

Leader Guide

Welcome to the School of Love

Date: September 9, 2020

Big Idea: Sin is defined as a broken relationship between me and God, me and my neighbor and me and creation. The School of Love focuses in increasing love of God, love of neighbor and love of creation.

Guide Pro Tips

1. The School of love is **not** a school of memorizing the Bible, or memorizing beliefs, memorizing ideas about religion or memorizing appropriate behavior. The School of Love is about increasing our love for God, our love for our neighbors and our love for creation.
2. The definition of sin is broken relationship between me and God, me and my neighbors and me and creation – see the connection?
3. This year in Confirmation we are focusing on doing those three things through Scripture – each week focuses on a particular Bible passage. We will be relating Scripture to our lives each week.
4. St. Augustine (who lived in the 4th and 5th century) said that any reading of Scripture that does not increase of love of God or our love of neighbor (and in 2020 we add) our love of creation, is a bad reading of scripture and we need to try again.

Gathering & Centering

Once everyone has gathered on Zoom, greet everyone by name and welcome them to the group.

Open your time together with centering prayer. Remind students that centering prayer is a kind of silent prayer that centers them in their body and helps focus and calm us. Often centering prayer works best if we have something to look at that is calming. I like to use a video of a candle burning (like this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGdbA0LypE>). You could also use a timer or count down as well.

So, say something like this: “**as we get ready to spend some time together, let us center ourselves in our bodies and in our Lord God.**” and play the video for 45 seconds. The goal for confirmation students is 2 minutes but we built up to that gradually.

Introduction to the Big Idea

Tonight’s introduction to the Big Idea is Pastor Tim’s video introducing the School of Love: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SVGhxSFpYI>. Use the share screen function in zoom or your meeting app to make sure everyone can see the video together.

Conversation Starter

Here’s a question to get some conversation started:

Why should the church be about more than memorizing Bible verses, or beliefs, or ideas from the past?

What should the church be doing in 2020 to show people about God’s love?

Bible Study

This Bible study is also found on the middle school page of our website. It would be very helpful to direct students there to complete the Bible study.

The Student Bible we use has concordance (a list of important topics, like an index) at the back. Look up the term Love.

Pick one of the Bible passages listed under that heading and tell me the following (completed as a google doc from google classroom)

- What passage did you choose?
- Restate the passage in your own words:
- How does this passage increase love of God, neighbor or creation?

Journal Question

Lutherans define sin as broken relationship between you and God, you and your neighbor and you and creation. Can you think of an example of a sin that would fit in each category?