**At Home Confirmation Class #7 – March 20, 2022**

**Instructions for Parents:** Please guide your 5th grader through this 8 page at home confirmation class experience. There are some special instructions for parents throughout the class. If possible, read these over ahead of time. It’s important to set the right tone for this class as we encourage the kids to take more ownership for their faith. More specifically, we ask that you create a quiet atmosphere in your home before going through this class with your child. If needed, find a place outside. Wherever and whenever you choose to do this class this week, please choose a place that is free from noise and distraction. You will notice that this class ends with a time of quiet reflection for your child as they consider whether baptism is their next right step.

**MORE ABOUT THIS CLASS**: This class will cover the topic of baptism and is a great follow up to last week’s class, “Who do you say that Jesus is?” You will notice that some of the verses included in this class may have been included in previous classes. That’s ok. Repetition is not only a key to learning, but often times the truth of what God is trying to tell us starts to penetrate our hearts when we look at it multiple times.

You should plan on approximately 90 minutes to complete Class #7. **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 #7.”***

As part of this class, please have your 5th grader take the Quiz covering some of the key concepts discussed during last week’s class. Remember, the quiz is for learning purposes only!

**SIGN UP by 3/20 for this upcoming Zoom session:**

***Confirmation Class Q&A****:* Tuesday, March 22nd from 7-8pm

This year’s class has asked more questions than any other class! Has your child submitted a question that they have not yet received an answer to? Does your student have questions about what they are learning in the confirmation class? If so, **sign them up no later than 3/20** for this special session & bring their questions! **[Click here to register.](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpduCrqzsrHtaYbTo0Ct0u_JeUPIUTc1gz)** [No one has signed up for this yet – we will make a decision on 3/21 whether to still have it (based upon the demand). If no one signs up, no problem, we’ll take that as a sign that the kids are getting their questions answered!](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpduCrqzsrHtaYbTo0Ct0u_JeUPIUTc1gz)

**Save the Date for these Upcoming Parent Sessions @ DRCC!**

* April 3rd from 6-7:30pm (during confirmation): **Middle School Here We Come!** A session for parents of students attending a public middle school in the Fall. Led by 2 middle school teachers who attend DRCC. Get the inside scoop on middle school and answers to your questions! RSVP @ michaely@damascus.com
* April 10th from 6-7:30pm (during confirmation): **An Orientation to DRCC’s Youth Ministry** led by Youth Ministry staff. Learn more about Alienation, DRCC’s Youth Ministry, and your 5th grader’s next right step!

**Quiz on Key Ideas from March 13th At Home Confirmation Class**

*(Note: some of these questions were only covered in the at-home class, not the in-person class. If your child attended the in-person class on March 13th, still encourage them to take this quiz for learning purposes.)*

**Messiah:**

1. True or False: The word Messiah comes from the Hebrew word, Mashiach, meaning **“the anointed one,”** or “the chosen one.”
2. True or False: Christos (Christ) is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew term, Messiah (John 1:41).
3. True or False: In the Old Testament, we see that God’s people expected the Messiah to be their Savior.
4. True or False: In the New Testament, Jesus never claimed to be the Messiah.

**What People Said About Jesus:**

1. What did the angel say to the shepherds about Jesus at the time Jesus was born?
	1. Jesus is both Savior and Lord
	2. They instructed them to tell King Herod about Jesus’ birth
	3. Jesus is going to be a great teacher
2. What did his disciples (specifically Peter) say about Jesus?
3. He is one of the prophets
4. He is the Messiah, the Son of the living God
5. He is Elijah
6. What did some of the Pharisees (Jews) say about Jesus?
7. He is demon-possessed and raving mad
8. His words/actions don’t come from a demon possessed man
9. Both and b
10. What did the Sanhedrin say about Jesus?
11. He is a good man
12. He is worthy of death
13. He is insane
14. What is *one* example of how Jesus described himself?
15. I am an angel
16. I am the Son of David
17. I am the way, the truth, and the life

1. BONUS: True or False? All of the Pharisees and Sanhedrin rejected Jesus as the Messiah or Savior. (Refer back to last week’s class for what is meant by the terms “Pharisee” and “Sanhedrin”).

**Quiz Answer Key on Key Ideas from March 13th At Home Confirmation Class**

**Messiah:**

1. True or False: The word Messiah comes from the Hebrew word, Mashiach, meaning **“the anointed one,”** or “the chosen one.” True
2. True or False: Christos (Christ) is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew term, Messiah (John 1:41). True
3. True or False: In the Old Testament, we see that God’s people expected the Messiah to be their Savior. True
4. True or False: In the New Testament, Jesus never claimed to be the Messiah. False – see John 4:25-26

**What People Said About Jesus:**

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1. BONUS: True or False? All of the Pharisees and Sanhedrin rejected Jesus as the Messiah or Savior. False, men such as Joseph of Arimathea followed Jesus (although secretly because he was afraid). The Bible gives us clues that Nicodemus was likely a follower of Jesus as well. We know that Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin and Nicodemus was a Pharisee as well as a member of the Sanhedrin. Saul who eventually became Paul was a Pharisee like Nicodemus, and he went on to not only believe in Jesus, but to lead many other people to Him! Paul wrote much of the New Testament. There were likely other followers of Jesus among the Pharisees and Sanhedrin.

**Class #7: Baptism**

**Key Points to Communicate regarding Baptism**

Please continue by praying for the rest of your time together. Then take turns reading the following statements with your 5th grader. Encourage them to stop you if they have questions.

* *Baptism is an opportunity for us to declare in the presence of God (and others) that we have been saved by Jesus and that we are committing the rest of our lives to follow Him. In other words, when we get baptized, we are stating that we truly believe that Jesus is both our Savior and our Lord. Last week, we discussed Jesus as Savior. This week we will spend some time discussing Jesus as Lord.*
* *Baptism is an outward sign of a significant change that has taken place inside of us. Our hearts and our minds are no longer the same because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. We can’t help but love Him and want to follow Him.*
* *Baptism is a personal decision that only we can make after Jesus has already saved us and we have made a commitment to follow Jesus as Savior and Lord. This is not something we should do to please our parents or the church. It is our decision.*
* *Baptism doesn’t save us or take our sins away. Jesus has already saved us. We will still sin after we are baptized, but baptism marks a turning point in our life. It’s when we make a commitment to no longer live life our own way, but to fully surrender our lives (including our decisions, thoughts, attitudes, plans, everything!) to Jesus. Even after we are baptized, we will still struggle with completely surrendering our lives to Jesus. However, we will always have hope and reassurance that Jesus will be with us in our struggles.*
* *Remember, God doesn’t demand that we be perfect, but He does invite us to follow the Perfect One – Jesus!*

**Video on Baptism:**

Spend time watching and discussing the following video on baptism with your child. Before you do, share the following with your child about what it means to be “born again” (which is mentioned in the video). As you read the following to your child, please note this was also covered in Class 2 on the Holy Spirit (repetition is good!).

Say: *The primary mission of the Holy Spirit is to point us to Jesus and help us have new life in Jesus. In fact, the Holy Spirit will teach us and remind us of what Jesus said (John 14:26). In addition, the Holy Spirit will us remind us of our need for Jesus because of our sin (John 16:8).*

*The Bible also tells us that no one can enter the kingdom of God (or heaven) unless they are born again and that this can only happen with the Holy Spirit. See John 3: 1-16 for a conversation that Jesus had about being “born again” with a religious leader named Nicodemus. The term “born again” refers to the new life that we experience when we choose to follow Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:17 is another great verse to check out about the new life that we have in Jesus. Remember, the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead can also live inside you and give you new life! (Romans 8:11)*

See if your child has any questions about what it means to be “born again.” Prior to starting the video, ask them to pay close attention to what they are about to see and have them write down 2-3 observations. The observations could include something they learned, a question they have, or something that amazed them. The observations they write down should help form the basis of your discussion to follow.

* Watch the “What is Baptism?” video (1:57) and discuss with your child: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29ipPg2y-K0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29ipPg2y-K0)

**Bible Study on Key Verses:**

Look up the following verses with your 5th grader. Take turns reading the verses and the key points with your 5th grader (giving them an opportunity to read). We encourage the parents to read the Key Questions as those are questions for the 5th graders to reflect on and answer with you. They are not rhetorical questions!

* **Read Luke 2:11.**
	+ Key point: *Jesus is both Savior AND Lord. As we discussed last week, Jesus came to earth as the Messiah or Savior that people in the Old Testament were waiting for. He literally came to rescue us and save us from our sins because we are not capable of saving ourselves! That’s an awesome and beautiful thing, but it’s also important to understand that Jesus is not just our Savior, he’s also our Lord.*
	+ Key question. *What do you think Jesus as Lord means?* (As stated above, allow your 5th grader to answer each of the Key Questions during your discussion with them. After they answer this question, share with them that the next two verses will also help answer this first Key question.)
* **Read Philippians 2:9-11.**
	+ Key point: *A day is coming when every person will bow at the name of Jesus. By bowing to someone, it is a sign that the person being bowed to is a King, or a Ruler, or in charge. By bowing at the name of Jesus, everyone will someday acknowledge that Jesus is King. When the term Lord is used to describe Jesus, it is another way of saying that Jesus is the one true King. As Christians, we may be tempted or pressured in our lives to bow before someone or something else other than Jesus. However, we should only bow before God, remembering that Jesus is not only fully man, but is also fully God!*
* **Read Luke 9:23**
	+ Key Question: *What do you think it means to take up your cross daily and follow Jesus? Do you think this will be easy? Why or why not?*
	+ Key Points: *The idea of taking up our cross daily and following Jesus is a clue to two important points.* ***First****, Jesus wants us to not only turn to Him as our Savior, but to truly follow Him each day as Lord and King of our lives. As we follow Jesus as Lord, we are called to obey Him and His commandments. Remember, the 2 greatest commandments in the Bible are to love God and to love our neighbor. (Matthew 22:36-40) The word “neighbor” is referring to other people.* ***Second****, it won’t be easy to follow Jesus as Lord. When Jesus went to the cross, he suffered. But that suffering didn’t last. On the third day, he rose from the dead and experienced new life! When we follow Jesus, we can have hope knowing that even though we will experience hard times in our lives, God will bring us through them just like He did for Jesus.*
* **Read 1 Timothy 1:15**
	+ Key points: *Paul wrote the book of 1 Timothy. In this verse, he is reminding us that Jesus came to save sinners. This includes not only Paul, who did some pretty bad things, but all of us as we all sin. Paul used to persecute or hurt Christians. He was far from God, but through a divine encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, Jesus saved Paul and completely changed his life. No one is beyond the reach of God, no matter what they have done! That includes you and me.*
* **Read Romans 6:3-5** – After you are done reading this passage, take a moment to read it again. Repetition is key!
	+ Key question: *What do you think verses 3-5 are saying about baptism?* Let your 5th grader answer. Then share the Key Points.
	+ Key points: *baptism is such a special occasion for those who have put their trust in Jesus. It unites us to Jesus in a very significant way. When the person being baptized goes under the water, it is reminder of Jesus’ death on the cross for our sins, and when they come out of the water, it is a reminder that Jesus came back to life. By being baptized, we are dying to our own sin and selfishness and rising to become fully alive in Christ. We are crossing over from death to life! We are saying “no” to living life our own way and “yes” to living life God’s way.*

**How will my 5th grader know if they are ready for baptism?**

Parents, please give your 5th grader some time and space to think about and answer the 3 questions listed below under the “A Time for Quiet Reflection” section. Remember, baptism should be their decision, not yours. Having said that, if you think your child is ready to be baptized, please don’t hesitate to encourage them in that direction. Sometimes a child may need your affirming voice in making this decision.

There are 2 extremes we want to avoid when it comes to baptism:

* baptizing someone who is just going through the motions and has not yet committed their life to Jesus Christ OR
* delaying someone’s baptism who is already committed to Jesus, but is waiting until they get their act together or until they have a perfect understanding of who Jesus is.

Remember, we are all sinners and none of us have a perfect understanding of who Jesus is. God doesn’t demand perfection from us, but he does ask us to give Him our hearts and to follow the Perfect One -- Jesus!

**A Time for Quiet Reflection:**

Share the following with your child.

*As you probably know, kings typically sit on thrones. A throne is a seat reserved for someone who is in charge. With that in mind, please take some time to seriously think and pray about the following questions. Write them down on a separate piece of paper and then find a quiet place in the house where you can spend at least 5-10 minutes of quiet time -- thinking and praying about these questions. Talk to God about them. Sit quiet in His presence as you think about them. Don’t rush through answering these questions. Take your time and give them some serious thought and prayer. Then meet me back here so we can close our time in prayer.*

* *Who is on the throne of your heart? Is it you or Jesus or someone/something else?*
* *Are you ready to follow Jesus as both Savior and Lord?*
* *Are you interested in being baptized?*

**Closing your time together:**

* Ask your child if they want to share anything with you about their time of quiet reflection.
* Then ask if they have any questions about anything covered in this class.
* If your child is interested in being baptized OR if they would like to learn more about baptism, please email Michael Yudt at michaely@damascus.com to let him know. He will be leading a Baptism Class for 5th Graders on Sunday, May 1st @ 6pm at DRCC. (Note: Baptisms will take place at DRCC’s Refuge worship service on Friday, June 3rd @ 7:30pm. If either May 1st or June 3rd do not work for your child, please do not let that be a barrier to your child being baptized. Alternative arrangements can be made for both the baptism class and baptisms.)
* Close your time praying for your child.
* Please don’t forget to email Michael Yudt when your 5th grader has completed this class, “At Home Confirmation Class #7.” Thanks!