

## JOURNEY WITH JESUS YEAR (JWJY)



The journey towards Profession of Faith is a significant one in the lives of those who have heard the voice of Jesus calling them to publicly declare their faith in Him in front of the congregation. Historically, those who desire to do Profession of Faith have met with the pastor for four sessions prior to the Profession of Faith service. In these meetings, the pastor asked them questions about their faith, ascertaining whether they were able to articulate what faith means to them, seeing if they are connected with others in the congregation who are helping them develop healthy faith practices, and assessing their Biblical and doctrinal understanding. It had been observed that more was needed to nurture, challenge, and encourage the faith journey of those wanting to publicly profess their faith in Christ. After much conversation with elders, parents and other ministry leaders and approval by Council, the *Journey with Jesus Year* was launched in September 2018.

### **The year-long journey begins in the spring each year and consists of:**

**Pilgrims** – those who desire to publicly declare their faith in Jesus.

**Mentors** – Each pilgrim is asked to ask a mature Christian who would be their mentor throughout the journey – a person who has had a significant influence on the pilgrim’s faith and would be willing to be intentional and cooperative in the year-long journey. After the mentor receives training, in July and August, the pilgrim and mentor will meet monthly, beginning in September, to reflect on their faith journey using the language of the Building Blocks of Faith (I Know, I Belong, I am Called and Equipped, I Have Hope). The pastor and Children & Youth Discipleship Director (CYDD) provide resources, support and accountability for these conversations.

**Cohort Meetings** - These four meetings are held on Sundays after the morning worship service, starting in September, and are based on the Building blocks of Faith. Lunch is served, and members of the Cohort as well as various members of the congregation are invited to share faith stories that connect with one of the Building Blocks of Faith. Teaching on the various aspects of faith may be led by the Pastor, CYCD or the Youth on Fire Director.

**Reformed Accent Meetings** - Four of these are held, in which various aspects of the Reformed faith are discussed:

- Our World Belongs to God (Kuyperian kingdom worldview)
- Canons of Dort (thee sovereignty of God’s grace)
- Heidelberg Catechism (the shape of the Christian’s story)
- Reformational Solas (by grace alone, through faith alone, on Scripture alone).

Only the pilgrims were expected to be at these meetings, but mentors are welcome to attend.

**Profession of Faith Service:** The year-long journey culminates in a Profession of Faith Service on Easter Sunday (or another Sunday in the spring). After each pilgrim is presented by their mentor, their testimony is heard and seen via pre-recorded videos. after which the pilgrims are walked through the Profession of Faith form.

**Debriefing Meeting:** is held within a few weeks after the Profession of Faith service to discuss their JWJY experience and to make suggestions for improvement. It is attended by the pilgrims and mentors, the pastor, the CYDD, and the Children & Youth Committee Council Liaison.

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Hello mentors,

As you continue to meet monthly with your mentee/pilgrim, here are some helpful questions for your **faith plan**, prompts on thinking about their **faith story**, and a **conversation model** that you could use in your conversations.

The focus of the conversation should be on the pilgrim's **faith plan**:

## **I am Called and Equipped:**

1. How is your ministry involvement going?
2. What are you learning about yourself as Christ's co-worker?
3. What giftings and passions are coming to light?
4. What have you learned about ministry in general?
5. How is your image of yourself as a called and equipped person growing?

## **I Have Hope:**

1. Which spiritual habits (disciplines) have you been engaged in this month?
2. What effect is this having on your faith?
3. How do you see yourself carrying this habit forward into the next chapter of your life?
4. Who have you talked to who is practicing the same discipline, and what did you learn?

## **I Belong:**

1. What relationship has had the greatest impact on your spiritual life this month?
2. How have you contributed to this relationship?
3. Has God nudged you toward anyone who you feel would grow your relationship with Christ in some way?

## **I Know:**

1. What truth have you learned about God this month?
2. How did you learn it?
3. What difference has it made?
4. Who did you share this truth with?

**Faith Story:** The pilgrim should be given an opportunity to tell their faith story in different ways throughout the year. Here are some scenarios you could present to your pilgrim:

- Put yourself five years into the future. Tell your faith story from that vantage point
- Take your favourite Bible verse. Tell me your faith story in light of that text.
- Pretend you have grandchildren. Tell them your faith story.
- Pretend Christianity is another country. Write a letter to your old country about why you decided to move to this country, and why you're not going back.
- Pretend that I am not a Christian. How would you tell me your faith story in such a way that I might want to become one?

**Sample questions for a mentor/pilgrim conversation:**

**Mentor:** \_\_\_\_\_, thanks for setting aside some time to talk to me about your faith journey. What has God been up to in your life and ministry in the past month?

**Pilgrim:**

**Mentor:** It sounds to me like you're talking about "x" of the building blocks. You've been working on that lately, and it's bearing some fruit. What are you learning?

**Pilgrim:**

**Mentor:** Let's shift to one of the other building blocks for a few minutes – what about "y"? You had wanted to start [ ] as I recall – any movement there? Any results?

**Pilgrim:**

**Mentor:** One of the things we are working on together is your faith statement. How is that going? Is it harder, easier than you thought? What have you learned in trying to write it down?

**Pilgrim:**

**Mentor:** Anything else that you want to talk about?

**Pilgrim:**

**Mentor:** Our next meeting is set for [ ] – does that still work for you?

**Pilgrim:**

March 2022