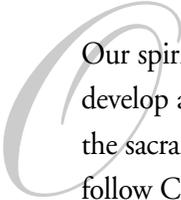




Course Two: *A Path to Spiritual Maturity*

SEGMENT 1: SPIRITUAL MATURITY

PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE



Our spiritual maturity leads us into ministry as a result of our baptism. We develop a rule of life which includes prayer, study and action. Confirmation is the sacramental rite of the church in which we make a mature commitment to follow Christ. We all share in ministry.

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BCP 231)

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What is spiritual maturity?

What are some tools we use to deepen our spirituality?

What is ministry?

What is confirmation?

VIDEO PRESENTATION



Paul and the Epistles

Spiritual Maturity

Confirmation

Ministry

Rule of Life

USING THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

As we live out the ministry of the baptized, we find direction through the five Baptismal Covenant promises. These promises are made at every baptism and we ask God's help in keeping these promises. For this class the first, third and fifth promises are particularly relevant.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:11-12. What does Paul say are some characteristics of a spiritually mature person?
2. Write a rule of life for yourself.
3. The video showed an anchor and talked about spiritual maturity anchoring us to Christ. The early church used the symbol of the anchor to represent this thought. What are your anchors today?
4. You might like to draw something depicting your anchor.

W R A P - U P

In the next video segments we will examine spiritual maturity habits of prayer, study and action. This introduction sets the theme for these next segments. In Confirmation, we say we are ready to accept a mature commitment to Christ and His Church. We learned about Paul and other apostles and their travels all over the known world as they spread the good news of the Gospel message – their own spiritual commitment was maturing. And, we have examined the meaning of ministry and how we can be ministers as we grow in our spiritual maturity.

C L O S I N G P R A Y E R / H Y M N

The following selections can help us reflect on our discussions today. You may either read and pray or sing and pray your selection(s).

The Hymnal 1982

#348 - Lord, we have come at your own invitation

#349 - Holy Spirit, Lord of love

Wonder Love and Praise

#765 - You're called by name, forever loved

#782 - Gracious Spirit, give your servants

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#115 - Spirit of the living God

#118 - Spirit song

