

**Bridgewater United Methodist Church**  
**Confirmation Program**  
**Student/Mentor Discussion Guide**  
**October/November: Me and the Church**

1. What does it mean to you to be a member of the church?
  
2. What does worship mean? Do you attend worship with your family?  
What part of the service is most meaningful to you? Why?
  
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12 together.
  - What is gift that God has given you?
  - How are you using that gift to glorify God?
  - What does it mean that the church is the body of Christ?
  
4. How do you participate in the church's ministry?
  
5. How does the church minister to you and your family?
  
6. What role does the church play in the society at large?
  
7. What is our church doing to make a difference in society?
  
8. What are you doing to make a difference?

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**November/December: Holiday Traditions, CHRISTmas**

1. Discuss different family traditions that are meaningful to each of you.
  - What are some of your favorite holiday songs? Foods?
  - What is your favorite Christmas memory?
  
2. How do you remember “Christ” during the Holiday time?
  
3. What new things can you and your families do to remember the real reason for Christmas?
  
4. Read the Christmas story from Luke 2 together.
  - Why was it so important for Jesus to be born in a stable?
  - What would you have done if you were a shepherd? A Wiseman?
  - What gift are you going to give to Christ this year?

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**January: Resolutions and Promises**

1. What are some of the New Year's Resolutions you have made in the last 3 years?
2. Have you stuck with them for a whole year? A month? A week?
  - Were they easy or difficult to stick to? Why?
3. Read John 3 together.
  - What does Jesus mean when he says "you must be born again to enter the kingdom of God"?
  - How many "second chances" does God give us?
  - Why do you think God is so forgiving and willing to give us so many chances?
4. What is the difference between a promise and a resolution?
  - Which one would be easier to break? Why?
5. What are some of the things that Jesus may want you to work on or change in your life in 2002?
6. What is a promise that you are willing to make to God in 2002?
  - Keep each other accountable by asking how you are doing with your promise as the year progresses.

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**February: Love is Patient...**

1. Who was the first person you had a crush on as a kid? When was the first time you “fell in love”?
  
2. What does it mean to “love your neighbor”? How about to love your spouse? Your girlfriend/boyfriend? Your children? Your parents? Your favorite meal? Your possessions? Your favorite team?
  
3. Do you think we use the word love too freely? Explain.
  
4. What does it mean when they say “God is love”?
  
5. Read 1 Corinthians 13 together.
  - How does this passage define love?
  - What does love “look” like?
  - Rewrite verses 1-3 in your own words.
  - What do you think is the ultimate expression of love?
  
6. What are some of the ways that you have shown your love to your friends? Your family? God?

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**Bible Study James I: 1-27**

1. What attitude does James say we should have toward trials we face? (2) Why? (3-4)
  
2. What do you consider to be trials? What has been a great “trial” in your life! At the time, were you following James’ advice?
  
3. In verse 5, what kind of wisdom is James talking about? How do we get it? What do verses 5-8 say about prayer?
  
4. When have you asked for wisdom and received it? How about when you have not received wisdom you asked for? What was the difference?
  
5. Read verses 9-11. What does James mean by “humble” and “high position”? Are possessions themselves dangerous? Why? Why not?
  
6. In verses 19-20, what principles for relating to others does James give us? What does he tell us about anger? When was the last time you lost your temper? How would the situation have been different if you applied James’ principles in v. 19? Is anger ever justified?

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**Bible Study James 2: 1-26**

1. Identify and define the topic of verses 1-13. In what ways do you see favoritism in your school? Your family? The church? Is there an area where you show favoritism?
2. This passage talks a lot about rich and poor. What is James' message? How do you use your position, money, and time to help those who are less fortunate than yourself?
3. What do these verses say about forgiveness? Do you find asking for other people's forgiveness easy or difficult? How about asking for God's forgiveness? How about giving forgiveness to your friends or family? Should you forgive a person who doesn't ask for forgiveness? Why or Why not?
4. In verses 14-26, what does James mean by works? Make a list of what you feel are your good works or deeds in the last week. Next: write down why you did each of those deeds. **(BE HONEST)**
5. How does James use the examples of Abraham and Rahab to prove his point? (See Genesis 22:1-12 and Joshua 2:1-14)
6. How do you react to these statements?
  - "The more good deeds you do, the better your chances at getting into heaven".
  - "Christians should do good deeds so they'll get rewards in heaven".

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**Bible Study James 3: 1-18**

1. What do verses 1-12 say about the “tongue”? Is he right? Why is the tongue so difficult to control? When and in what ways are you most likely to misuse your tongue?
2. What inconsistency does James talk about concerning Christians’ speech? (9-12) Would you consider joking about religious or spiritual things in the same category as the inconsistency James is talking about? Why?
3. List 5 ways you could use your speech to help others in the next 2 weeks:
4. What are the characteristics of wisdom described in v. 14-16? Give three examples of that type of wisdom.
5. What are the characteristics of wisdom described in v. 17-18? Give three examples of that type of wisdom.
6. If a person had all of the characteristics listed in v. 17-18, would he or she be elected as a government official? What kind of people do we elect? Why?
7. Select one characteristic of Godly wisdom that James talks about how can you develop that trait in your own life?

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**Bible Study James 4: 1-17**

1. What predicament are the people in who James is describing in v. 1-3? What were the causes? How had it affected their prayer lives?
2. What choice does James present in v. 4? What does James mean by “world”? How and why is it incompatible with God?
3. In v. 7-10 James lists several guidelines for spiritual growth. List as many as you can find.
4. What does it mean according to these verses to “submit to God”? How do you submit to God? How can you in the next week?
5. V. 11 says, “Do not criticize one another”. Why shouldn’t we? Why is criticism so damaging to Christian fellowship? Is there a right or wrong time to criticize? What kind of criticism bothers you the most?
6. What kind of sin does James describe in v. 17? Give 2 examples of what he means.
7. What is one good thing that you ought to do in the next month? What does v. 17 instruct you about this commitment?

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**Bible Study James 5: 1-20**

1. Read verses 7-12. What modern examples of patience during suffering do you know? When have you exercised patience during difficult times? What role can you play in helping others who are suffering? What role can the church play?
  
2. Read verses 13-20. What response does James suggest for the following: Trouble? Happiness? Sickness? What effects can the prayers of Christians have?
  
3. Why do you pray? Do you believe that prayer is as powerful today as when James talked about it 1800 years ago? Have you seen examples of the power of prayer? Talk about some.
  
4. Spend the rest of your time together talking about prayer. How do you pray? When? Where? What are some things you pray for? Who do you want to pray for today? What situation in the world do you want to pray for? How about in our Country? How about in our Community? In our church? In your families?
  
5. Spend 10 minutes in prayer together. It is okay to have some time of silence. Focus on God and on the needs you just talked about. Pray for each other. Make sure that both of you have a chance to pray aloud.

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November through February  
Student and Mentor Bible Study  
The Book of James

