



# Confirmation



**St. John's Ivyland**  
A United Methodist Congregation

## Confirmation Handout for Workshop Two

Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, from 11:30am to 2:00pm in Fellowship Hall

**Theme: Theology of Sin, Grace, Triune God (Creator, Christ, Spirit), Salvation**

- A. Brown Bag Lunch or snacks provided if you don't have a lunch – All
- B. Casual Conversation, Youth Room Games, Attendance, Prayer - Sarah
- C. Games with thematic lesson (*Target Practice, God's Will vs. Sin*) - Sarah
- D. Light Candle/Prayer Routine/Place Rocks – Ken
- E. Theology Talk (Short videos followed by group discussions) - Sarah
  - 1. Means of Grace [https://youtu.be/y-T4xvv\\_qd8](https://youtu.be/y-T4xvv_qd8)
  - 2. Triune God, Trinity (Creator, Christ, Spirit) <https://youtu.be/AQkFlzFJ3kA>
- Trinity Craft with Plate, Bathroom Break, Casual Conversation*
- 3. Sin and Salvation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ooG6EGvdzs>
- F. Act Out an Experience (*Grace House and Balloon Sin*), (Roll Playing, Readers Theater, Art, Other) - All
- G. General Review, Bible Overview, and Practice Finding Verses (Print and Online) – Ken
- H. Songs of Praise on big screen (use dance ribbons and instruments) – Sarah
- I. Record prayer requests down in our little prayer book – Ken
- J. Pray over student requests and for church, class, families, friends, world – Sarah
- K. Class Journal Time with meditative music for self-reflection – Ken

### **Home Reflection:**

**Review and/or rewatch the material by reading summary or clicking links from this handout on Confirmation webpage at <https://www.stjohnsivyland.com/confirmation>. Record questions or thoughts in your private journal. 1 journal page done at home each session, minimum, (words, drawings or cut out and tape stuff in). Consider emailing a mentor or Mrs. Floyd to discuss thoughts. Consider sharing what you are learning with another. Consider looking up our scriptures or praying.**

Sarah Floyd, Director of Youth and Video Ministries, ST. JOHN'S IVYLAND, Cell: [219-617-2852](tel:219-617-2852),  
[sarah.sjumc@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.sjumc@gmail.com)

## Summary of Theme: Theology of Sin, Grace, Triune God (Creator, Christ, Spirit), Salvation

(Compiled and edited from various locations on <https://www.umc.org/>)

The need for pardon (justifying grace) is due to what the Bible calls “sin.” **Sin** is when we miss the target (break a rule) established by parents, government, or God himself. **Look up and read Exodus 20:1-17 (Ten Commandments)**. Which commandments are about loving God, and which are about loving others?

**God’s grace** is more powerful than sin. John Wesley taught that God’s grace shapes us throughout our lives. After God’s [prevenient grace](#) prepares us, God’s convicting grace shines a light on our sin and our need for Christ, and after we receive forgiveness by faith through God’s [justifying grace](#), our spiritual growth continues in sanctifying grace. By God’s sanctifying grace, we mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. **Remember the house analogy?** Prevenient Grace (Curb Appeal), Convicting Grace (Porch), Justifying Grace (Doorway), and Sanctifying Grace (Rest of the House).

The word *sanctify* simply means “to make holy,” but not in a holier-than-thou sort of way. Instead, God’s sanctifying grace shapes us more and more into the likeness of **Christ Jesus**. As the **Holy Spirit** fills our lives with love for **God** and our neighbor, we begin to live differently. With sanctifying grace, we are becoming all God created us to be. As the Apostle Paul writes in Romans, “be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God’s will is and what is good and pleasing and mature.” **Romans 12:2**.

Wesley prescribed some ways we can put ourselves in positions to receive God’s sanctifying grace. These [“means of grace”](#) are things we do to grow. The United Methodist Church understands the means of grace in four basic categories: acts of worship, devotion, justice, and compassion. Acts of worship include things like going to church and receiving the sacrament of communion. **Acts of devotion are those private times of worship that include activities like private prayer, bible reading, and doing your journal.** We know these things draw us closer to Christ, but we don’t stop there. Also important are acts of compassion like reaching out to our neighbor in need and telling a friend about God’s love for them. Acts of justice like working to eliminate racism and advocating for the poor and marginalized are also means of grace.

Through participation in the **means of grace**, we put ourselves in spaces—physically, mentally, and spiritually—that open us up to allow God to fill us. We make room for the Holy Spirit to work on our hearts and lives. We do not do these things to earn something from God. Our spiritual growth is a gift, given to us through the sanctifying grace of God.

As we seek to grow in love for God and neighbor, God works in us to eliminate sin from our lives. Why? Because God’s grace is greater than our sin. Not only following our deaths, but in our lives today. The Bible teaches us that everything we have from God is given because of God’s great love for us. “You are saved by God’s grace because of your faith,” **Ephesians 2:8-9**. “This **salvation** is God’s gift. It’s not something you possessed. It’s not something you did that you can be proud of.”

**The Triune God or Trinity** means that there is **one God** who eternally exists as three distinct Persons — Creator God, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit. God is one in essence and three in person. (1) Creator God, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, (2) each Person is fully God, (3) there is only one God. The Trinity has a very significant application to prayer. The general pattern of prayer in the Bible is to pray to Creator God

through Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 2:18**). Our fellowship with God should be enhanced by consciously knowing that we are relating to a tri-personal God! **The Triune God! The Trinity!**