In that same passage of scripture (Acts 1:11), angels announce to the disciples that Jesus will be coming back. That’s referring to His second coming, which has not yet happened.

Key Question: What does Jesus’ first and second coming have to do with the Kingdom of God?

According to Jesus, the Kingdom of God returned to earth with his first coming! In Matthew 4:17, Jesus began preaching, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near!” Jesus is quoted again as saying “the kingdom of God is near” in Luke 10:11. In verses like Luke 8:1, we see him “proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.”

Since Jesus was fully God and fully man, when he came to earth the first time, the kingdom of God literally came with Him. **At his first coming, Jesus conquered the power of sin and death through his own death and resurrection.** For those who follow Him, the power of sin and death has already been broken. Think back to last week with the Fruits of the Spirit. Remember, for followers of Jesus, the Spirit of God becomes the most powerful force in our lives (not the power of sin).

While Jesus *conquered* the power of sin and death with His first coming, **at his second coming, He will completely *eliminate* the power of sin and death.**

Have your child look up and read Revelation 21:1-4. This is what we have to look forward to after Jesus comes back the second time! Sin and death will be completely gone. **At Jesus’ second coming, the kingdom of God will fully be here!**

The part about the Kingdom of God that can be confusing is the in between time. What about now? Are we living in God’s Kingdom now? Great question. The answer is yes and no. God’s kingdom can be seen on earth today through His Holy Spirit who lives inside everyone who has put their faith in Jesus. Again, think back to last week. A child of God is anyone who accepts Jesus and believes in Him (refer back to this week’s Quiz Answer Key for Question #3). It is through God’s children that we see glimpses of God’s kingdom today on earth. However, all people (even God’s children) still sin so the kingdom of God is not yet fully here on earth, but someday it will be when Jesus completely eliminates the power of sin and death at his second coming!

*Consider pausing at this point to see if your child has any questions. The next video may help answer some of those questions as it talks about “Heaven and Earth.”*

# Heaven

*Watch this 6 minute video on Heaven and Earth with your 5th grader:* [*https://bibleproject.com/explore/heaven-earth/*](https://bibleproject.com/explore/heaven-earth/)

*After the video, see if they have any questions.*

# Hell

Simply put, heaven can be defined as being in the eternal presence of God, while hell can be defined as the opposite of that: being eternally separated from God. Both are described in the bible.

Before we explore the topic of hell, it is important to know 3 things:

* God’s hope for everyone is that they will be with him in heaven. He does not desire that anyone end up in hell. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)
* You do not have to be afraid of where you will spend eternity. Anyone who trusts in Jesus can experience joy and peace knowing that they will experience eternal life with God! (John 3:16)
* Remember, it’s never too late for someone to turn to God and we should never judge where we think someone will end up.

There are two main views of hell that DRCC believes can be supported by the Bible. The big idea that unites these two views is that hell is eternal separation from God and that it is for those who have completely rejected God.

1. **Traditional View:** according to this view, those who reject God spend eternity in a place of agony where they are separated from God.

Let’s look up and read 3 of the verses in the Bible that support this view. (there are other verses as well)

Biblical References: Matthew 13:49-50; Matthew 25:41, 46; Luke 16:19-31

1. **Annihilationist View:** according to this view, those who reject God will no longer exist after their death, but will be destroyed.

Let’s look up and read 3 of the verses in the Bible that support this view. (there are other verses as well)

Biblical References: 2 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 3:7; Galatians 6:8

# Closing

*Read the following statement to your child*: As you continue to grow, you will have more opportunities to study the topic of heaven and hell. Remember, Christians do not have to agree on every detail related to heaven and hell. There are people at DRCC who hold a traditional view of hell and those who hold the annihilationist view. While studying these types of topics is important, it is NOT the most important thing. Instead, the most important thing is how you respond to the question, “Who do you say that Jesus is?” It is this very question that will be the topic of next week’s confirmation class….

*See if your child has any questions and then close in prayer….*