

Confirmation Class
Confession & Absolution

September 20, 2009

Memory Work: Proverbs 28:13

Catechism (p.213 in blue; p.217 in red)

Story: The Lost Son (see Luke 15:11-32) *Read and a volunteer will summarize.*

Jesus' story is really a story about how God treats us.

- *Families and forgiveness (What does confessing say about how you feel?)*
- *Older brother and people who feel they have nothing to confess*

1. Let's look at our "confession" that we say each Sunday in church. Check out page 109 in your Keeping the Faith book or look in a hymnal on page 158. Let's break down the phrases we pray when we speak our confession together in worship.

2. What does each phrase mean to you?
"by nature sinful and unclean" (*Psalm 51:5*)

"sinned in thought, word and deed"

"sinned by what we have done and by what we have not done"

Sin is essentially breaking God's law.

3. What we have done is called a "sin of _____."

4. What we have not done is called a "sin of _____."

God's Law speaks words of judgment. It shows our sin and helps us realize we need to repent.

In the Gospel, God speaks words of forgiveness and grace. (S.O.S.)

Confession is realizing that we have sinned and asking for pardon and peace. It has two parts. The first is confessing your sin. The second part of confession is absolution. Absolution is essentially "spoken words of forgiveness." Before the congregation, the _____ speaks words of absolution, acting as Christ's representative for the church.

5. Confessing alone before a pastor is called _____.
Before a pastor we confess those sins we _____ or that _____ us. (*See question 264 in catechism*) *Think about a pastor like a soul physician – explain.*

6. Before God we confess _____ sin, even those we are not _____ of. (*See question 262 in catechism.*) When we realize our sin and confess it before God, what does He promise us? Please use a Bible verse to support your answer. (*Hint: Memory Verse*)

Circle the correct word in each statement below.

We must/may confess before the pastor privately.

We must/may confess before God all of our sins.

7. Why do you think it is important to confess even the sins we don't know about?

Think about it: Why do you think it is said, "Confession is good for the soul?"

8. What does Martin Luther mean when he says "consider your place in life" when you are confessing? (See your catechism under "confession" and the question "Which are these?")

What Martin Luther means is that we need to examine ourselves. What standard do we "examine ourselves" against? (*See margins on p. 110-111 of Keeping the Faith*)

9. What should we confess to another person and why is this important?

10. When in our Lutheran Christian worship service do we "confess our sins?" Why?
