

Discussion Questions for Confirmands and Mentors

Session 2: The Anglican Ethos

- 1) If you could take a vacation anywhere in the world, and take one cartoon character with you, where would you go and whom would you take?
- 2) Where is one place you saw God at work in the world this week?
- 3) What is one place you were aware of God's presence in your life this week?
- 4) What's something you remember from Dixon's teaching on Sunday about the Anglican ethos*?
- 5) Dixon said that Anglicans are only "radical" about one thing, and that's Jesus. What does it mean to be "radical about Jesus"? What would it look like to do this poorly? What would it look like to do this well?

Close your time by praying the Lord's Prayer together.

*The graph Dixon used in his teaching is on the back of this paper. Use it to prompt your confirmand in your discussion if it's helpful. Have them walk through it with you and recall all the axes. Below are some cheat notes;)

- The axes are:
 - o Y Axis: The Christian's relationship to God
 - *Transcendent* is a God that is wholly other: represented by the Orthodox tradition
 - *Immanent* is about a God who is close to us here and now: Best represented by the Pentecostal or Contemplative traditions.
 - o X Axis: The Christian's relationship to other Christians
 - *Communal* is when the faith is so deeply tied up in the community of other Christians, it almost cannot be separated: Best represented by the Roman Catholic tradition (this is why people can be "non-practicing Roman Catholics" – it's a communal conceptualization of the faith.)
 - *Individual* is when the Christian faith is mostly about your, personal decision: Best represented here by the Evangelical tradition and their "personal relationship with Jesus."
 - o Z Axis: The Christian's relationship to doctrine
 - *Firm Doctrine* is when there are less and less questions in the faith and more and more answers. In firm doctrine you find precise and immovable answers about the mechanism of salvation, what happens in the Eucharist, the timeline of events that follow a person after death, etc. Best represented by the Reformed tradition.
 - *Open Doctrine* is an approach to the Christian faith that says, there are some things we cannot know the answers to, or the answers we have, have changed. This is best represented by the Liberal tradition of Christianity.

Anglicanism is a heart around the center of all three axes. We hold all the poles together in tension, not planting our flag on any extreme, to the exclusion of the other. We don't radicalize on the poles. We radicalize on Jesus.

