

# CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION

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## Objective

The confirmands and their parents recognise the significance of confirmation and the time of preparation. They know the contents of the lessons. The parents are prepared to support the confirmands.

## Contents

Confirmation instruction – time of preparation.  
Purpose, goal, and content of instruction.

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## Hint

The rector or district leader, the confirmands' parents and family Priest are invited to this first lesson. It is advisable not to have an entire district together for this lesson.

### Introduction by the rector or district leader

Depending on local conditions this first lesson is briefly introduced by the rector or district leader. Thereafter the confirmation teacher covers the following sections of this lesson.

## **1** Confirmation instruction – time of preparation

## Explain

Through baptism with water and the Spirit each of us became a child of God and received the call to become a firstling, regardless of whether we were aware of having received these sacraments. Many cannot remember these events because they were still too young. The promise to surrender ourselves to God in faith is linked to receiving these sacraments. The parents assumed this vow and the commitments arising from it on behalf of their child.

Confirmation instruction is to put the children in the position of assuming this pledge of loyalty and faithfulness themselves. The confirmands will gain insight into God's work, the teachings of Jesus Christ, and everything that is important for our spiritual life. By actively participating and contributing to the lessons they are to assimilate the material. They assume joint responsibility for the successful outcome of the lessons. Encouraging discussion is therefore an important element of the time of instruction. Such discussions should be continued within the family.

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At the end of the time of instruction the confirmands ought to know the significant matters of faith and the essential aspects of God's plan of salvation. The following desire should emerge within their hearts:

**I want to consciously live my faith!**

**The vow**

On the day of confirmation the parents are relieved of the responsibility for their child's spiritual life. The confirmands will then personally assume this responsibility. They will express this with their confirmation vow:

I renounce Satan and all his work and ways, and surrender myself to You, O triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful to You until my end. Amen.

**God's blessing**

Our heavenly Father wants to lay His blessing upon this vow. This means that He wants to help the confirmands to keep their pledge of loyalty and faithfulness.

## 2 Introduction of the classes

**Hint**

Now the confirmation teacher distributes the students' workbooks, leafs through them together with the confirmands, and briefly explains the contents of the lessons.

**Explain**

The following topics will be covered in subsequent lessons:

- Confirmation instruction
- The post-apostolic age
- Divine service for the departed
- The significance of the Roman emperor Constantine
- Our Creed
- Catechism
- The Reformation I
- The Reformation II
- World Religions - Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- My Bible
- The Ten Commandments
- The fear of God - 1st and 2nd Commandments
- Keeping the Sabbath holy - 3rd Commandment
- Prayer
- Christianity in Europe – Enlightenment
- Special services during the year
- The Albury Circle
- The first apostles of the end-time are called
- The Catholic Apostolic Church
- The New Apostolic Church comes into being
- Growth of the New Apostolic Church (Part 2)
- Our divine service
- Protecting God's creation
- Chief Apostle ministry
- Our congregation and district
- The present and the future
- Confirmation vow

## **3** Introduction of a lesson

### **Explain**

Now the confirmation teacher introduces the structure of lesson 1. All lessons are structured in the same manner.

Each lesson includes:

- the **objective** and a brief summary of the **contents**
- a relevant **picture**
- an **exercise** (in the workbook)
- the lesson **material** (only in the teacher's manual)
- the **main points** (at the end of each lesson the confirmands are to summarise its most important aspects)
- **I also want to ...** (a resolution which should be prompted in us by the contents of the lesson)
- **homework.**

### **Workbook exercise**

The confirmation teacher now has the students work on the exercise in the workbook. The students form groups; the parents form groups. If only one confirmand is present, he or she should work together with the confirmation teacher.

After a few minutes the groups present the thoughts which came to them while looking at the picture. The confirmation teacher summarises these thoughts. He points out that remaining on the rails signifies reaching the goal.

### **The main points**

The confirmation teacher asks the confirmands what main points they would note concerning what they have heard. If necessary, he can provide them with the following suggestions:

- I want to consciously live in accordance with my faith!
- On the day of my confirmation I assume an important responsibility: the responsibility for my spiritual life!
- I want to allow myself to be prepared for this day!

### **I also want to ...**

**... take confirmation instruction seriously!**

### **Homework**

The confirmation teacher discusses the homework with the confirmands. He assigns a piece of homework to each of them. In their workbooks the confirmands indicate which piece of homework they will work on and present during the next lesson.

### Concluding remarks by the rector or district leader

After the confirmation teacher has answered the confirmands and parents' questions, the rector or district leader closes this gathering with a few concluding remarks and a prayer. At the end he encourages the confirmands by saying: "You may at any time bring along your friends and acquaintances to these classes."