

Discipleship Leading to Confirmation Handbook 2023 – 2024



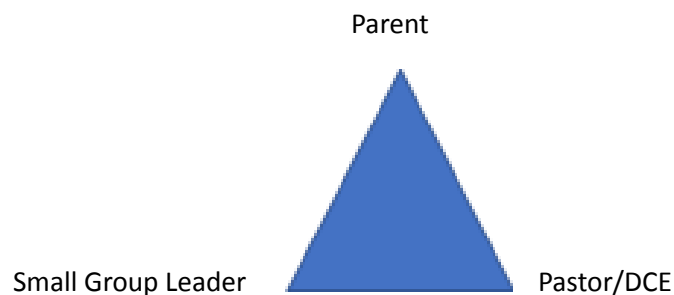
Grace Lutheran Church

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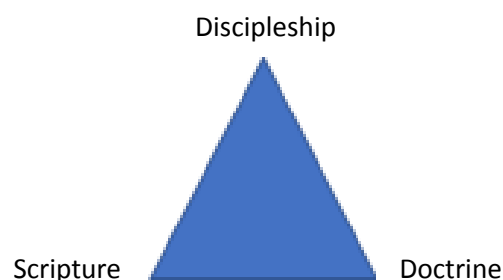
Welcome to another year of “Discipleship Leading to Confirmation” ministry! Whether it is your youth’s first or third year, we are so excited to partner with you as we work towards our common goal of making committed disciples of Christ. We use the phrase “Discipleship Leading to Confirmation” for this ministry because we want to focus on what it means for our youth to believe and live as a disciple of Christ leading up to the celebration service on Confirmation Sunday. This ministry is and always has been about our youth’s spiritual growth and walk with Christ. Foundational to this are Hebrews 5:11-6:3 and Matthew 28:18-20. We want to share with you what we see as the foundation of this discipleship ministry.

RELATIONSHIPS



There are 3 key relationships that need to be present in the life of our youth as they grow spiritually: their parents, their pastor or DCE, and another adult. The most important person that your youth can have a spiritual relationship with is you. We believe that parents have the primary role in the spiritual development of their child. This is an honorable calling, but a difficult one! We want to partner with you in doing this! The more you show your investment in your child’s spiritual growth the more they will invest in it. A church leader will invest in your child’s spiritual growth through teaching. Their small group leader, who is not a parent or youth leader, will be that important third voice of encouragement, accountability, and engagement.

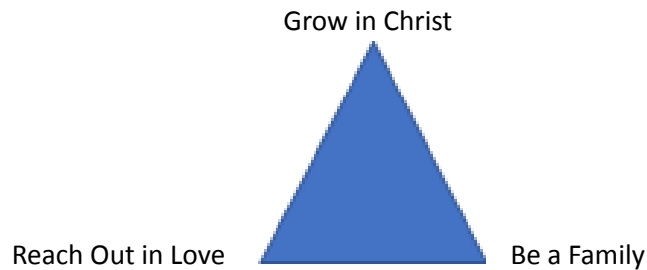
SPIRITUAL FORMATION



There are three key understandings that will be foundational to your child’s spiritual growth. Those are discipleship, doctrine, and scripture. We will teach them to listen to the Scriptures as God’s Word and understand what His Word means for their life. We will help them to understand from the Scriptures what we believe and why we believe this. This doctrinal teaching comes from a Christian worldview, instead of the secular humanist worldview. Finally, we will look at what does it mean to

follow Christ, what are the marks of a disciple, and how do we listen for God's voice.

DISCIPLESHIP DIMENSIONS



We believe that youth discipleship should be focused on growing in Christ, being a part of the family of God, and reaching out in love through witness and service. Because of this belief, throughout the year we will engage your child in opportunities to live out their faith in all three dimensions. We will have discipleship events that focus on fellowship and fun with one another (Family) and other events that are focused on serving others (Reaching). During our discipleship class times, we will be spending time towards God and equipping them to pray and spend time in devotions on their own (Growing).

ENGAGE

In youth discipleship we want to engage the head and the heart of your youth. Head without heart brings understanding of God and His will without application and experience. Heart without head allows for experience and application without Godly wisdom directing our experience. Discipleship seeks to combine increasing our knowledge and shaping our actions at the same time.

We want to invite your youth to bring their friends to youth events throughout this year to learn and grow as they do. We truly appreciate, enjoy, and look forward to the opportunity to come alongside your youth as they grow in their journey of faith. We are always seeking new and better ways to make this discipleship ministry more effective. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please feel free to contact our Director of Christian Education, Matt Burgener, in the church office.

Structure/Expectations of Discipleship Ministry

1. Discipleship Growth

A. Weekly "Growing" Time - Discipleship Class

The scope and sequence will flow in yearly cycles:

Cycle A: The Plan of Salvation (Old & New Testament) (Cycle for 2023-2024)

Cycle B: The Apostles' Creed, Sacraments, Discipleship Issues

Cycle C: Ten Commandments & Lord's Prayer

** The discipleship classes take place at Ignite on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30 PM. We have a large group teaching, small group discussions, followed by free time. We need parental involvement as small group leaders and youth room supervisors to make this ministry possible. If students must miss Ignite, they are expected to watch the teaching video and fill out a note sheet for that week's lesson. Grace Lutheran School students meet this discipleship growth requirement in their 8th grade confirmation class, but they are welcome and encouraged to attend Ignite as well.

B. Monthly "Family" & "Reaching" Events

Each month we will have a large event that will take the place of our Sunday night gathering. We will rotate between an "Family" event focusing on fellowship and fun and a "Reaching" event focusing on service and witness to others. We ask that your child do everything possible to try and attend these events as this is an essential part of their discipleship formation.

**These events often require parent drivers and adult leaders. Events will be canceled if we do not have enough parent leaders to ensure all youth are safely supervised and transported.

2. Church Attendance & Worship Report Forms

- An important aspect of your child's development is their time spent in church. Each youth must attend a minimum of 20 services at Grace and fill out a worship report form in each 12-month period during each of their 3 years leading up to Confirmation Sunday. Please keep track of your sermon notes. You can email info@grace-connect.org if you need an update.

3. Service Hours

- 10 total hours of service must be completed by the end of April each year. This service may not include doing service for your family, weekend serving responsibilities, or something the youth gets paid to do. This can include any of the "Reaching" events that the discipleship class or small group does together.

- There is a service hour form that must be filled out each time your child does an act of service in the community toward these 10 hours. Please keep track of your service hours. You can email info@grace-connect.org if you need an update.

4. Memory Work

- Memory work is very important to the development of disciples as they learn the faith and the Word of God. We are called to "learn, mark, and inwardly digest" God's Word. Memory work is one of the ways

this happens. The memory will be split between Luther's Small Catechism and Scripture. There are 15 passages to memorize a year.

- The memory worksheet should be checked off by the adult that heard the memory work and turned in on the last night of Ignite for the year. Memory work should be said primarily to the youth's small group leader. Grace Lutheran students will fulfill their memory work requirement in their 8th grade confirmation class but can also say memory work at Ignite.

- There are some who have problems with learning memory work. If this becomes an issue, please speak to Matt Burgener right away. We are willing to help work through this process to make sure that everyone has every chance to succeed.

5. Weekend Service Responsibilities

- Service and involvement in our church body is a mark of discipleship for our youth.

- All 6th through 8th graders will be scheduled to serve according to the ministry they choose during registration. If no weekend service responsibility is chosen, students will be assigned to usher. If your youth cannot make your scheduled date, please decline the electronic invitation promptly.

6. Faith Testimony – 3rd Year Only

- Youth will choose or receive a Bible verse to be blessed with during the Confirmation Service. This scripture verse will be used to write a faith testimony. More information on this faith testimony can be found in a separate document.

7. Confirmation Retreat, Rehearsal, and Service - 3rd Year Only

- There will be a confirmation retreat to prepare youth for Confirmation Sunday. The mandatory confirmation rehearsal and retreat will be on May 4th at 8:00-12:00 PM and the confirmation service will be on May 5th at 1:30pm.

8. Communion

- Communion is received by each youth after they have completed the communion class process, which will have its own registration and requirements. Each youth is required to go through this process before they are confirmed.

9. Discipline Policy:

1st Offense: Verbal Warning

2nd Offense: Call Home Warning

3rd Offense: Asked to Not Return for 2 Weeks

This discipleship ministry is about your youth's continued growth, instruction, and discipleship. As such, involvement in every aspect of this ministry is a required component to participate in the confirmation service. Incomplete work will either be added to the following year or will delay the date of their confirmation. Your child's readiness to confirm their faith will be determined by the Pastor, DCE, their small group leader, and you.