

# OPEN *yourself* UP TO THE **HOLY SPIRIT.**



## DECISION point

Once the actual day has come and gone, this is the first decision you will be faced with: Is Confirmation a beginning or an end? Clearly God intends it to be an incredible new beginning for you, but will you accept his invitation to that new beginning?

After Moses confronted Pharaoh and led the Israelites out of Egypt, but before they reached the Promised Land, he died. Joshua (who is the central figure of the book of Joshua) then became the leader of the Israelites and led them into the Promised Land.

Like Moses, Joshua had to confront the people about their lives. Their priorities had become all mixed up again, and they were once again serving false gods. In chapter 24 Joshua calls together the twelve tribes of Israel and gives them a short history lesson. He reminds them how good God has been to them, that they were slaves in Egypt but God liberated them, protected them, guided them, and gave them the Promised Land. Then he confronts them for abandoning the one true God and worshipping other gods just like their ancestors did. Finally, he invites them to renew their covenant with God.

In Joshua 24:15 there are two great lines. In the first Joshua says to the people, "If you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve." What is he saying? He is saying, don't be cowards. If you are not going to serve the one true God, at least declare yourself in your wickedness and deceit. Don't pretend. We all serve something or someone with our lives. Choose.

Joshua then goes on to say, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." That's the second great line. He is saying to the people: You have to decide for yourself, but my decision is made—my family and I will serve the Lord.

You probably won't be tempted to worship golden calves like the ancient Israelites, but it would be a mistake to think that idolatry is a thing of the past. There is a lot more idolatry today than there was back then. You will be tempted to worship at altars of individualism, hedonism, minimalism, egotism, materialism, careerism, and many others.

### Joshua 24:15

**KNOW IT:** We all serve something or someone with our lives.

**THINK ABOUT IT:** Are you serving God with your life? If not, whom or what are you serving?

**LIVE IT:** Look for one way to serve God better today than you did yesterday.



**What would you like Mary to teach you?**



On the day of your Confirmation the bishop is going to confront you just as Joshua confronted the people of his time. The bishop is going to invite you to turn away from everything that is false in your life and renew your covenant with God, just as Joshua did for the Israelites. What will you choose?

You get to decide for yourself, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. I have worshiped at these other altars. They left me empty and unfulfilled, but serving God fills me with joy and purpose.

Congratulations on making this journey toward Confirmation. I know it can be the beginning of incredible things for you.

**WHO OR  
WHAT ARE  
YOU GOING  
TO SERVE?**

**CHILD  
OF GOD  
-OR-  
SLAVE  
TO THE  
WORLD?**



# JOURNAL

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**1. HOW WILL THIS EXPERIENCE INFLUENCE YOU TEN YEARS FROM NOW?**

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**2. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU SENSE PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION IS CHANGING YOU?**

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**3. HOW IS THIS EXPERIENCE HELPING YOU TO CLARIFY YOUR VALUES?**

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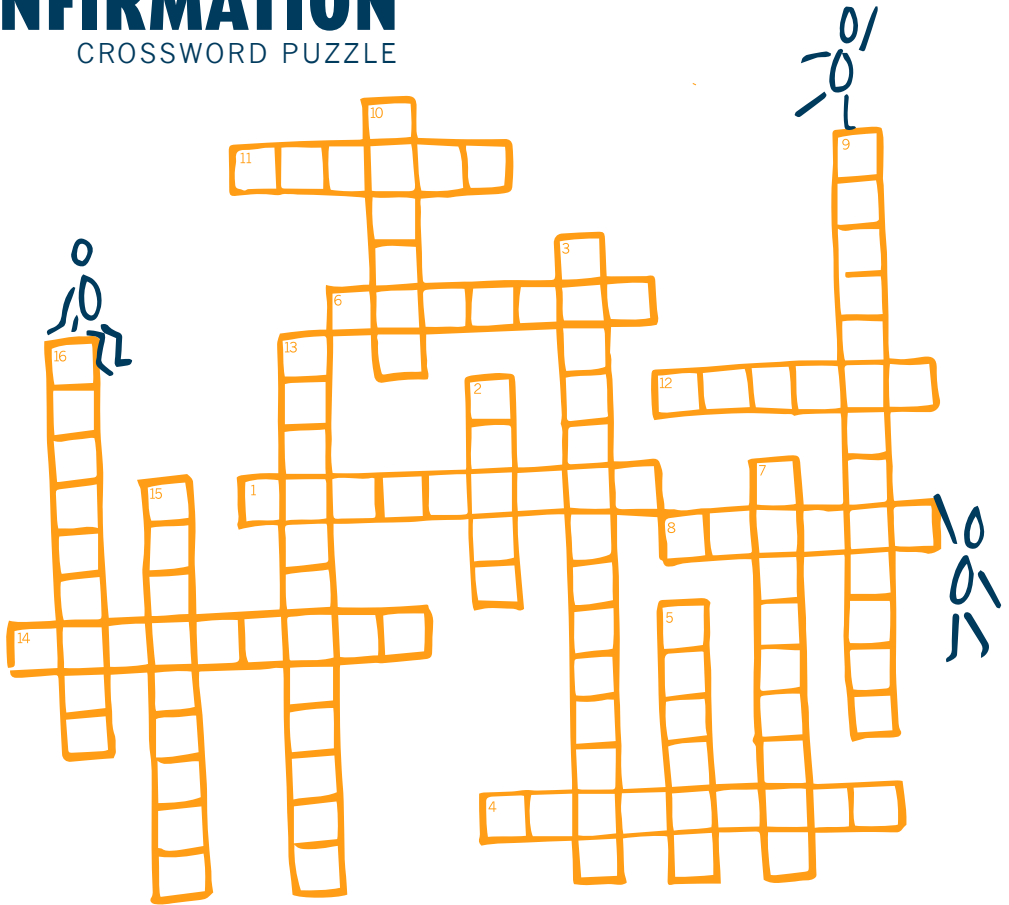
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# CONFIRMATION

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Helps you to grasp God's greatness and your dependence on him
4. The ability to see things from a supernatural viewpoint—in particular, to know what God is asking of you
6. The right judgment, which allows you to see what is right and what is wrong, and the prudence to act accordingly
8. To trace the Sign of the Cross with holy oil on the forehead
11. Our lives change when our \_\_\_\_\_ change.
12. During the Confirmation ceremony, the bishop will trace the sign of the cross on each candidate's forehead, anointing them with this holy oil.
14. An encounter with Jesus Christ

### DOWN

2. Loyalty to God that manifests as a generous love and affectionate obedience
3. A sacrament in which God unburdens you of your sins and gives you a fresh start
5. The short talk given by a priest during Mass after the Gospel reading
7. The courage and strength of will to do what you know you should do, even if it means personal loss or suffering
9. Allows you to look beyond the shallowness of the world and see the lasting truth in every situation
10. The ability to discern what is true, right, and lasting
13. A prayer to God on behalf of someone else
15. Confirmation is a great opportunity to start taking your \_\_\_\_\_ self seriously.
16. Someone preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation