

KS1 Unit 5, Lesson 4: Confirmation

Context: Previously, pupils will have learned about infant and believer's infant baptism.

Overview:

- Children will understand the term confirmation and use it correctly
- Children will understand why a Christian will want to be confirmed and the difference it might make to their life.

Essential core:

Know that "church" means the Christian community - not the building. The word "church" is often used to mean church building but it really means the Christian community.

Resources: Printed confirmation service (attached). Video and printable sheet RE:quest website.

<http://request.org.uk/restart/2014/04/08/confirmation>

<http://request.org.uk/teachers/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/06/Talk-about-confirmation.pdf>

Introduction Ask children the question: Would you like to be an adult now? Why or why not? Allow children time to think of their response and then take some answers. Develop the discussion to include: What decisions can adults make that children can't? What decisions can children make? Have you made any important decisions today or recently? Have your family had to make any decisions together?

Activity 1 Remind children about their learning about baptism - who makes the decision to be baptised? Parents make the decision in infant baptism, whereas in believer's baptism, the person being baptised makes the decision.

Introduce the term **confirmation** - the word means to agree that something is true.

If someone has been baptised as a baby, they might come to a point in their lives when they agree with their baptism, and want to say that it is true for them. They can do this in a service called confirmation. If someone decides to be confirmed it means they are taking on the promises made for them at their baptism for themselves. They are choosing to follow Jesus themselves and be a member of the Christian church. People can get confirmed at any age, but not normally below the age of 10. It is often teenagers who are confirmed, although people can make this decision at an older age too.

Explain that a bishop (a senior priest who is usually in charge of a large area called a diocese), takes a confirmation service.

Watch the video of a girl, Meg, being confirmed by the bishop here:

<http://request.org.uk/restart/2014/04/08/confirmation>

Give pairs of children the extract from the confirmation service and invite them to 'act out' the parts of the bishop and person being confirmed. Ask children as they do so to particularly think about what promises the person being confirmed is making, what they are choosing to do, and what it might mean to follow Jesus. Any early finishers could also read the prayer read out by the bishop at a confirmation service and think about what the bishop is asking God for the candidates. You could then watch the video again and see if you can hear the bishop saying some of the words on the sheet.

Activity 2 Discuss the following questions. Why might someone choose to be confirmed? What promises does a person make when they are confirmed? What might it mean for them to follow Jesus?

Alternatively, you could use the sheet at to prompt discussion and/or a written response.

<http://request.org.uk/teachers/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/06/Talk-about-confirmation>

PLENARY: Think back to the beginning of the lesson and the idea of decision making. Deciding to get confirmed would be a big decision to make.

Give the children time to think about and reflect on big decisions they might have to make in the future. What might help them to make good decisions?