

BIG GOD

BIG QUESTIONS

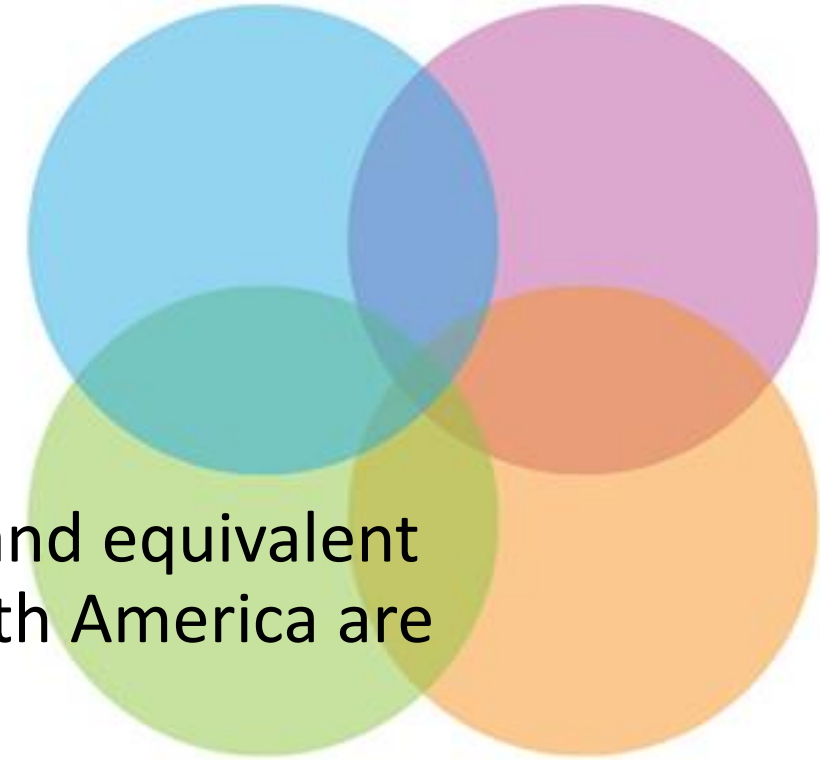
CONFIRMATION FOR A GROWING FAITH

Confirm your Baptism with Big God Big Questions

the Confirmation



PROJECT



Project Goal

- Seeks to learn the extent to which confirmation and equivalent practices in the Protestant denominations in North America are effective for strengthening discipleship in youth.
- Outline effective Confirmation Practices from successful Confirmation programs
- Churches from a variety of contexts shared their successes
- Discerned what is working well across all contexts

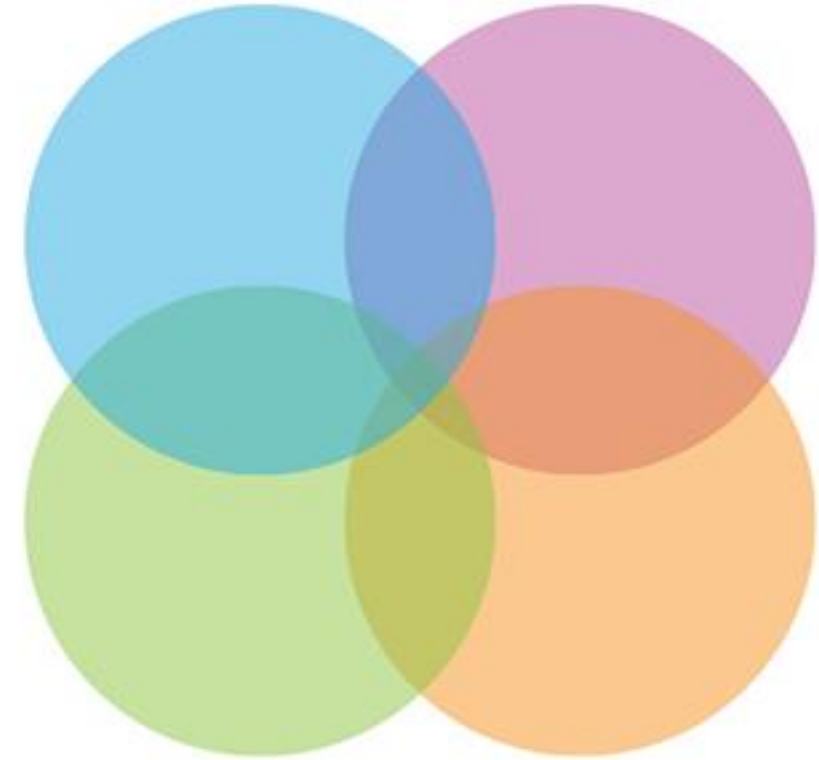
the Confirmation



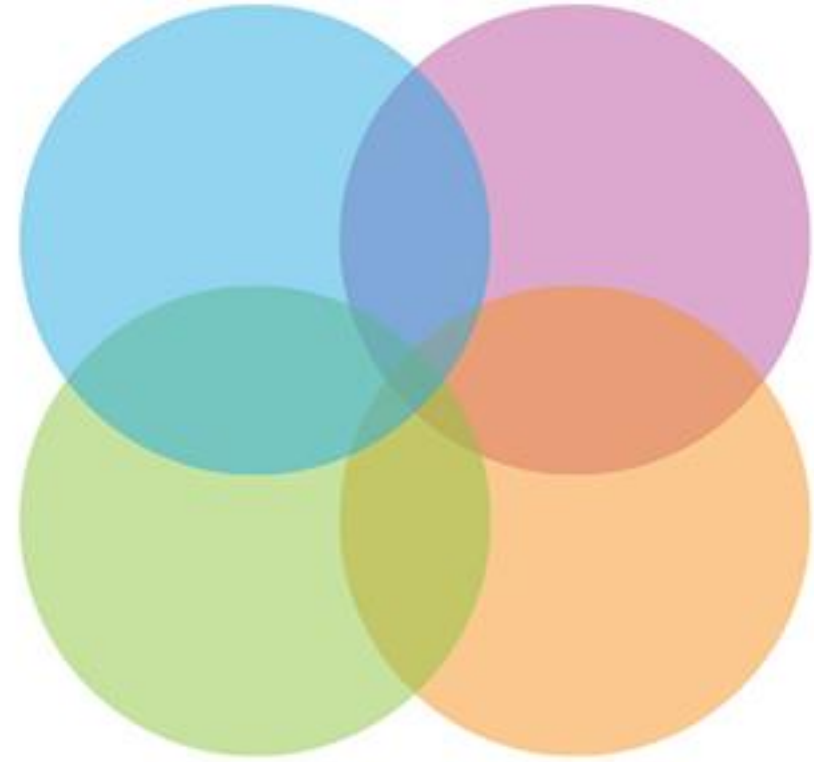
PROJECT

Major Findings

- Average age 14 years old
- 6 month average duration of a confirmation program
- The program adapted to the local church context
- The program was real and relevant
- Christian foundation for public life
- Importance of relationships over curriculum
- Inquiry based learning
- Importance of pastoral involvement and leadership
- Connection to baptism

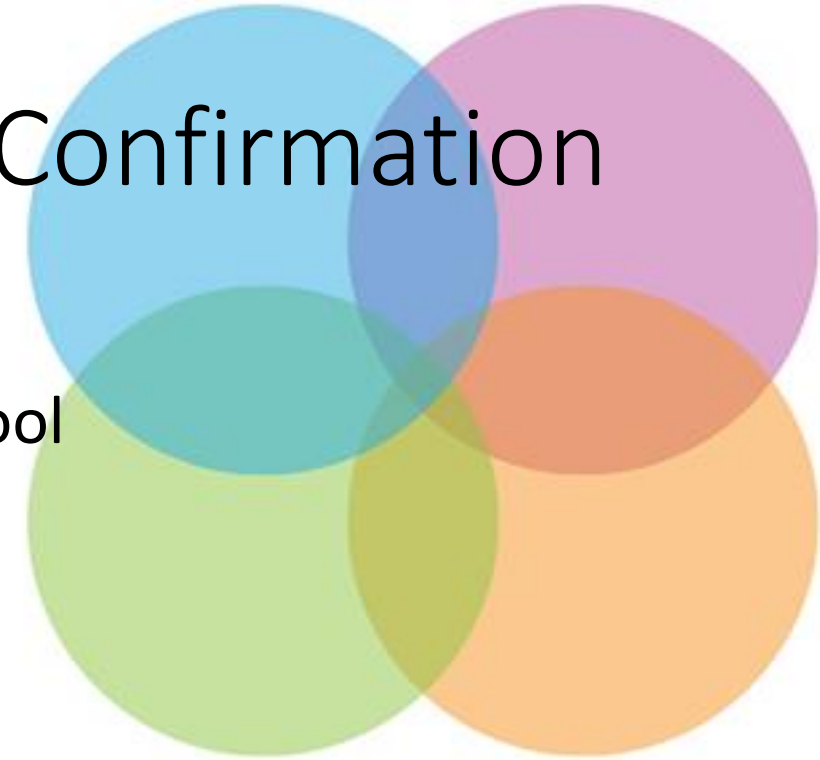


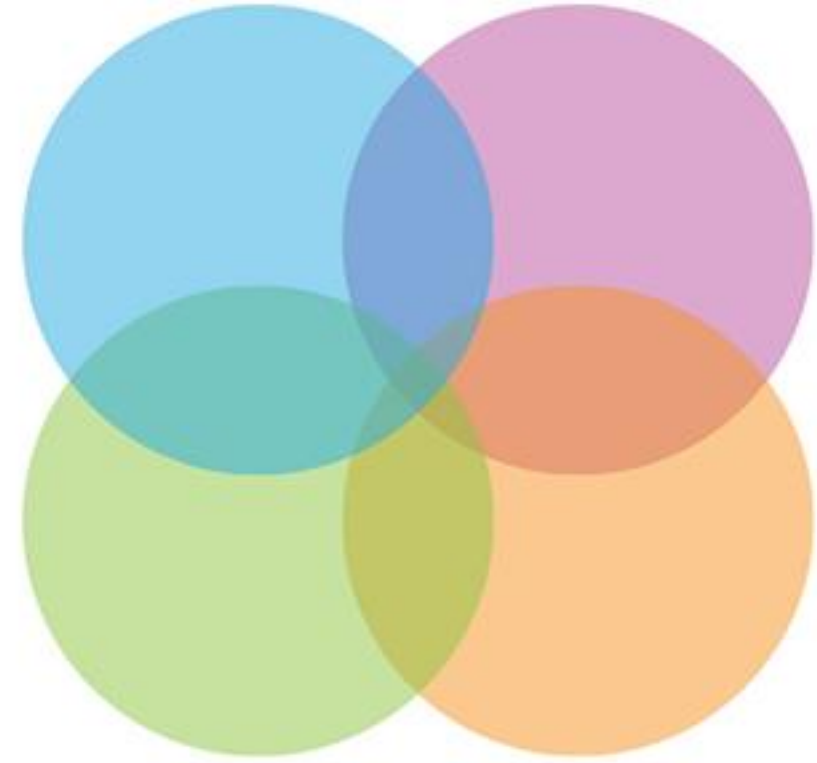
BIG God Big Questions is the first denominational curriculum to be developed taking into account the findings from [The Confirmation Project](#).



Big God Big Questions based on Confirmation Project Findings

- Geared at a transition point from middle to high school
- 12 sessions that can be split into 24 sessions
- Based in congregational experience of the user
- Learned in context of church involvement
- Christian tradition and life experience intersect
- Intentional and consistent engagement with parents and mentors
- Asking and answering questions, and asking more questions
- Shared leadership with pastors and lay leaders written with lay leaders in mind
- Based on the baptism and membership questions





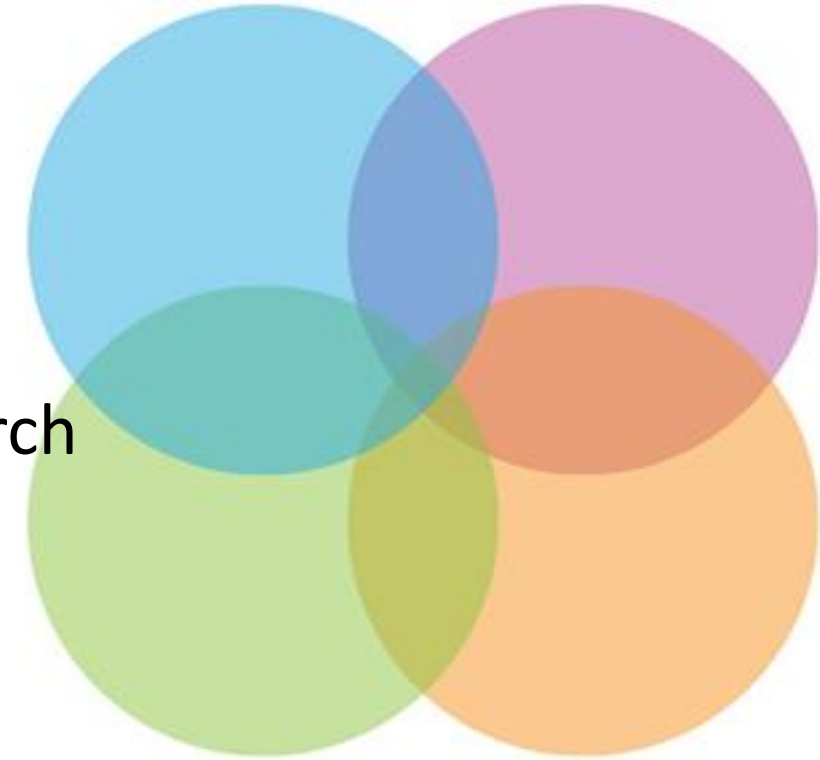
Big God Big Questions

The Curriculum

The Scope and Sequence

The Questions we are asked when we join the church

- What is a covenantal? What is a covenantal vow?
- What do the questions mean?
- What is being asked of me?
- Am I prepared to answer these questions?
- Am I ready for this milestone in my faith?



1. a covenantal vow

2. Who is this God?

How is God trustworthy? We learn about God's faithfulness throughout generations.

3. We name sin - individual, corporate, and systemic – and explore ways we as individuals and the church turn from sin and work for justice in the world.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

6. What does it mean to follow Christ, and obeying his word, take up your cross?

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

7. Then out of gratitude for God's grace, we act as Christ to others, showing Christ's love by serving one another.

4. What does it mean that Jesus is our Lord? It's a question of loyalty and who is first in our lives.

5. What does it mean that Jesus is our Savior? From what and for what? What does salvation mean?

8. We explore the Apostles' Creed and confessions as our church's teachings.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

9. We consider what it means to be the body of Christ in fellowship.

10. We look at the sacrament of the Lord's Supper as well as Christ's radical invitation, breaking rules and inviting all to the table.

Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers?

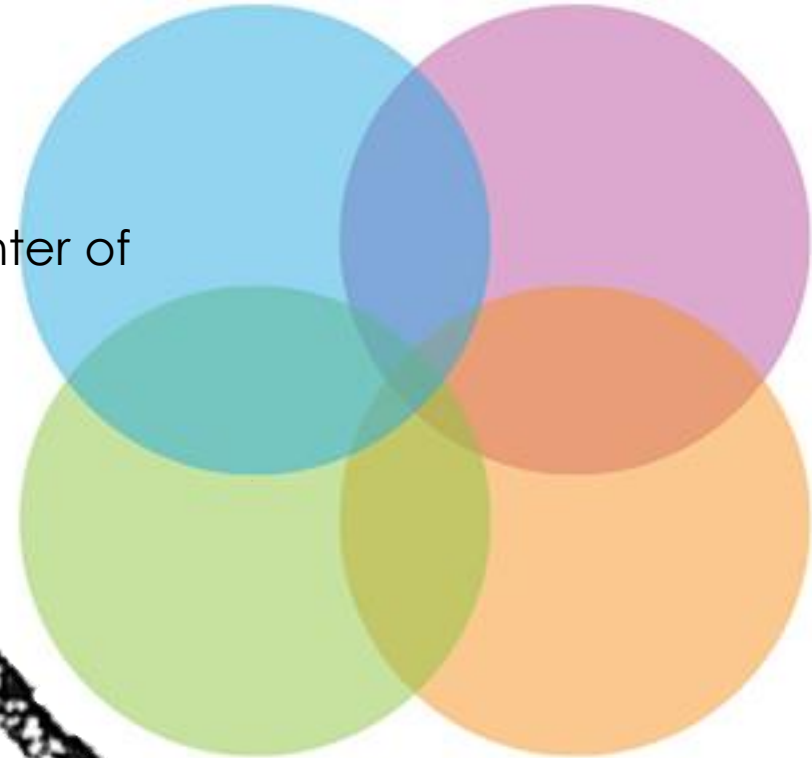
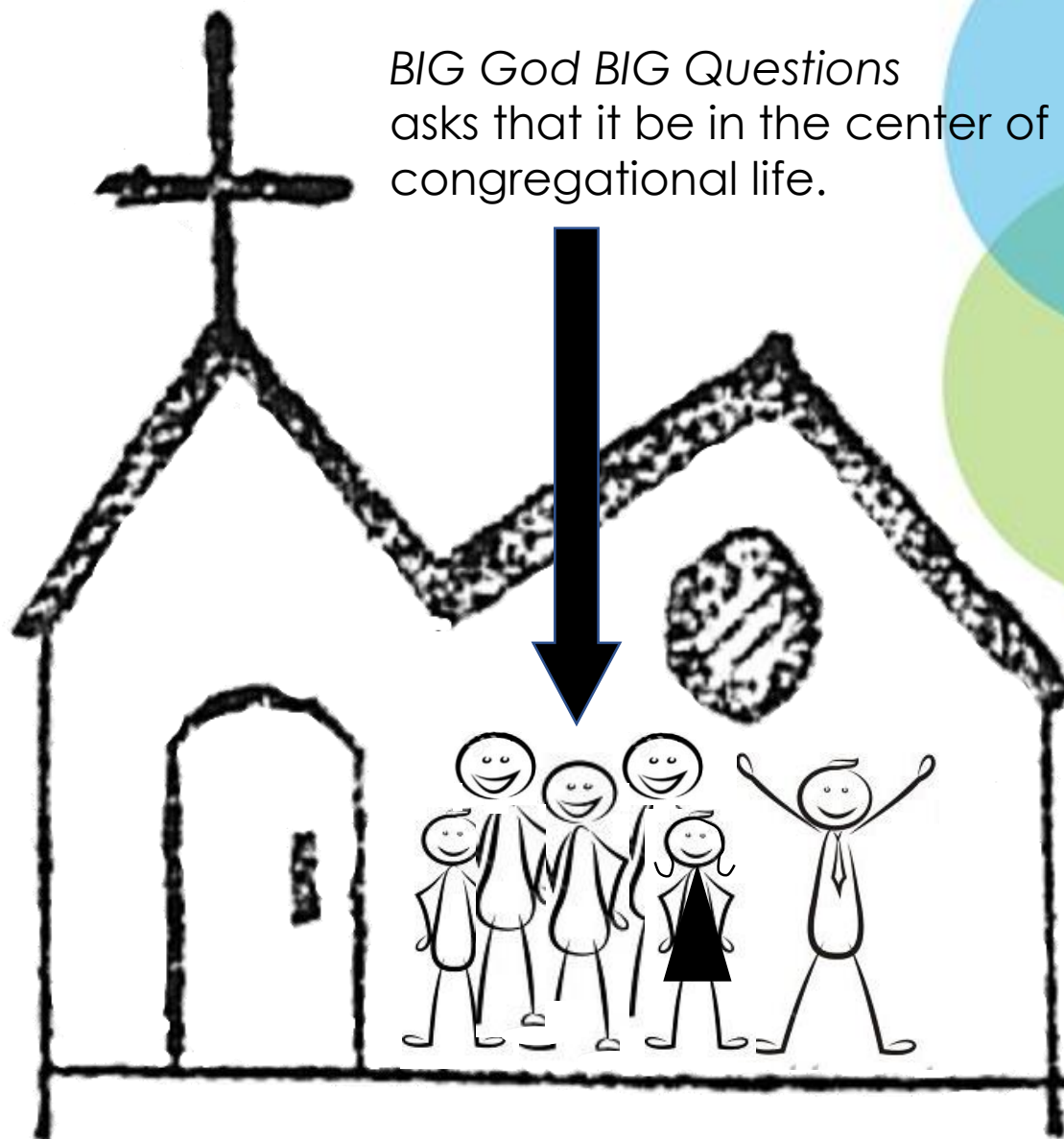
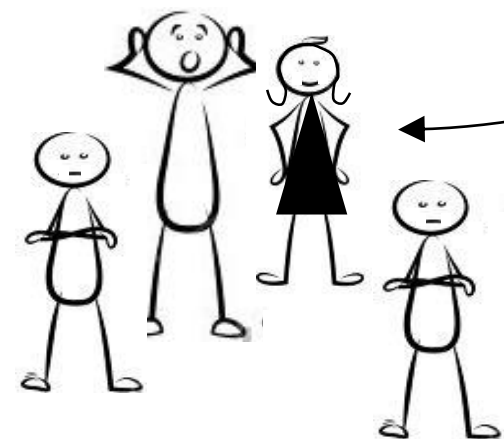
11. Looking at prayer and devotion, we give youth tools for practices of the faith.

12. **Are you ready to cross over?**

For many. . .

Confirmation has been
on the edges of
congregational life.

BIG God BIG Questions
asks that it be in the center of
congregational life.



BIG God BIG Questions

invites the congregation to play an active role in the lives of young people as they explore their faith.

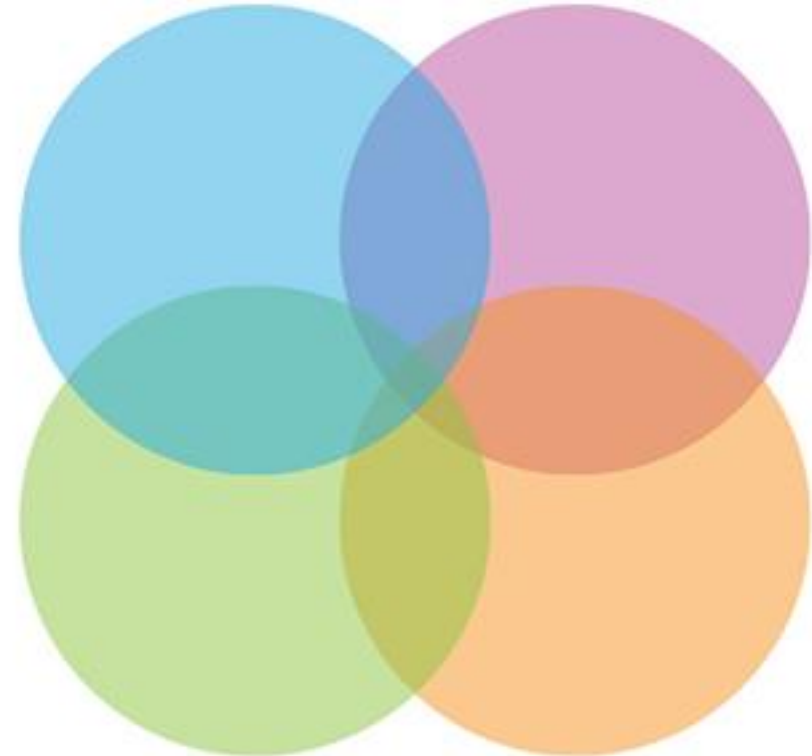
asks that each person - confirmand, parent or caregiver, leader, mentor, and congregant - takes seriously what is going on in faith formation and the profession of faith.

“high expectation”

recognizes that this is a significant and holy time in the life of all involved. That means that this time is honored.

calls for adults to model what is important to them—their faith, and their questions and their struggles. They show up.

Youth ask for confirmation to be real and relevant and it is up to us to treat it as such.

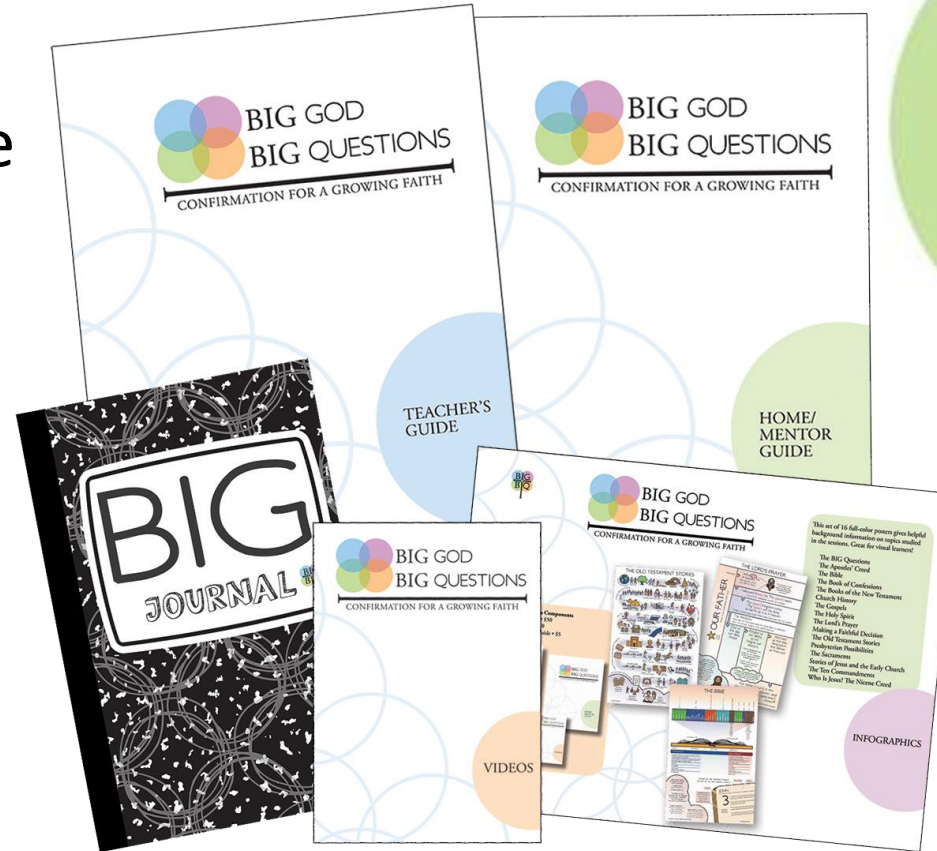


Big God Big Questions

The Components

Curriculum Components

- Teacher's Guide
- Home/Mentor Guide
- BIG Journal
- Videos
- Infographics

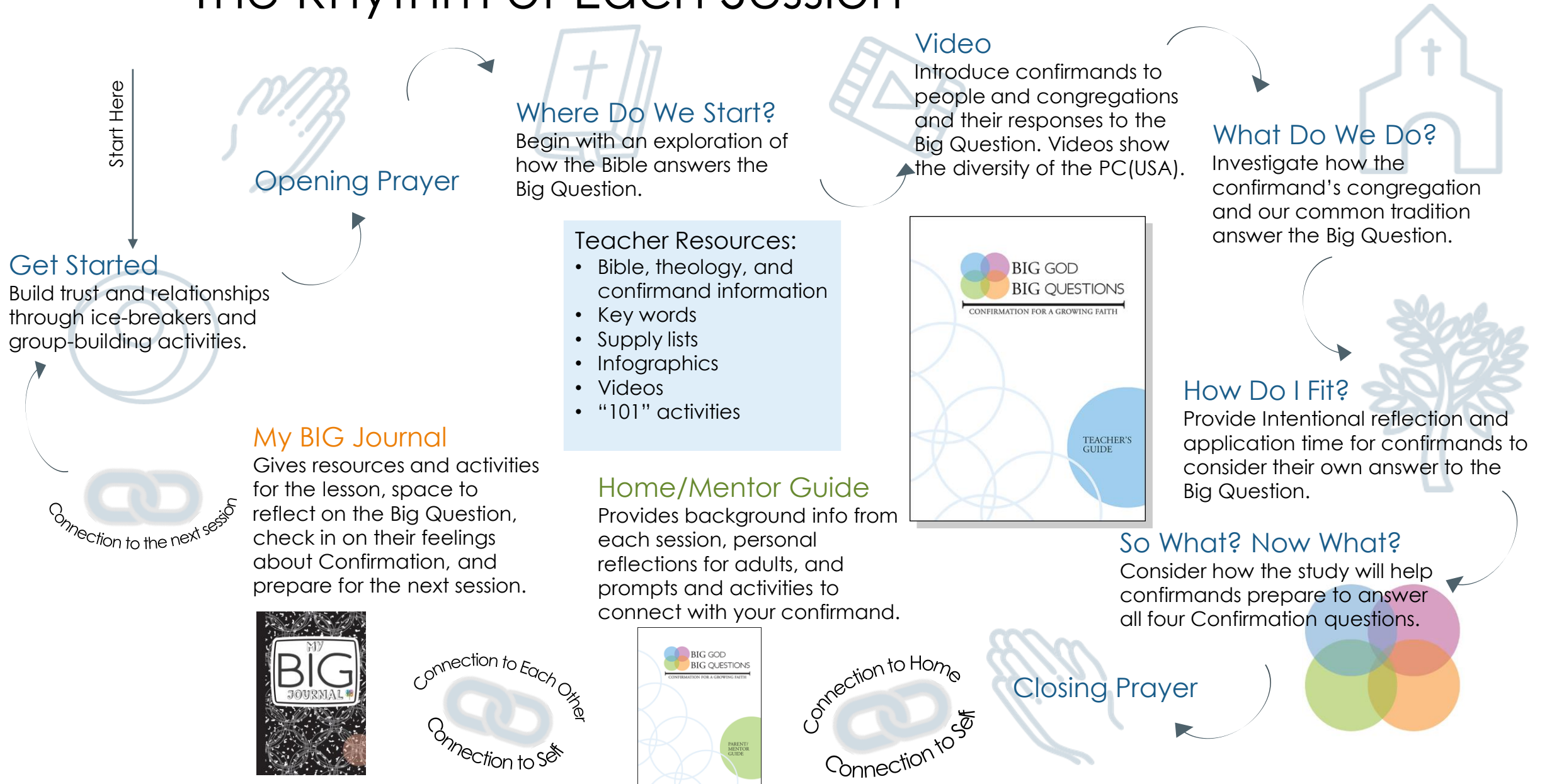


Teacher's Guide

- Available in [print](#) or [download](#)
- Biblical background information for the leader
- 12 session lesson plans
- Where and when to break each session for 24 sessions
- Resource pages
- Suggestions of people to include from the congregation
- Preparations for the next session at the end of each session
- 101 Activities which help students have a solid background knowledge



The Rhythm of Each Session



Home/Mentor Guide

- Engages confirmands with those in their home and with mentors
- Caring suggestions for adults in the lives of confirmands
- Practical applications for discussion, movies, books, service and other activities
- All of these elements work together to enhance the confirmand's exploration of faith and strengthen relationships between the adults in their lives and the confirmands.



BIG Journal

- This bound journal is for each student
- Provides a space to think, respond, question, and reflect during each session
- There are some preparation materials to prepare for the next session at the beginning of each session
- Definitions of frequently used terms are included for each session
- Check-in at the end of every session allows for each student to gauge how they feel about this process and a space for questions



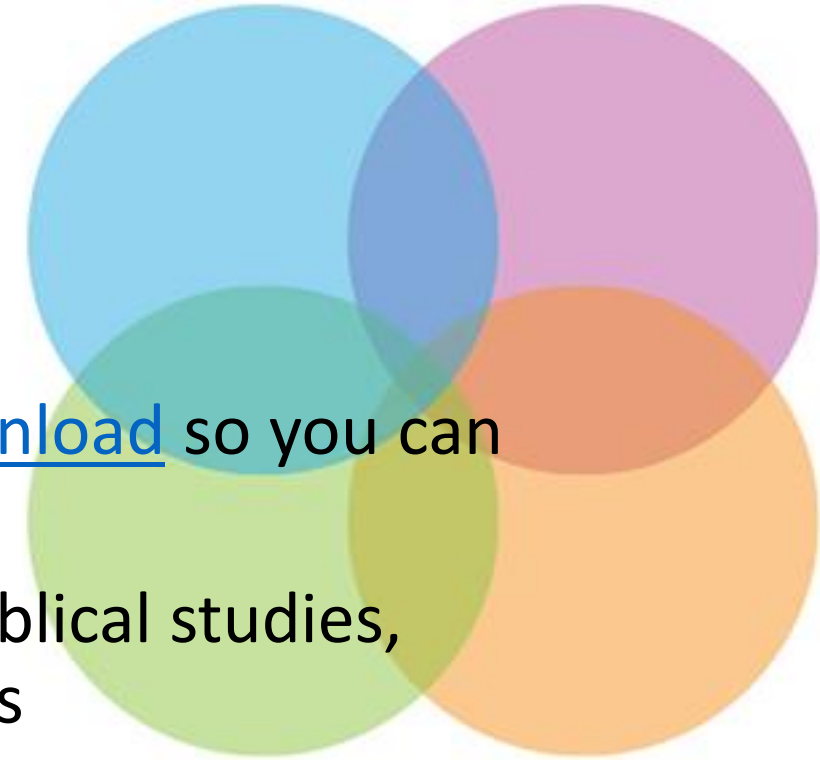
Videos

- Available as a [DVD](#) or as [downloads](#)
- Highlights the breadth and diversity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Real people sharing their stories and struggles
- They reflect on their own faith journey and encourage the next generation to their call and practice



Infographics

- Available in [print 11x17 posters](#) form or as a [download](#) so you can print any size you want
- 16 posters that visually and graphically unpack biblical studies, theological concepts, church history and practices
- Use with a wide variety of contexts within the church setting



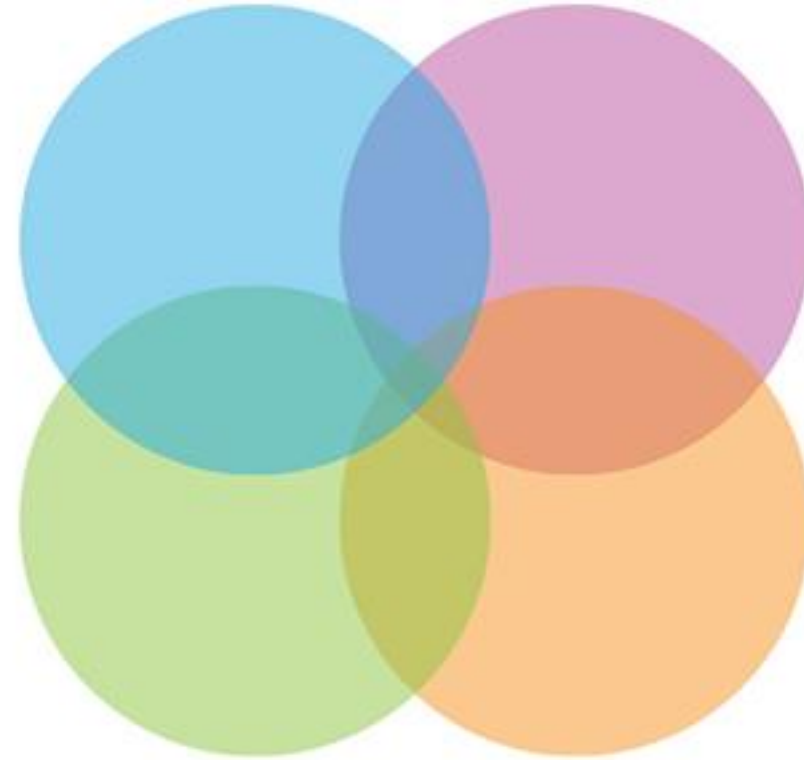
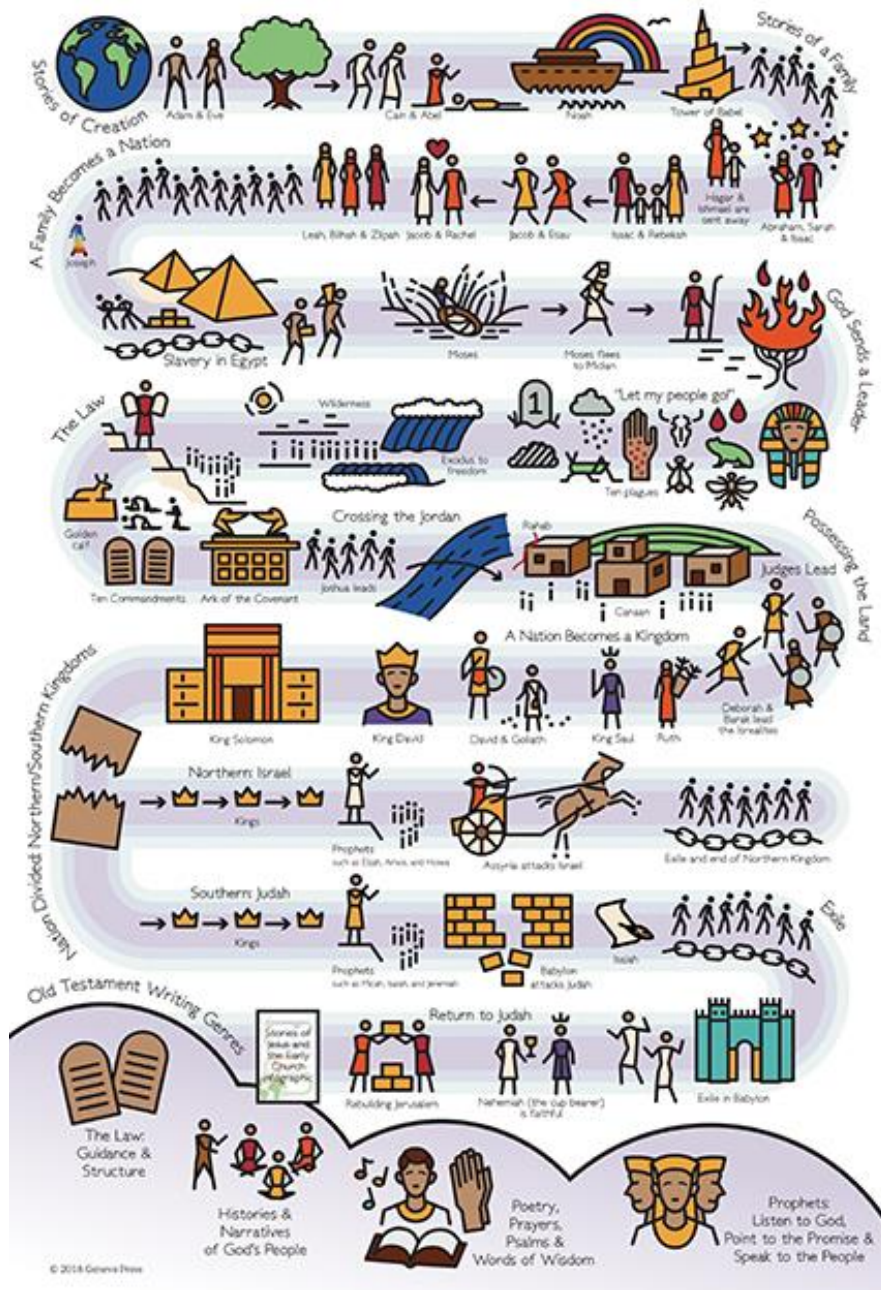
Posters Include

- The Big Questions
- The Apostle's Creed
- The Bible
- Book of Confessions
- Church History
- The Gospels
- The Holy Spirit
- The Lord's Prayer
- Making Faithful Decisions

- Old Testament Stories
- Presbyterian Possibilities
- The Sacraments
- Stories of Jesus and the Early Church
- The Ten Commandments
- Who is Jesus



THE OLD TESTAMENT STORIES



The Class Kit

- This includes everything you need to lead Big God Big Questions with enough materials for 5 students at a discounted price
- This kit is available in [print](#) or [download](#) version
- This kit includes:
 - 1 Leader Guide
 - 10 Home/Mentor Guides (print only)
 - 5 BIG Journals (print only)
 - 1 video set
 - 1 set of infographic posters



Thank you!

- Visit our website www.pcusastore.com to learn more or see the [full list of Big God Big Questions resources](#)
- Contact our curriculum specialist [Katie Snyder](#) to assist your church in choosing the right curriculum
- Remember to click the links in this presentation to learn more about anything you are interested in

