



Confirmation Instruction

vs.

Head to the Heart (H2H) Confirmation Ministry

Head to the Heart is designed to blur the lines between youth group and youth education, making confirmation learning fun, while retaining both the information and the kid.

Imagine a three-legged stool. (Go ahead, imagine it ...) The stool only works effectively when all the legs are intact. If one leg breaks, it topples over. The equally important three legs of the H2H stool are Theme Events, Servant Events, and Fellowship Events. Why do we call them Events? Well, wouldn't you rather attend an event than go to class? Yeah, that's what we thought too!

The second and fourth weeks of each month are normally set aside for a Theme Event. At Theme Events, everyone comes together at church for learning and processing scripture (in a variety of engaging ways) in both large group and small group sharing.

The third week of each month is set aside for small groups to create and participate in Servant & Fellowship Events which translates their faith into action and builds community. These Servant and Fellowship Events are key to bonding groups and Guides, thus creating a caring environment for deep small group conversations at Theme Events.

Leg One: Theme Events



On the second and fourth Wednesday's **CROSS+GEN** nights, all ages and stages in our church family including confirmation youth, and our upper elementary and junior high youth come together for an **Opening Presentation at 5:30** and by your Host (a pastor or other leader).

PowerPoint slides and teaching aids are set up to be used by one person, or volunteers can supplement and enliven these events with participation in skits, video clips, art, and other Creative Interruptions.

Following this interactive whole-group immersion into the topic, small groups break away to care, share, and join in prayer. Everyone comes back together for a low-key blessing and closing to end the event. That's right: think *event*, not *class*.

Leg Two: Servant Events



In the H2H system, one learns to be a servant by serving. **The third week of every month** is set aside for small groups to participate in Servant Events that move faith into action. Each small group chooses, plans, and completes its own activity, or they can coordinate with other small groups to do a Small groups share what they gave, what they received, and what they learned. Be prepared to be honored and share with the congregation about your service event.

FAMILY SERVICE EVENT: Each semester each student is challenged to initiate and participate in a servant event with their family during this evening or at another agreed-upon time. The student and their family will write a brief synopsis of their experience which may be published in Trinity Tidings.

Leg Three: Fellowship Events



There will be periodic scheduled Fellowship Events. What is a Fellowship Event? It's really nothing more than the small group getting together for fun and fellowship; bowling, skating, going to a movie, whatever. having fun together is the best way to break down social barriers between youth of different school social groups. With barriers down, trust and connection grow. With trust and connection, groups are more willing and able to have deep conversations about faith and life. If you want H2H to have a lasting impact, Fellowship Events are not optional - they are essential.

What Happens at Church Shouldn't Stay at Church...

The church has been replacing parents in their child's faith formation for too long. We have been inadvertently sending the message "we are the professionals" and we can do it best. We are frustrated with parents and perhaps even resentful and angry with them. Why? Here is the hard truth; because parents are doing exactly what we've taught is required of them. Ouch.

It really is high time for the church to give parents back to their kids in faith. This is one thing we can all agree on. But the question is, how? Certainly not by guilt or begging them. Most of us have already tried that. We've even tried delicious donuts and fancy coffee.

There is a better way. We've seen it work in thousands of churches and families across the world. It is called FAITH 5 and it is incorporated into Head to the Heart and at every CROSS+GEN Night, including. FAITH5 is a simple, five-step nightly ritual that families practice each night in their homes. It is a non-threatening way to get parents back on the front lines of their child's faith formation. We promise it works. It can't not work.