

Middle School – November 24, 2019

Why do Christians believe Christianity is the best religion?

- 10:00 – 10:05: Hang out

- 10:05 – 10:25: Encounter
 - *Video:*
 - Set up
 - Ask the kids to draw the first thing they think of when they hear “Christianity” on one note card, and an adjective describing Jesus on the other note card.
 - Share responses and save the note cards for later.
 - Watch the video
 - Unpack
 - “What surprised you in this video?”
 - “What don’t you believe?”
 - “How does it feel when someone doesn’t believe you?”
 - “Do you think Jesus intended to start a religion?”
 - “Christianity proclaims that God, as Jesus, died. Is that scary? Comforting? Confusing?”

 - *What about the Bible?*
 - Read 1 Corinthians 15:13-14:¹³**If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.**
 - Have kids write things Christians wouldn’t have if Jesus were not risen (hope, forgiveness, etc.) on paper.
 - Have one kid stand inside the plastic bag, and the other kids wad up their papers and throw them in the bag. Did these things die with Jesus? (tell the kid in the bag to play dead) Or did the reality come alive with Jesus? (Kid throws back wads of promises)
 - Questions for conversation:
 - “Does Christianity exist if there is no resurrection?”

- “Is it the end of the story when you get a fresh start? How do you feel?”
 - “How is the empty tomb the beginning – not the end – of the story?”
- 10:25 – 10:50 (approx.): Engage
 - 1st activity: *You-nique* (Anti-Workbook handout)
 - Ask the kids to think about what makes them unique (and do for yourself too). What gifts, skills, or personality traits have you been given by God? Is it a combination of elements that makes you unique?
 - Questions for conversation:
 - “Is it easy or hard to name your own traits?”
 - “Do you wish you were more like or more different than others? Why?”
 - “Are some traits more ‘Christian’ than others? Why?”
 - 2nd activity: *We Are....* (Anti-Workbook handout)
 - Think about billboards and ads. What could you put on a billboard outside of Christ Church to tell people what Christianity is all about? Would you highlight what you believe or what you do? What else?
 - Questions for conversation:
 - “Can you tell if someone is Christian just by what you see? By talking with them?”
 - “What do Christians do that is uniquely Christian?”
 - “If someone from another planet, who happened to speak your language, approached you, what is the one thing you would want them to know about Christianity?”
 - “Is there anything you wouldn’t want someone to know about Christianity? Why?”
 - “What do you think is the best thing about Christianity?”
 - Additional question: “If you could ask Ron any anonymous question about Christianity, the Episcopal church, etc., what would you want to know?”
- 10:50 – 11:00: Communion (approx.)
- 11:00 – 11:10: Music in the Dining Room