

Confirmation & Reaffirmation

Group Session 1

Beginnings: Baptism & Confirmation

Faith: What Do We Believe?



Group Covenant

- I will show up and be present in body and spirit for this course.
- I will be vulnerable and honest with myself, with the group, and with God.
- I will be generous and respectful, in conversation and as a listener.
- I will complete the readings and assignments and stay in clear communication with Rev. Marcella about what is and is not possible for me as we move through the course.
- What else?

The background of the image consists of a close-up, top-down view of water with numerous small, concentric ripples. The water is a light, clear blue color, and the ripples create a textured, shimmering effect. The text is centered over this background.

**REMEMBERING
YOUR BAPTISM**

The Baptismal Covenant of the Episcopal Church

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

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Baptism

What does it mean to be baptized?

What Do We Believe?

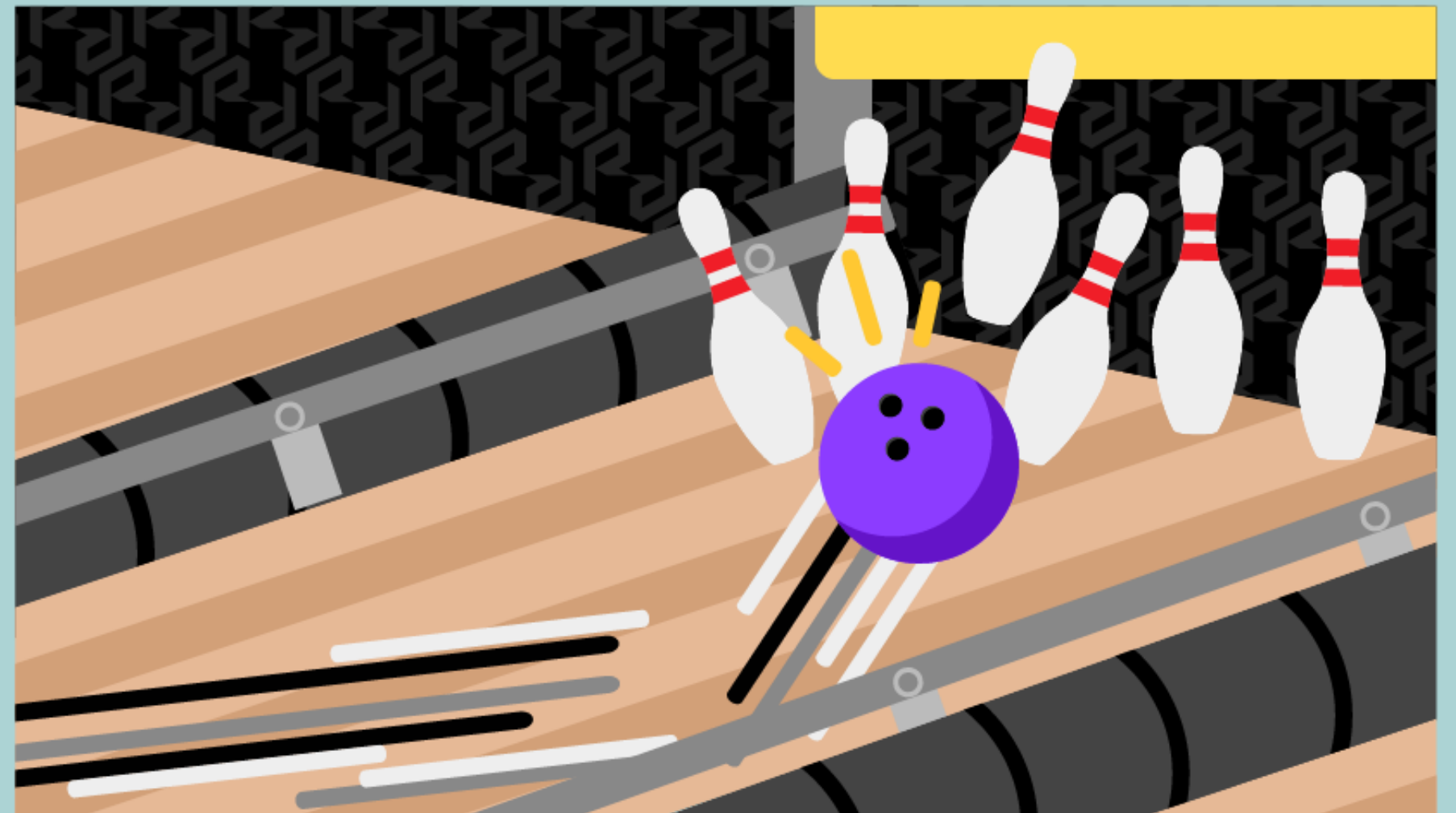
What are we being initiated into?

What do we mean when we say the word “believe”?



The Creeds

The creeds are statements of our basic beliefs about God.



What Do YOU Believe?

Imagining God

- What's going on in this image of God?
- Do you have an immediate or gut reactions to this image?
- What about this image feels true to your experience or knowledge of God?
- What about this image feels untrue to your experience or knowledge of God?

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Group Session 2

Teaching, Bread & Prayer

Worship, Liturgy & Sacraments



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The Apostles

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4, 42-47



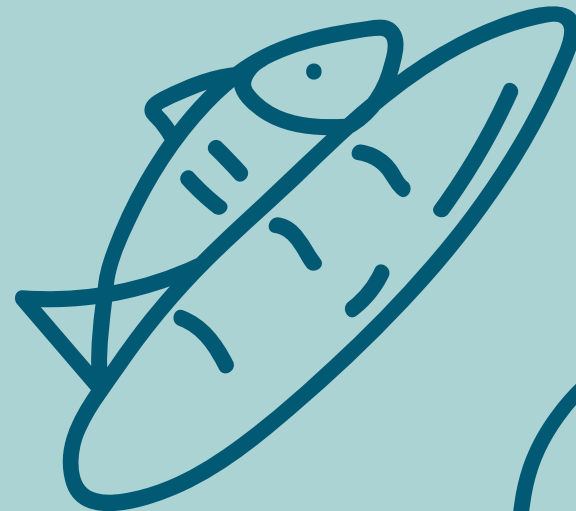
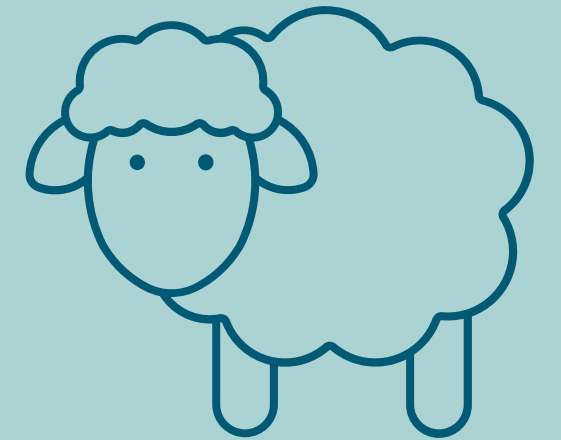
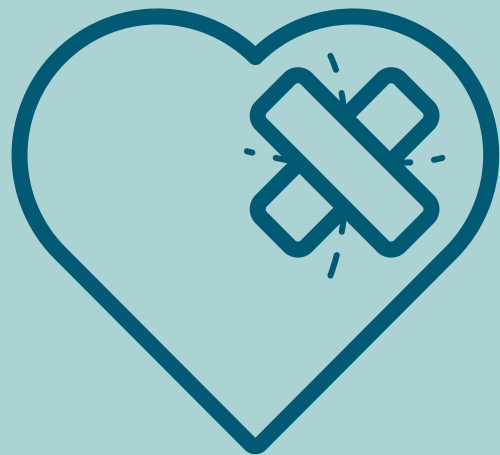
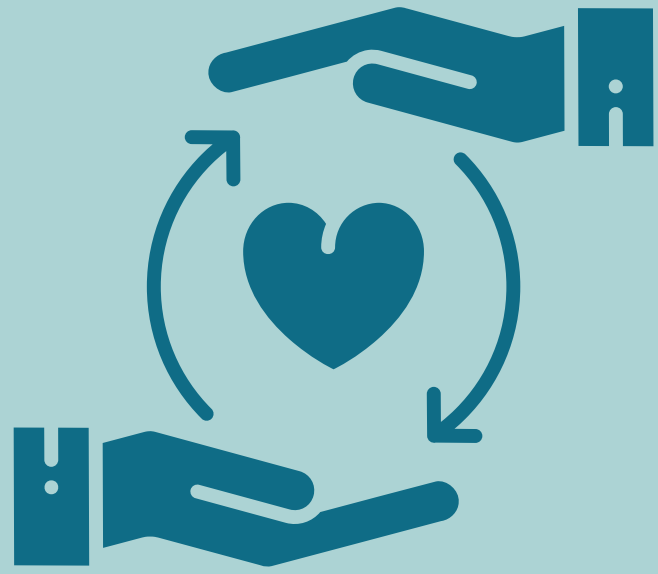
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Acts of the Apostles - Chapter 2

42 The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. 43 A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. 44 All the believers were united and shared everything. 45 They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. 46 Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. 47 They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.



TEACHING



FELLOWSHIP

44 All the believers were united and shared everything. 45 They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. 46 Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. 47 They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone.

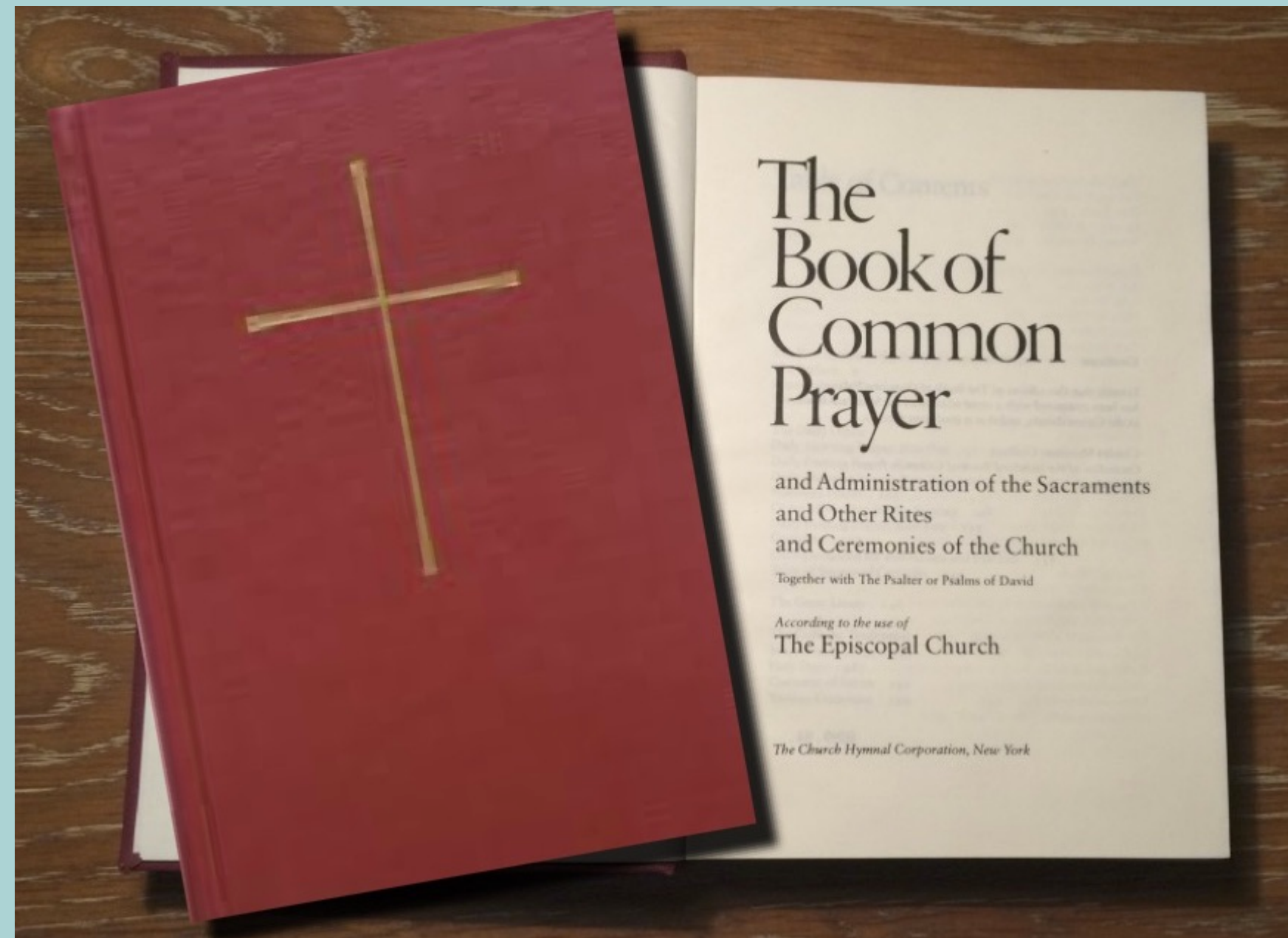


THE BREAKING OF BREAD



THE PRAYERS

Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi



Confirmation & Reaffirmation

Group Session 3

Sin & Evil

Confession, Repentance & Reconciliation



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What is sin? What is evil?



What does it mean to repent?



Individual sin vs. corporate sin vs. structural sin

Litany of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives, We confess to you, Lord..

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us; Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation, That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord, Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.



Confirmation & Reaffirmation Group Session 4

The Bible, Church History, The Episcopal Church

Word & Example



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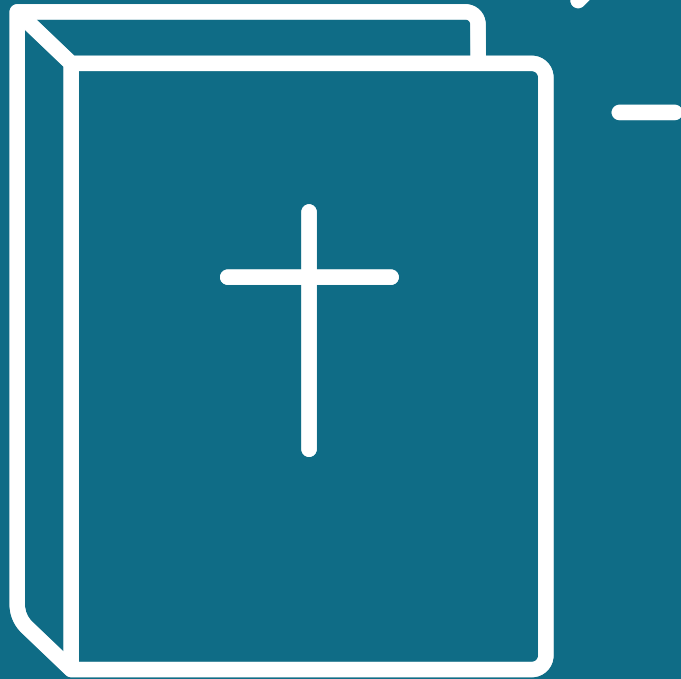
I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

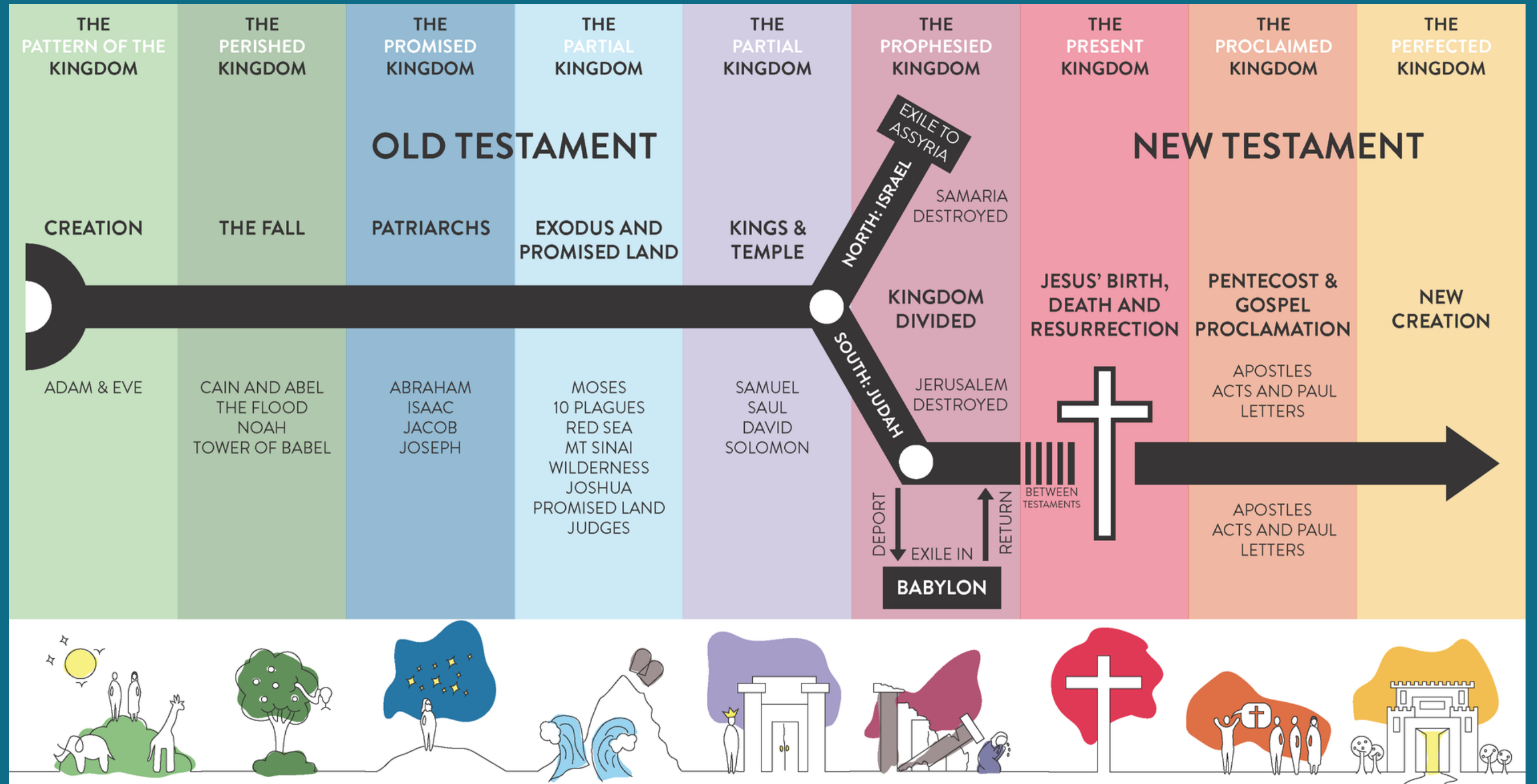
I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

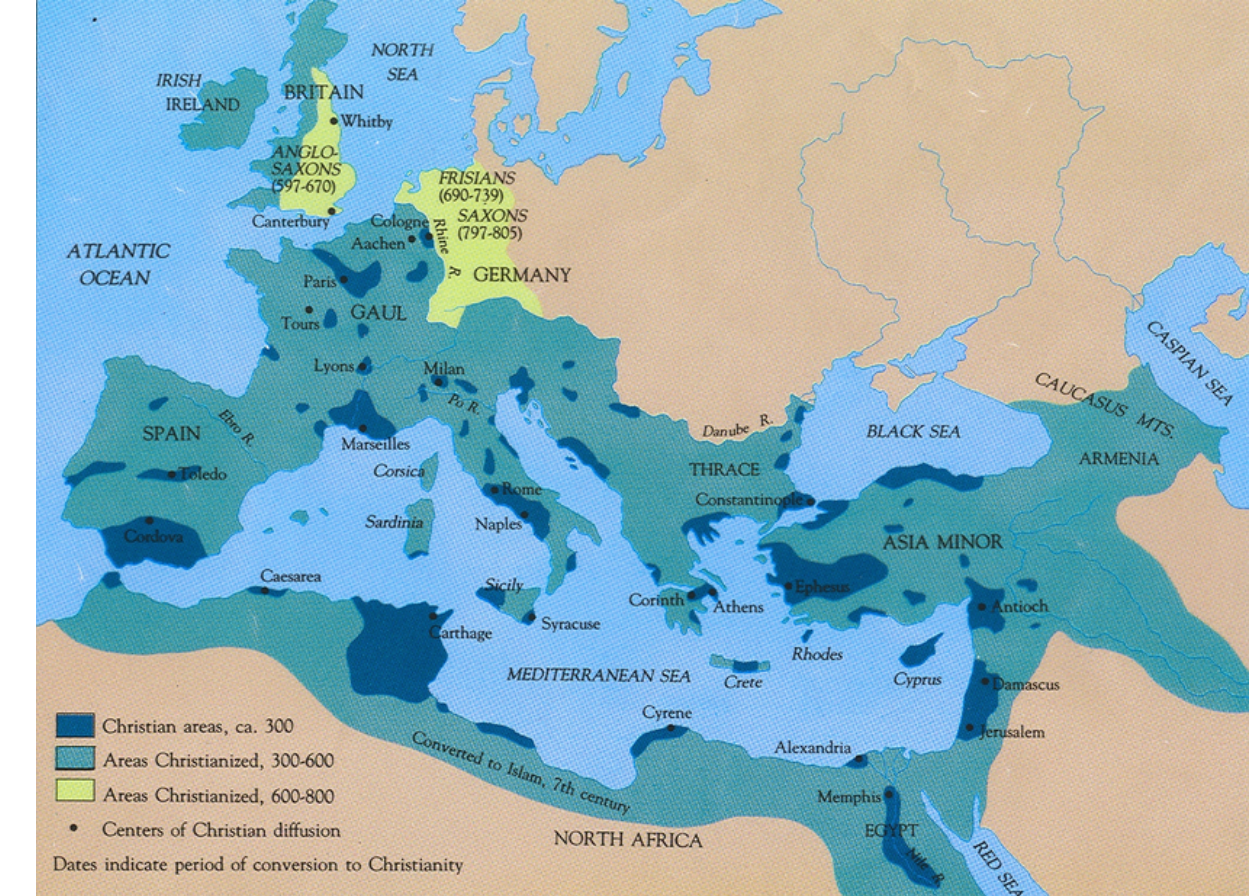
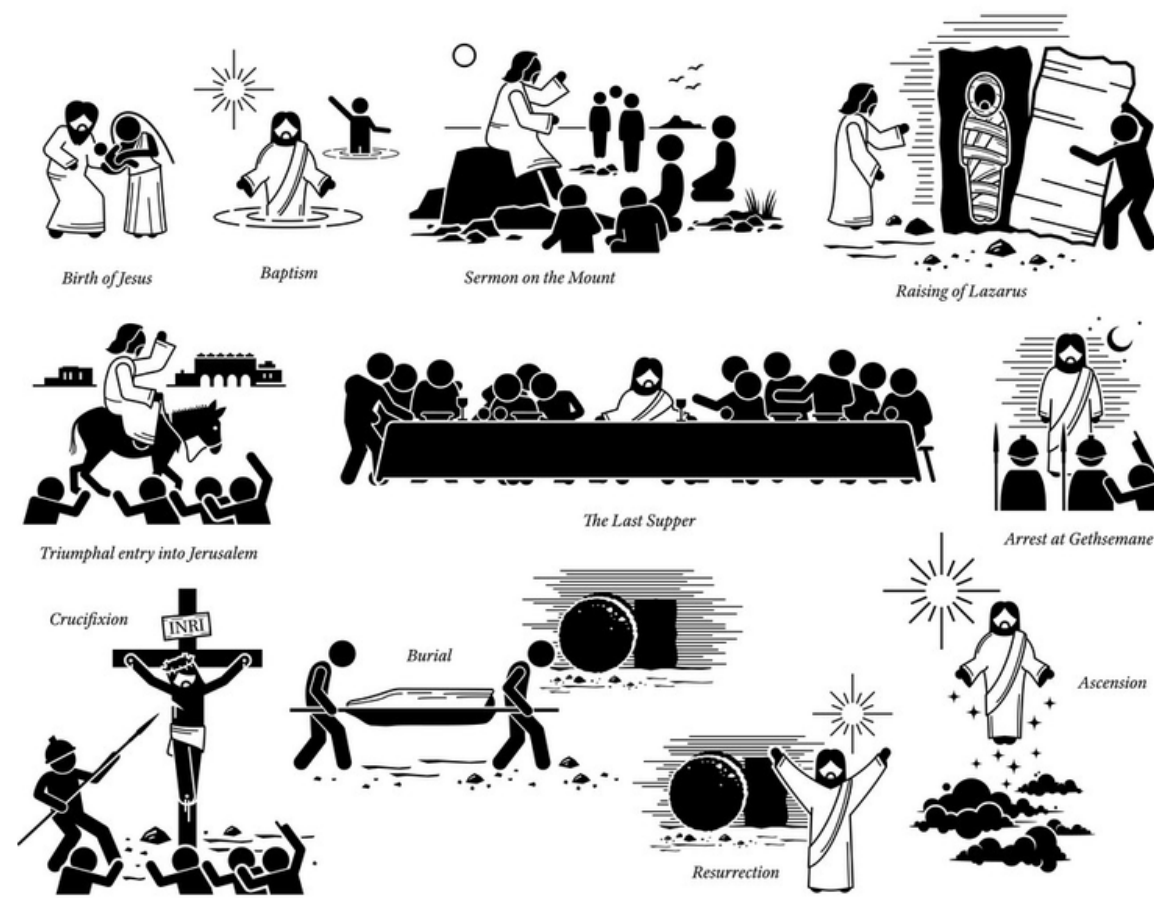
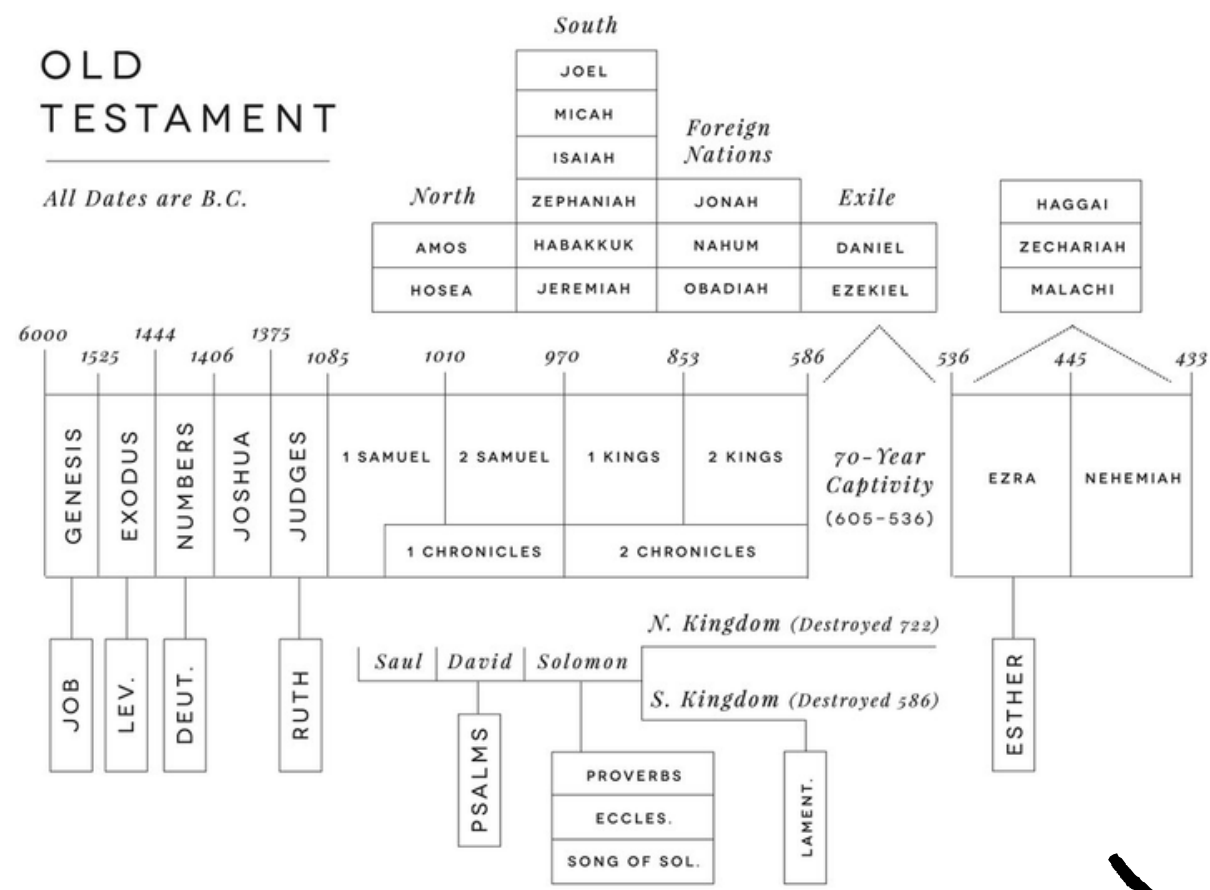


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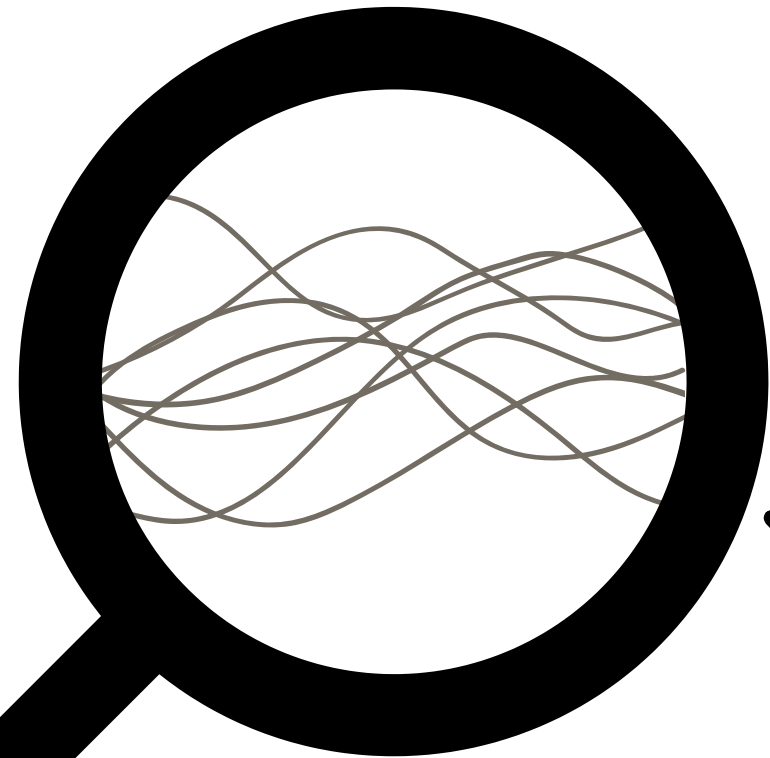
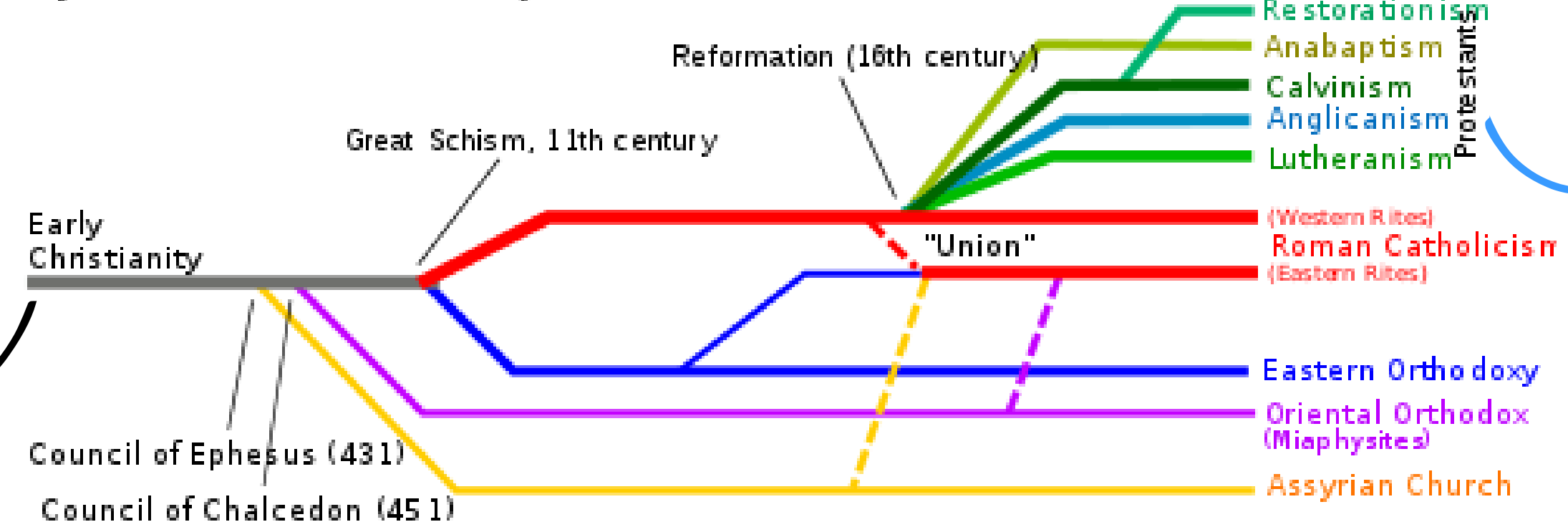


OLD TESTAMENT

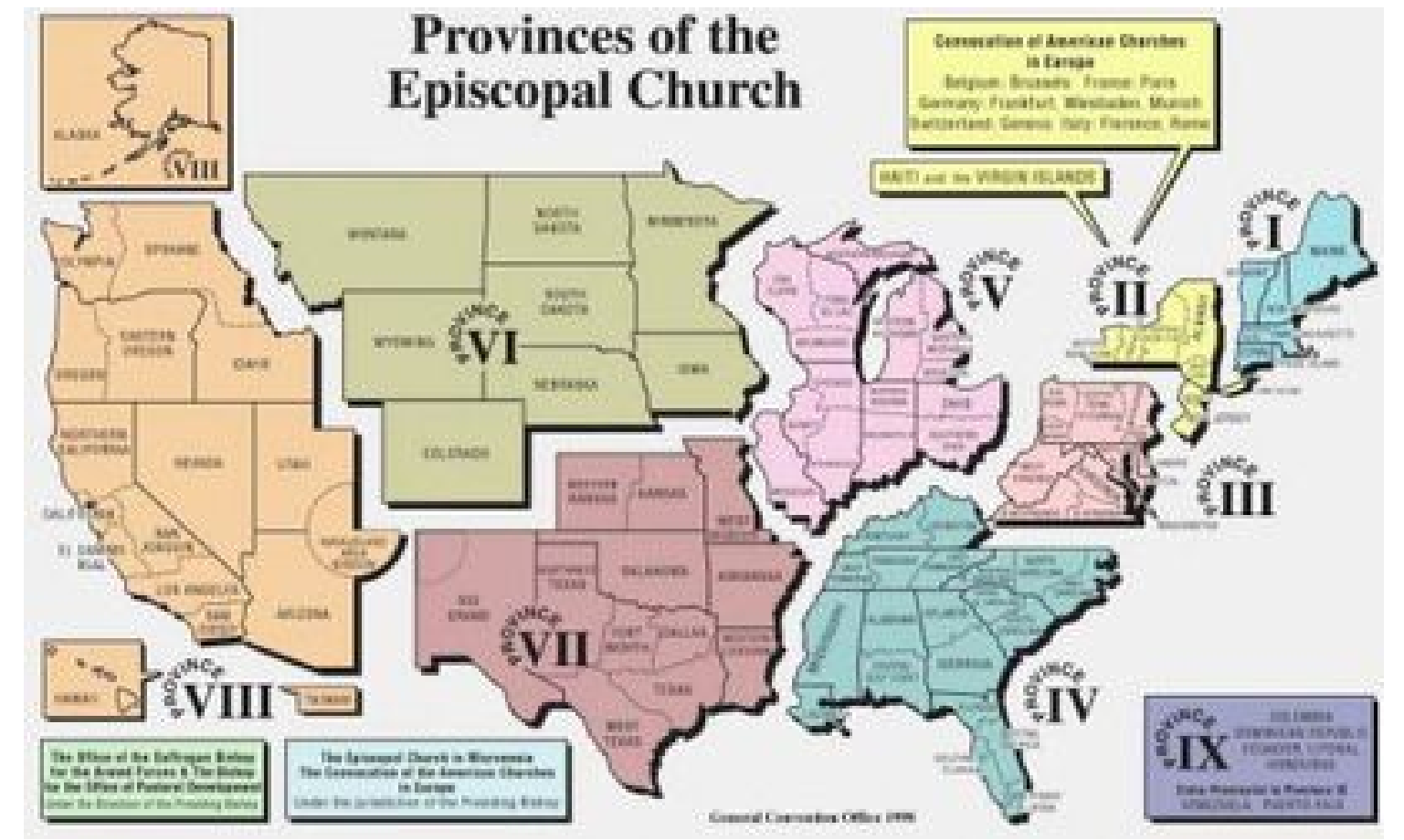
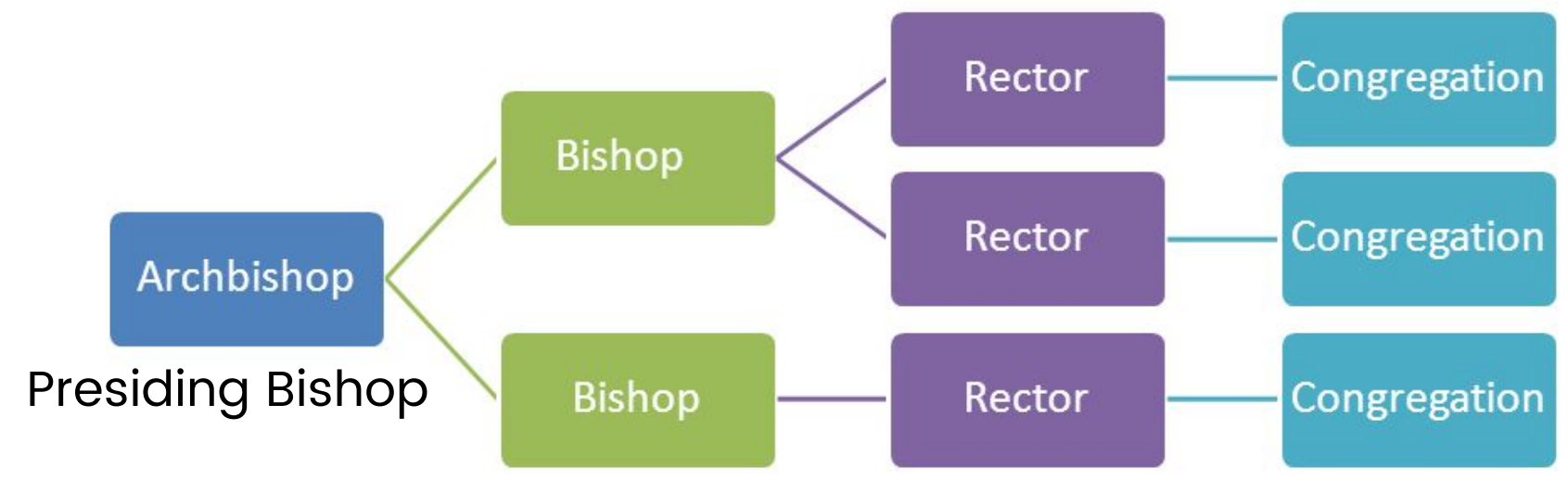
All Dates are B.C.



Major branches within Christianity



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



- Christianity
- Protestant Christianity
- The Anglican Communion
- The Episcopal Church (USA)
- Province II
- The Diocese of New York
- The Mid-Hudson Region
- The Ulster Deanery
- Christ the King Stone Ridge

proclaim verb

pro·claim (prō-'klām) prə-

proclaimed; proclaiming; proclaims

transitive verb

- 1 **a** : to declare publicly, typically insistently, proudly, or defiantly and in either speech or writing : **ANNOUNCE**
|
 b : to give outward indication of : **SHOW**
 | his manner *proclaimed* his genteel upbringing
- 2 : to declare or declare to be solemnly, officially, or formally
| *proclaim* an amnesty
| *proclaim* the country a republic
- 3 : to praise or glorify openly or publicly : **EXTOL**
| *proclaimed* the rescue workers' efforts

Proclaim =
Proclaim ≠

What is "the Good News of God in Christ?"



Faith
Communities

Church History

The Bible

The Saints

Human
Experience

Word | Example



Confirmation & Reaffirmation

Group Session 5

Seek & Serve

Finding Christ & Serving the World

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Jesus = name

Hebrew - Yeshua/Joshua

“God is salvation”



Christ = title

Greek - anointed one, messiah,

“the one who saves,” “chosen

one”



BIBLE STUDY

Luke 7:36-50

Luke 11:37-53

John 4:4-30

Mark 8:1-10



WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT JESUS?

WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS THAT WE MIGHT LOOK FOR AS WE "SEEK HIM" IN OTHER PEOPLE?

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF GOD THAT IS REVEALED IN JESUS?

IF JESUS IS GOD INCARNATE, WHAT CAN WE KNOW ABOUT GOD THROUGH HIM?



Seeking & serving Christ
in all people

Loving your neighbor as
yourself

Serving Christ at CTK

- 1 – Volunteer to help at the next Afghan Dinner (March 15)
- 2 – Send cards to our elder and homebound members
- 3 – Volunteer to help serve lunch next week at church
- 4 – Join in the next Ulster Deanery meeting (March 11)
- 5 – Sign up to usher at church in March

Seek/serve Christ outside of the church, and tell us about it!

Confirmation & Reaffirmation

Group Session 6

Strive for Justice & Peace
Respect Human Dignity



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JUSTICE

RIGHT RELATIONSHIP

Learn to do good.

Seek justice:

help the oppressed; defend the orphan;
plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:17

“For Christians, the pursuit of social justice for the poor and oppressed is the decisive mark of being people who submit to the will and way of God.”

Tim Dearborn



PEACE

Observe those who have integrity and watch those whose heart is right because the future belongs to persons of peace.

Psalm 37:37

Blessed are the peacemakers

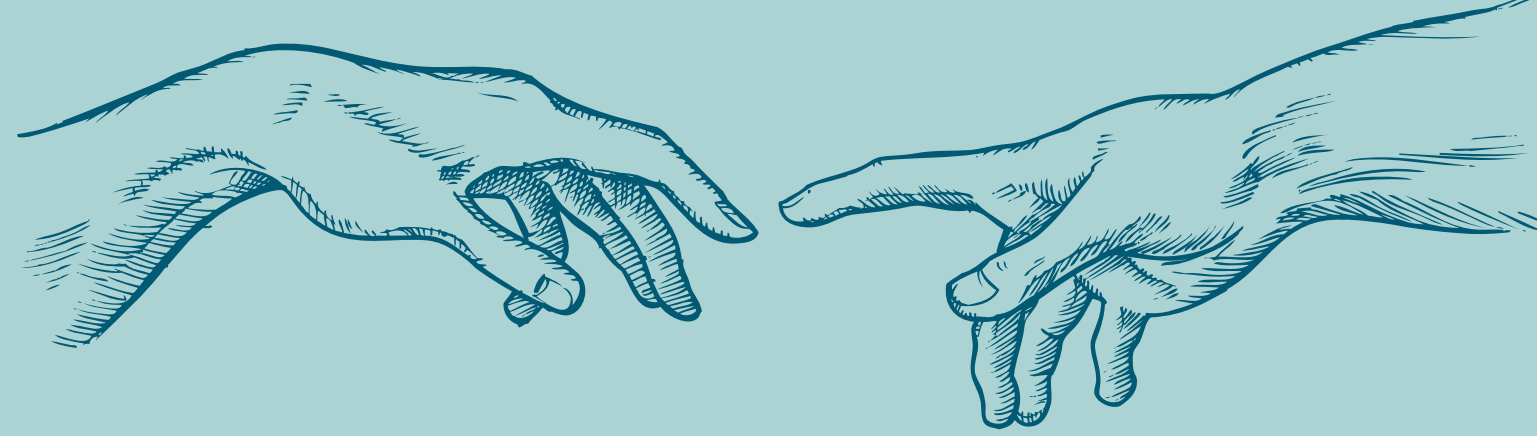
What is human dignity?

(1) It is an affirmation of inherent human worth. The idea that every person has worth means that every person's life matters, and that every person's worth is equal – no one has more or less dignity. Human dignity is intrinsically within us – it is something that we always have and possess by virtue of being human.

(2) It is a moral measure. Human dignity allows us to evaluate how actions, relationships, institutions, and social conditions align with or violate our own dignity and the dignity of others, particularly those who are

- We can live life in a manner inconsistent with our human dignity (i.e. hurting ourselves or others)
- Our dignity is only fully realized when all people flourish.
- The concept of human dignity becomes irrelevant when we don't uphold the dignity of others. Because of this interdependence, we make a commitment to preserve, defend, and advocate for equality and flourishing for all.





Why do human beings have dignity?

Within the Christian tradition, we believe that human beings have dignity because we believe that each and every person is created in the image and likeness of God.

In Genesis 1: 26–27 we read, “Then God said, ‘Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.”

What does it mean to you that humans are created in the image and likeness of God? Do you believe this to be true?

Irenaeus, the great second-century theologian, believed that we could express the essence of Christianity in one statement:

“The glory of God
is the human person fully alive.”

What does this mean?

How does this reflect ideas about human dignity?



I WILL,
WITH
GOD'S
HELP.