

WE BELIEVE: Who is God?

June 11, 2023

DAY 1 THE APOSTLES' CREED

Scripture: [John 8:31-32](#), [Ephesians 4:25](#)

Reflection:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Depending on your faith background, the Apostles Creed might be very familiar, or today might be the first you've ever read it. You might have some negative feelings associated with the custom of it. It might be a huge source of comfort to you – a space where you've connected with your faith. Wherever you find yourself as you begin this reading plan, pause, and take a deep breath or two. Open your heart and ears to what God wants to teach you through this plan. Over the next three weeks, you'll be reminded of who God is and what it means to be saved by grace and be a follower of His son Jesus. As the passage from Ephesians reminds us, we are to take what is learned out into the world. To do that, we need to know the truth and believe in it. And to know the truth, we need to know who God is. So, let's dig in with a definition and some history...

A creed is defined as a formal statement of religious belief or a confession of faith. In the context of this reading plan, we're looking at this as our confession of faith as followers of Jesus. It's what we believe when we say we follow Jesus.

According to the Britannica Encyclopedia, *The Apostles Creed* was created from the early versions of interrogations called catechumens. In other words, prior to being baptized, a professing Christ-follower had to affirm their belief in key tenets of the Christian faith. Evidence of the church using a similar creed dates all the way back to the 3rd and 4th-century church in Rome. Over time, versions of this creed made their way from the church in Rome to France and eventually became the official statement of faith to the Catholic church in the West in the late 1100s and early 1200s. Just as the Apostles' Creed held meaning to the early church, it holds meaning for us today.

Ask Yourself:

-When it comes to God, the Father Almighty - what do I believe?

-How would I describe my relationship with God right now?

Pause to Pray: *Father, open my eyes and ears to help me see and hear your words and plans for my life. Help me to discover you in a new way over the next week. Help me to put aside my own junk that keeps me from seeing and experiencing you in the ways you would have me see and experience you... Amen*

Weekly Challenge: Our belief isn't meant to be kept to ourselves. We are called to spread the good news of the gospel to everyone we know. That's a task that is often easier said than done! Part of the reason that it's so important for us to know the truth on which we stand is so that we can share it with others. Pause to ask God to show you the people in your life who need to hear His words of love and hope, and salvation. Begin to pray for guidance on how to share your faith and for opportunities to do so.

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DAY 2 | I BELIEVE IN GOD

Scripture: [Genesis 1:1](#), [Exodus 3:13-14](#), [Psalm 90:2](#), [Acts 17: 26-28](#)

Reflection:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth

He is. There was nothing before God. He has always been.

"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." Psalm 90:2

Whew, that can be a bit hard to digest. Our human brain wants to make sense of that, yet it really doesn't make sense. How can someone or something always be? The beauty of our life in Christ is that we're not called to understand; we're called to believe. And the beauty of God is that He has always been. Yesterday, today, and forever. What comfort we can cling to in knowing that the God we believe in has no end!

In the passage from Acts, we're reminded that God is never far from any one of us. He created men and women and spread us across the earth, and yet He remains connected to every one of us. This passage calls us God's "offspring" - we aren't just for Him; we are FROM Him.

"For in him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:28

How true it is that apart from God, we would have nothing and would be nothing. In Him, we exist. In Him, we believe.

Ask Yourself:

-What assurance do you find/can you find in Acts 17:28?

What truths have I learned about God in today's reading?

Pause to Pray: *God, help me to take rest in your existence. Help me to trust in you and your plans. Show me how to live fully in the knowledge of who you are... Amen.*

Weekly Challenge: Name the person/people God has laid on your heart to share the gospel with. Write their name on a post-it note and put it on your car steering wheel so you pray for them during your daily commute. Or set a daily alarm on your phone. Develop a habit of praying for them, asking God to give you words and ways to share His good news with them.

DAY 3 THE FATHER ALMIGHTY

Scripture: [Isaiah 64:8](#), [James 1:17](#), [2 Corinthians 6:18](#),

Reflection:

*I believe in God, **the Father almighty**, creator of heaven and earth;*

“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

2 Corinthians 6:18

Despite our sinful nature as extremely flawed humans, God claims us as His children. He has chosen us and loves us in all circumstances.

The harsh reality of our human existence is that some of us have painful and hurtful relationships with our earthly fathers. Where there should be love, there is hurt. Where there should be closeness, there is distance. But God as Father is none of the things that separate children from their earthly fathers. He is the perfect Father. The word “almighty” means “having complete authority; omnipotent.” In this word, we can find a better understanding of who the Father is.

Throughout the story of scripture, we see just how much the Father loves his children. It’s not a passing or fleeting thought. It’s consistent, unending, and without restriction. As we read today in James, he showers us with perfect gifts. We can trust God the Father Almighty. We believe that our Father Almighty has the best plan for us and is present with us, right beside us, for the duration of our life on earth.

Ask Yourself:

-Do you view God as your Father?

-What is something you can do to lean closer to God as Father Almighty?

Pause to Pray: *Father, I trust you to love me and care for me in the ways only you can. Please help me to receive your instructions as your child. Help me to seek you first... Amen*

Weekly Challenge: Name the person/people God has laid on your heart to share the gospel with. Write their name on a post-it note and put it on your car steering wheel so you pray for them during your daily commute. Or set a daily alarm on your phone. Develop a habit of praying for them, asking God to give you words and ways to share His good news with them.

DAY 4 CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

Scripture: [Genesis 1:1-31](#); [Psalm 19:1-6](#); [Psalm 139:13-16](#)

Reflection:

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, **creator of heaven and earth***

Moses wrote the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament. So, of course, Moses was not an actual witness to Creation. Through the inspiration of God’s Spirit, Moses wrote beautiful poetry describing the creation of the world by *Elohim*, almighty God. And for whom was this creation account written? For a people who had just been released from slavery and oppression. The Israelites had been under the thumb of the Egyptians for generations. Finally, they are free people! And they are a people

who need to know this God who came to their rescue. The God who had chosen them- to live among them, to lead them to a promised land, and to bless them so that they could bless the nations.

Try to put yourself in the shoes of an Israelite at this time- just rescued. Journeying to a land you've never seen. Instructed to trust and obey a God you barely understood. You know He's big! You know He can do impossible things! Now, imagine Moses telling the creation story of Genesis 1...

Ask Yourself:

-What does the story of creation reveal about God the Father?

-What importance does Psalm 19 give to God's creation? How does Psalm 139 celebrate God, the creator?

-What is your posture toward God's good creation? How can you pause today to delight in what He has made?

Pause to Pray: *God, how beautiful is your creation! Every single thing you have made. Every person you have made. Open my eyes to see your beauty, goodness, and might in everything you have made. And open my heart to love each person because you made them... Amen.*

Weekly Challenge: Name the person/people God has laid on your heart to share the gospel with. Write their name on a post-it note and put it on your car steering wheel so you pray for them during your daily commute. Or set a daily alarm on your phone. Develop a habit of praying for them, asking God to give you words and ways to share His good news with them.

DAY 5 FOR GOD SO LOVED

Scripture: [John 3:16](#); [Hebrews 12:1-2](#), [1 John 4:9](#)

Reflection:

As we've been reminded this week, believing in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth is a foundational piece of our beliefs as followers of Jesus. In our affirmation of this statement, we acknowledge that there is a divine creator who is above all things. He is also IN all things. This Father Almighty loves us, guides us, protects us, and disciplines us in all the best and perfect ways. As creator of heaven and earth, all things came to be by God's will and commands. We can put our hope in Him.

It doesn't stop here. In fact, this is just the beginning. God showed His unending love for us when he sent his only son Jesus to die on the cross so that we might have everlasting life. God gave us the greatest gift of all through His son's pain and suffering. As we continue to study what the Creed means to us as believers, we'll spend the next week focusing on Jesus.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9

Ask Yourself:

-How has my belief expanded this week while focusing on God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Pause to Pray: *Father, You made me and You love me! I don't fully understand, I don't always feel like it, but I believe this is true. Expand my heart and my mind as I continue to read your Word. Open my eyes to see and my mouth to speak your truth and love to the people around me... Amen.*

Looking Ahead: As you read through the Creed to end your week, make sure you schedule time next week to work through the second part of this trilogy, "Who is Jesus Christ?"

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Find more resources at www.whoisgrace.com/READ.

WE BELIEVE: Who is Jesus Christ?

June 18, 2023

DAY 1 JESUS CHRIST, the SON, our LORD

Scripture: [Matthew 3:13-17](#); [Mark 1:9-11](#); [Matthew 17:1-8](#); [Colossians 1:15-20](#)

Reflection:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

In part one of this series, We Believe: God the Father, we learned that the Apostles' creed dates to the early church. When someone committed their life to Jesus, they made this confession of faith before their baptism. Fitting, then, that we consider Jesus' own baptism as we move into the second part of the creed.

When Jesus was baptized, this marked the beginning of His ministry on earth. And at the moment He came out of the water, God made His presence known as Father, Son, and Spirit. The voice of the Father, the one who spoke to Moses from a burning bush, the one who gave Moses the commandments. The Holy Spirit as a dove, coming down and resting on Jesus. And the Son of God, the Word made flesh; Emmanuel, God with us. It is foundational to the Christian faith and doctrine that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. Just as heresies exist today that deny the deity of Christ, so too did heresies exist from the earliest days of the church, claiming that Jesus lacked either humanity or divinity. But our faith in a Savior who died and was resurrected rests on the foundational truth that He was fully man and fully God. And here at His baptism, God the Father and the Holy Spirit confirm the God-man and his mission.

Ask Yourself:

-The State of Theology Research 2022 (LifeWay) revealed that confessing evangelical Christians are not all that sure about their beliefs. The findings for the following *false* statements are telling,

Statement #5- Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God: **73%** agree

Statement #7- Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God: **43%** agree

-Are you sure those statements are false? What evidence from Scripture can you point to?

-What does Colossians 1:15-20 teach you about Jesus? (Note: many scholars believe this to be an early Christian hymn or creed).

Pause to Pray: *Like the father in Mark 9 who cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" I long for my faith and my belief to grow. I believe that You are Jesus Christ, the Son of God, my Lord and my Savior. Where there is unbelief or doubt, open my eyes to see you, open my mind to learn, open my heart to know, open my ears to hear... Amen.*

Weekly Challenge: Our belief isn't meant to be kept to ourselves. We are called to spread the good news of the gospel to everyone we know. That's a task that is often easier said than done! Part of the reason that it's so important for us to know the truth on which we stand is so that we can share it with others. Pause to ask God to show you the people in your life who need to hear His words of love and hope, and salvation. Begin to pray for guidance on how to share your faith and for opportunities to do so.

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DAY 2 CONCEIVED and BORN

Scripture: [Matthew 1:18-25](#); [Romans 8:1-4](#); [Philippians 2:5-11](#); [John 3:16-17](#)

Reflection:

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. **He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.** He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

The virgin birth boggles the mind. Children believe without question! But then we grow, and we learn where babies come from, and we're at a loss to explain! It seems that Mary and Joseph felt much the same way. It had never happened before... it will never happen again. But here, at this time, in this place, for this young girl and her betrothed, it happened. God came down to live among us. And He started His life as a man, just as all men and women begin, born as a baby. Remarkable.

Have you ever wondered why? Why did God need to be born and live as a man among us? Romans 8 helps us understand. From the fall in Genesis 3, all men and women are born with a big sin problem. A problem that we cannot solve or fix, no matter how we try. And no sinner gets to be with God, for He is holy and can have no relationship with evil. Enter Jesus, the Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, yet also the Son of Man, born of the virgin Mary. He lived a perfectly obedient and sinless life. He lived the life we could not live. And in doing so, He defeated the death sentence shadowing all of us. His perfect life earned righteousness for you and me. So, it is incredibly important that we believe in both the humanity and the deity of Jesus. He is God. And He is the perfect man. And therefore, He is able to save.

Ask Yourself:

-Reflect on Philippians 2:5-11, a hymn of the early church. Imagine singing these words with fellow believers. How do these words build your understanding and faith in Jesus Christ?

Pause to Pray: *God, your plan to save the world is remarkable! I don't always fully understand your story, but I am amazed at every detail. Jesus, you came and lived a full life, just like I am living. You know what it means to be hungry, cold, tired, and tempted. You understand me even if I don't fully understand You... Thank you for saving me, Amen.*

Weekly Challenge: Name the person/people God has laid on your heart to share the gospel with. Write their name on a post-it note and put it on your car steering wheel so you pray for them during your daily

commute. Or set a daily alarm on your phone. Develop a habit of praying for them, asking God to give you words and ways to share His good news with them.

DAY 3 SUFFERED and DIED

Scripture: [Matthew 16:13-23](#); [Matthew 17:22-23](#); [Matthew 20:17-19](#); [Matthew 21:8-10](#); [Matthew 27:11-66](#); [Revelation 1:17-18](#); [Revelation 5:1-14](#)

Reflection:

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. **He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.** On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

Palm Sunday must have been a great day. The crowds, the cheering, the waving of palm branches, the cries, “*Hosanna! Praise God!*” The people believed their long-awaited Messiah had come. Jesus was the One anointed by God to rescue them from Roman oppression. Surely this was the victorious, triumphal arrival of their true king!

No one was ready for the cross, not even His closest disciples though they should have been! He had told them clearly, on more than one occasion leading up to that day, that He had come to serve, that He had come to suffer, and that He must die. Just a few days after Jesus entered Jerusalem, He was hanging on a cross between two criminals. Cursed to die in agony, He was crushed by a punishment He did not deserve, yet freely received. Jesus really and truly died. And He did it for you.

Ask Yourself:

-John records Jesus’ final words on the cross- “*it is finished*” (John 19:30) and then sees the risen Savior, *the living one* (Revelation 1:17-18). What do Jesus’ words mean for you?

Pause to Pray: Let the words of Revelation 5:1-14 lead you to prayer and praise today.

*“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”*

Weekly Challenge: Name the person/people God has laid on your heart to share the gospel with. Write their name on a post-it note and put it on your car steering wheel so you pray for them during your daily commute. Or set a daily alarm on your phone. Develop a habit of praying for them, asking God to give you words and ways to share His good news with them.

DAY 4 RISEN and ASCENDED

Scripture: [Luke 24:1-52](#); [Acts 1:1-11](#); [Romans 8:28-39](#)

Reflection:

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. **On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

He is risen! He is risen indeed! We hear those words echo every year as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. This is a sticking point for many people- a dead Jesus means a wise man, maybe even a prophet. But reconciling themselves to a risen Jesus is going too far. (But if Jesus isn't risen, He wasn't a wise man, He was a lunatic!) His ministry, His purpose, His purpose on earth was to live and to die and then to defeat death by returning to life, not as a spirit man, but as the fully embodied Son of God. Through the record of eyewitness accounts, we can be sure that our Savior, Jesus Christ, is alive. Not only is he alive, but he is sitting on his throne at the right hand of God. The apostle Paul reminds us that this means that our freedom is secure and His love for us is certain. Praise God!

Ask Yourself:

-What assurance and hope do you find in Romans 8:28-39?

Pause to Pray: *Jesus, you are alive! Your death paid the penalty for my sin. But more than that, your resurrection means life for me! Someday I, too, will rise and forever be with you in your presence. There are not enough words to express my gratitude. Praise you, Jesus... Amen.*

Weekly Challenge: Name the person/people God has laid on your heart to share the gospel with. Write their name on a post-it note and put it on your car steering wheel so you pray for them during your daily commute. Or set a daily alarm on your phone. Develop a habit of praying for them, asking God to give you words and ways to share His good news with them.

DAY 5 COMING to JUDGE

Scripture: [Revelation 6:9-11](#); [Revelation 19:11-16](#); [2 Peter 3:1-14](#)

Reflection:

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. **He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

You sense it every day. The feeling that things are not supposed to be this way. The anger and division. The deceit and striving. The sickness and hunger. The suffering of "good" people. The seeming success of corrupted leaders. As we look back at the work that Christ has done, we must not fail to understand what this means for us in the present and the future. Salvation belongs to us now. Yet, we wait. We wait for His glorious return. We wait for Him to bring justice- to make right what has been so wrong and to avenge the evils done against His people.

It is hard for us to comprehend the need for judgment of this magnitude. But do not forget- Jesus first came as a humble servant, *to seek and to save the lost* (Luke 19:10), to suffer and die as a sacrifice so that *to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God* (John 1:12). The Lord is *compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness*

(Psalm 86:15). He does not rush toward judgment; instead, *He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance* (2 Peter 3:9). At just the right time, Jesus came down, born of a virgin. And at just the right time, He will come again with judgment. For all who believe, that will be a glorious day.

Ask Yourself:

-What does hope look like in your life? How can you wait patiently, as Peter writes, living *holy and godly lives... spotless, blameless, and at peace with Him?*

Pause to Pray: *Lord, thank you for your patience. You have graciously forgiven me and given me a new life, a new hope, and a new future with you for eternity. Give me boldness to share your love and hope with those who are still far from you... Amen.*

Looking Ahead: As you read through the Creed to end your week, make sure you schedule time next week to work through the third part of this trilogy, “Who is the Holy Spirit?”

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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WE BELIEVE: Who is the Holy Spirit?

June 25, 2023

DAY 1 THE HOLY SPIRIT

Scripture: [John 15:26-27](#); [1 Corinthians 3:16-17](#); [Ephesians 1: 13-14](#); [Galatians 5:22-25](#); [Romans 8:1-8](#)

Reflection:

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

In part one of this series, We Believe: God the Father, we learned that the Apostles' creed dates to the early church, and in part 2 we learned all that Jesus has done for us to take on the punishment for our sin and restore a perfect relationship with God for us!

In this third week of studying the Apostle's Creed, we will lean into the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, and how our lives change because of what we learned about Jesus last week. The truths about God the Father and Jesus the Son should change everything! But sometimes we need reminders and help along the way. Enter the Holy Spirit. His role is to help us along the journey while we wait for Jesus to come again to judge the living and the dead. He is referred to as the Helper, Comforter and Guide. He is within each person who believes in Jesus. He affirms the saving work of Jesus in our lives by reminding us of the inheritance we have in heaven, while also helping us to become more like Jesus here on earth (sanctification), by producing the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5: 22-23. When we know who the Holy Spirit is and what He can do in us, we can more easily yield to Him working in and through us. He works through us to help us share the greatness of God with those who don't know it yet! We don't have to be afraid to share because the Holy Spirit reminds us of the secure relationship we have with God through Jesus. The Holy Spirit is God confirming the work He has already done, and making sure that the good news of salvation gets spread throughout the world.

Ask Yourself:

- How does understanding the Holy Spirit give me security in my relationship with God?
- How does the Holy Spirit help me to share the good news with others?

Pause to Pray: *Holy Spirit, Thank you for living in me! Remind me of all the things that Jesus has done for me and how it changed my life. Give me the courage to share with others around me. Amen.*

Weekly Challenge: Set up a time with one of the people you have been praying for the last two weeks. Take time to intentionally learn about their spiritual journey and to share how the truths in the Apostle's Creed have changed your life.

DAY 2 HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Scripture: [Romans 8: 14-17](#); [Ephesians 4:1-6](#); [John 17:20-23](#); [Galatians 3:26-28](#)

Reflection:

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, **the holy catholic Church**, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

The Holy Spirit confirms in us that we are children of God. This means that we have a new family, the holy catholic Church. Holy means “set apart” from the world around us. Catholic means “universal.” The church is the body of believers, the family of God. Put these three things together, and the church is a worldwide group of brothers and sisters set apart from the rest of humanity to work together for God’s glory! The Holy Spirit helps us to maintain unity in our diversity around the world, finding common ground in the saving work of Jesus. He also helps us to work together to share this good news throughout the world.

Ask Yourself:

-How do my interactions with other Christians help or hurt the good news being spread throughout the world?

-What would it look like to take a step toward unity with other Christians?

Pause to Pray: *Holy Spirit, forgive me for the ways that I have been a part of disunity within the universal church. Help me to see all believers as my brothers and sisters and to live out love for them. Amen.*

Weekly Challenge: Set up a time with one of the people you have been praying for the last two weeks. Take time to intentionally learn about their spiritual journey and to share how the truths in the Apostle’s Creed have changed your life.

DAY 3 COMMUNION of SAINTS

Scripture: [Hebrews 12: 1-2](#); [Galatians 6:1-5](#); [Ephesians 4:11-16](#); [1 Corinthians 12: 25-27](#); [James 5:13-16](#)

Reflection:

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, **the communion of saints**, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Communion means “the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level,” according to the Oxford Dictionary. God designed the church as a body of saints so that we could be on the journey of faith together. He wants us to share our struggles and questions. To walk alongside each other in the good times and the hard times. The Holy Spirit gives each believer gifts to be used to encourage and build up the church. When we all observe the sacrament of Communion together, it reminds us of the unity we have together because of the work that Jesus did on the cross. His body was broken, and his blood was shed for all of us. As we invest in community with each other, we will be encouraged in our faith, and that will be a witness to those around us.

Ask Yourself:

- Who are the “communion of saints” in my life right now?
- What would it look like to use my gifts of the Spirit for the benefit of the church?

Pause to Pray: *Holy Spirit, thank you for the gifts you have given me and other believers for the building up of your church. Help me to be vulnerable in community and be there for others as they are vulnerable with me. Amen.*

Weekly Challenge: Set up a time with one of the people you have been praying for the last two weeks. Take time to intentionally learn about their spiritual journey and to share how the truths in the Apostle’s Creed have changed your life.

DAY 4 FORGIVENESS of SINS

Scripture: [1 John 1:5-10](#); [Ephesians 1:7](#); [Psalm 103: 8-13](#); [Romans 8:1-2](#)

Reflection:

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, **the forgiveness of sins**, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

The Holy Spirit reminds us of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ. Through his death and resurrection, the payment for our sin was paid. The relationship between us and God has been restored and we can know God and experience his love for us. He has removed our sin from us “as far as the east is from the west” (Psalm 103:12). How easily we can sometimes forget this truth! When we realize we have sinned (again), we go back into the spiral of shame and guilt. The Holy Spirit tells us that there is “no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1) and our relationship with God has already been restored. He only asks us to confess our sin and He is faithful and just to forgive us. There is security in knowing that our sin is forgiven, not because of what we have done, but because of what Jesus did.

Ask Yourself:

- Have I been living in the freedom of the knowledge that my sins are forgiven?
- Or am I gripped by shame and guilt?

Pause to Pray: *Holy Spirit, I confess my sins to you, help me to know that I am forgiven and to live my life in light of that forgiveness. Amen.*

Weekly Challenge: Set up a time with one of the people you have been praying for the last two weeks. Take time to intentionally learn about their spiritual journey and to share how the truths in the Apostle’s Creed have changed your life.

DAY 5 LIFE EVERLASTING

Scripture: [John 11:24-26](#); [Philippians 3:20-21](#); [Revelation 21:1-5](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#); [Romans 6:4-5](#)

Reflection:

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, **the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.** Amen.*

The Holy Spirit is our seal (promise) of the inheritance that we have in the future: the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. All the other phrases in the Apostle's Creed are things that happened in the past or are current realities. The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting are still to come when Jesus returns "to judge the living and the dead." We can look forward to this new reality that is coming and have hope in the difficult times in life because we know that there is a time coming when all the sadness, sin, and pain will be gone. We will get to experience the goodness and love of God, in perfected bodies, in a perfected world, forever! Amen!

Ask Yourself:

- How does knowing this future reality give me hope for today?
- What does it look like to share this hope with someone else?

Pause to Pray: Use the entire Apostles' Creed to lead you into prayer as you close this reading plan. Slow down as you read those final words of hope and rejoicing...

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, **the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.** Amen.*

Weekly Challenge: Set up a time with one of the people you have been praying for the last two weeks. Take time to intentionally learn about their spiritual journey and to share how the truths in the Apostle's Creed have changed your life.

Find more resources at www.whoisgrace.com/READ.