



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

**Belief and
Justification**

**Acknowledg-
ment of, and
repentance
for, our sins**

Confession

**Reconciliation
and Resolution**

MIDWEEK GUIDE

2017

March

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Session 1: Belief and Justification

1. How can the unrighteous have fellowship with the righteous?

2. How is God's love revealed to us?

3. What does it mean to you that even before the foundation of the world, God already had a rescue plan to save humanity for their sins?

4. How does your sin make you feel like a fugitive on the run from God? How were you able to find your way back into the presence of God?

5. With all Jesus has done for us, why do you think so many are reluctant to surrender their own will to God and believe in Jesus?

6. Think about Romans 6:23: *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* This verse shows our God as both merciful and gracious. If we understand mercy as not getting something you deserve (*For the wages of sin is death...*), and grace as getting something that you do not deserve (*...but the gift of God is eternal life...*) – what does this verse mean to you? What response should it inspire?

7. Since belief in Jesus Christ is foundational to our forgiveness, how can we renew our faith in Him each week?

8. Read Romans 5:1-2. Pull out and write down all the verbs. What stands out to you? Are the verbs in present or past tense? What does that tell you about what Jesus Christ has done for us?

9. Read these verses from John. Pick one to memorize for this week – write it on a post-it and put it some place you will see all week. Next session discuss how this exercise made you feel.

a. John 6:35 – And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

b. John 6:47 - Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

c. John 7:38 – He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

d. John 11:25 – Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

e. John 12:44 – Then Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.”

f. John 14:12 – Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

References

Genesis 3:8

Philippians 4:7

John 12:44

Romans 6:23

John 6:35, 47

John 14:12

2 Corinthians 5:21

John 7:38

Romans 5:1-2

Ephesians 2:8-9

John 11:25

Session 2: Acknowledgment of, and repentance for, our sins

1. For those who did the exercise with the Bible verses from John, what effect did that have on you this week? Do you think having a Bible verse to focus on each week is helpful? Why?

2. What things are considered as sins?

3. The Commandments were given to the people of Israel thousands of years ago. Why are they relevant to us still today?

4. Which of the Ten Commandments is the most difficult not to violate? How do we keep the Commandments in mind daily?

5. An excerpt from the video: *The 3rd commandment refers to conduct in everyday life. "Six days you shall labor and do all your work." We are obliged to use our energies for our own welfare and that of our families, as well as on behalf of society.* What does this tell you about trying to separate your daily life from your spiritual life? How is being a Christian displayed in your work?

6. How do we become aware of our sins when sometimes the hardest faults to see are our own?

7. What is the difference of seeing your sin as a mistake, verses seeing it as sin?

8. We are all the same – we are all sinners and all of us are in danger of crumbling under the weight of sin. How does Jesus become greater than our sin?

9. If you are willing to repent of your sin, it means that you are willing to turn away from it for good and turn to God. Why is repenting of our sin so difficult?

10. Remorse is defined as a feeling of suffering. What does it mean to suffer for your sin?

References

Mark 7:20–23	Exodus 20:9	CNAC 12.1.8.5
Matthew 5:28	John 16:9	CNAC 5.3
1 John 3:15	Deuteronomy 23:22	CNAC 5.3.1.3
Genesis 2:15; 3:17	Exodus 20:20	CNAC 4.3.1

Session 3: Confession

1. Before going through this session, what role did confession play in your life? Do you view it differently after watching the video? How?

2. What effect can genuine confession have on your life?

3. Which of the 3 types of confession discussed in the session do you think is the hardest to do? Why?

4. Why are we sometimes afraid of confessing our sins to God when He already knows what we have done and does not take His love away from us?

5. Have you ever confessed your sin to a close friend or family member? How did that confession help you to repent and reconcile?

6. Have you considered that all your sins are sins against God? Does that make you think about them differently?

7. Have you considered that your sin and need for forgiveness unifies you with your neighbor? What does this tell us about how God sees all of us?

8. Why is not only confessing to God, but also confessing to those you have wronged, necessary?

9. How does confession heal our relationships?

10. How would you respond to someone who confessed their sin to you?

PERSONAL REFLECTION: Pray over the sin in your life. Consider whether you may need to confess to someone who can help you. Commit to talking to them this week.

References

Psalms 32:5

1 John 2:1, 2

James 5:16

1 John 1:8-9

Romans 12:18

Catechism 12.1.8.4

Session 4: Reconciliation and Resolution

1. How is reconciliation a part of the gospel message?

2. How would you reconcile with someone who has done wrong to you?

3. Why is it impossible to be reconciled with God and hold a grudge?

4. We can read in Numbers 5 that God made it one of the original laws for His people to pay back 20% to those they had wronged. Why do you think this was a part of their law? What does it teach us?

5. What does it tell us about Jesus that He inspired Zacchaeus to pay back 400%?

6. If you were one of the people that Zacchaeus had wronged and paid back, would you reconcile with him? What if he didn't pay you back?

7. How does resolution inspire changes in our behavior?

8. Do you realize that every time you hear the Word of God or read the Bible, you have an encounter with Jesus? How have these encounters changed your life?

9. How have the steps of forgiveness, that we have discussed this month, brought you closer to God?

10. How has your understanding about the path to forgiveness deepened this month? When do you think it is best to start on this path to forgiveness that leads to the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins and celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion? How could you make this journey more a part of your life?

References

2 Corinthians 5:18-19
Luke 19:1-10

Numbers 5:6-7

Catechism Q&A 649