

Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2023

Class Curriculum - The Way of Salvation

Age - Senior Campers

Wednesday - Confession

Summary

1. Subject: Confession
2. Scripture: Matthew 16:13-26, 1 John 1
3. Grade/Level: Senior Campers
4. Objective: Know that there are two types of confession and that both are essential for salvation
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

Prayer: Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

Lesson

Overview: There are two types of confession. Scripture commands us to confess our sin, and to confess our faith. Both of these confessions are important.

In criminal proceedings, confessions can be an important tool. Legally, for a confession to be valid it must be 1) voluntary, 2) comprehensive, and 3) truthful. Spiritually, our confessions should also be voluntary, comprehensive, and truthful.

Read: 25 Minutes

The following section provides a brief commentary of the passage, as well as some reading comprehension questions.

Matthew 16:13-26

Matthew 16:13-16

This passage begins with Jesus asking the question, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”. The “Son of Man” refers to Jesus himself. At the time, people didn’t know who Jesus was, so they said all sorts of things to explain his miracles and strange teaching. Peter accurately claims that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God.

Matthew 16:21-24

Once Jesus’ apostles know for certain that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, He reveals to them the rest of the gospel message: that He has come to this earth to die on the cross for our sins. This was not easy, or comfortable, yet Jesus was committed to this work of salvation despite Peter’s urgings and His own interests.

Matthew 16:17-20

Jesus’ response to Peter’s claim is to bless him and the statement he made. This statement, that Jesus is the Christ, is the foundation of the Church. It is the single most important claim that Christians today are supposed to make. It is a crucial part of the gospel.

Matthew 16:25-26

Jesus then goes on to explain the rest of the gospel message. First, the apostles understood that He is the Christ, then they were taught that he would die for the sins of the world. Now, in verses 25-26, Jesus explains that those who follow Him are likewise called to deny their own interests and commit themselves to Jesus.

Reading Comprehension:

- What does Peter confess in this passage?
- People were saying that Jesus was Elijah, John the Baptist, or other prophets. Today, what false information do people claim about Jesus?
- In the time of Jesus, being the “son of the living God” meant that he was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, and greater than the prophets. Today, what does this confession mean? (It means that God is real, that Jesus lived and did the things that are recorded in scripture, that just as God is the living God; Jesus lives today, etc.)

1 John 1:1-10

1 John 1:1-4

This letter from John begins by explaining the physical nature of Jesus Christ: he was seen, touched, and heard. This beginning statement is, in a way, a “confession” of the fact that Jesus came to this earth as a human and did all that is recorded in the gospel accounts.

This passage uses “light” and “darkness” as illustrations of righteousness and unrighteousness. Christians are called to live righteously (verses 6-7) and to be honest about our struggle with sin (verse 8). We are specifically commanded to confess our sins in verse 9. Here John establishes a connection between confessing our sins and receiving forgiveness for them.

1 John 1:6-10

DISCUSSION

Remaining Time

Guided Discussion:

Remember Romans 10 from class yesterday. Ask your campers, “Which type of confession is being referred to in Romans 10?”. Help your campers understand that confession, in relation to salvation, usually refers to confessing the lordship of Jesus Christ. Confession of sin is also important but that is more often associated with repentance in scripture. Repentance will be the focus of class tomorrow.

Ask, “Are we supposed to confess each sin individually, or only confess the fact that we have sinned?”. Explain the difference between the two. It can be helpful in our struggle against sin to confess specific sins and receive encouragement and accountability for them. However, it is difficult to rationalize the idea that scripture would command us to confess every single sin in order to receive forgiveness for it.

If appropriate, use any remaining time to talk about the various struggles we go through. Be as specific or as vague as necessary, and be prepared to handle a conversation in which a camper confesses to a specific struggle with sin.