

# Intro

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*This study is designed to help those desiring to better understand core Christian beliefs.*

*If the Apostles had a website, the Apostles' Creed would be posted as their statement of faith. This creed contains the basics of what it means to be a Christian. We can study it to learn why we believe what we do!*

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# APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father almighty.

From there he will come 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.

*\*that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places*

# HOW TO DO THIS STUDY:

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## READ:

Aim to read the Apostles' Creed in its entirety every day. For each day of Weeks 2-5, you will also read the Focus Phrase (the section of the Creed we'll study that week), as well as the Laser Focus (the narrowed down section of the Apostle's Creed for that day). You will also read the Biblical passages which support the creedal statements. All of this can be found on pages **6-9**. (The other weeks have special instructions. You'll find them marked clearly on those pages, As you read and study, take note of anything that stands out to you.

## ASK:

*Again, Weeks 2-5 focus on learning the scriptural support for the Creed, During those weeks, this study asks the following types of questions. Looking at them now, before you begin the study, will help zero in to the main point as you progress through this study. We'll ask questions like:*

How does this passage support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

Can you summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passage/s you are studying?

Do you need to change a belief you hold in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 1

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## DAILY HOMEWORK:

This week, we will lay the foundation for studying the Apostles' Creed in depth. You will use the Background and Context information on Page 7 as your resource for doing the daily steps for this week. Also use this week to build familiarity with the Apostle's Creed. Read the creed on Page 2 a few times this week. Don't worry if don't understand something! The answers will come later.

**Day 1:** Read through the information in the top white block on Page 7. Based on that information:

1. What is a creed?

2. What is the Apostles' Creed?

**Day 2:** Read the information in the middle beige box on Page 6, then answer the following questions.

1. How old is the Apostles' Creed?

2. What was it used as?

3. What was its purpose?

# WEEK 1

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## DAILY HOMEWORK:

**Day 3:** Read the information in the second white box found on Page 7. The Apostles' Creed was a "grassroots confession of faith" a statement likely composed by the apostles (and/or their earliest students).

1. Who was the apostles' teacher?
2. What did He command them?

**Day 4:** Read the information in the beige section at the bottom of Page 7.

1. What does the church carefully guard?
2. What does she believe, preach, teach, and pass down?  
(Note: Irenaeus lived from 130 – 202 AD and was the spiritual "grandson" of the Apostle John.)

# WEEK 1

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## DAILY HOMEWORK:

**Day 5:** Read over your answers to the questions above and review the information on Page 6. How would you summarize all you've learned?

## NOTES AND THOUGHTS:

Use this blank space to record any additional notes, thoughts, or even questions that you may have. (You can ask your group or research the answers to your questions later.)

# APOSTLES' CREED

## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

**“A Creed, or Rule of Faith, or Symbol, is a confession of faith for public use, or a form of words setting forth with authority certain articles of belief...”** (*Peter Schaff, Historic Creeds and Confessions*)

**“It contains all the fundamental articles of the Christian faith necessary to salvation, in the form of facts, in simple Scripture language, and in the most natural order—the order of revelation—from God and the creation down to the resurrection and life everlasting.”**  
(*Peter Schaff, Historic Creeds and Confessions*)

**“This, if not absolutely the oldest written creed of the Christian church, at least claims to be, and probably is, the oldest in substance and fact.”**  
(*J. A. Brown, “The Second Advent and the Creeds of Christendom”*)

**The Apostles’ Creed is the oldest Christian creed**—a summarization of the essentials of the faith. It has existed in “today’s form” since the 8th century, but existed in reality since the 2nd century.

Originally, it was used as a baptismal confession. Its purpose was both educational (teaching in preparation for baptism) and confessional (agreed upon at the time of baptism).

“It was not created by a council. It was not part of any deliberate theological strategy. **It was a grassroots confession of faith.** It was an indigenous form of the ancient church’s response to the risen Christ, who commanded his apostles to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”  
(*Ben Myers, The Apostles’ Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism*)

“The church, indeed, though disseminated throughout the world, even to the ends of the earth, **received from the apostles and their disciples** the faith in one God the Father Almighty, the creator of heaven and earth and the seas and all things that are in them; and in the one Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was enfleshed for our salvation; and in the Holy Spirit, who through the prophets preached the economies...”

**The church ... carefully guards this preaching and this faith which she has received, as if she dwelt in one house.** She likewise believes these things as if she had but one soul and one and the same heart. She preaches, teaches, and hands them down harmoniously, as if she possessed but one mouth. For though the languages throughout the world are different, nevertheless the meaning of the tradition is one and the same.”  
(*Irenaeus of Lyon, 130 – 202 A.D.*)

# WEEK 2

## Day 1

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### FOCUS PHRASE:

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

### DAY ONE HOMEWORK:

Each day this week, read the Apostles' Creed in its entirety, then read the Focus Phrase of the Apostle's Creed above. Next, read the Laser Focus words below and the Biblical passages which support them. Take note of anything that stands out to you. Then answer the questions.

**Laser Focus:** *I believe...*

**Read:** Romans 10:9; Isaiah 44:6; John 14:1

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do I see?

# WEEK 2

## Day 1

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 2

## Day 2

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### FOCUS PHRASE:

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

### DAY TWO HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** ...in God...

**Read:** 1 Kings 8:60; Psalm 86:10; Romans 3:30;  
James 2:19

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 2

## Day 2

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 2

## Day 3

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### FOCUS PHRASE:

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

### DAY THREE HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** ...*the Father Almighty*...

**Read:** Isaiah 63:16, 2 Peter 1:17; Matthew 6:9

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 2

## Day 3

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 2

## Day 4

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### FOCUS PHRASE:

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

### DAY FOUR HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** ...creator...

**Read:** Job 4:17 and 35:10; Isaiah 17:7 and 54:5

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 2

Day 4

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Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 2

## Day 5

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### FOCUS PHRASE:

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

### DAY FIVE HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** ...of heaven and earth.

**Read:** Genesis 1:1 and 1:8-10, John 1:1-3; Acts 14:15

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 2

Day 5

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Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 3

## Day 1

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### FOCUS PHRASE:

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell...*

### DAY ONE HOMEWORK:

Each day this week, read the Apostles' Creed in its entirety, then read the Focus Phrase of the Apostle's Creed above. Next, read the Laser Focus words below and the Biblical passages which support them. Take note of anything that stands out to you. Then answer the questions.

**Laser Focus:** *I believe in Jesus Christ...*

**Read:** Luke 2:11; John 20:28; Philippians 2:5-7

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 3

## Day 1

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 3

Day 2

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## FOCUS PHRASE:

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell...*

## DAY TWO HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** ...*his only Son, our Lord...*

**Read:** John 3:16 and 1:18; Proverbs 30:4

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 3

## Day 2

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 3

Day 3

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## FOCUS PHRASE:

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell...*

## DAY TWO HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** *...conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary...*

**Read:** Luke 1:35, (Who is the Spirit? Acts 5:3-4 and John 14:16), Luke 1:27

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 3

## Day 3

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 3

Day 4

---

## FOCUS PHRASE:

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell...*

## DAY TWO HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** ...*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified...*

**Read:** Isaiah 53:5 and 10; 1 Peter 2:21; John 19:13-20; Acts 4:10

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 3

## Day 4

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 3

Day 5

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## FOCUS PHRASE:

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell...*

## DAY TWO HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** .....*died, and was buried; he descended to hell\**... [\*the state of death]

**Read:** Luke 23:46; Mark 15:46; 1 Cor 15:3-4, Matthew 12:40, Romans 10:6-7, and Acts 2:31

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 3

## Day 5

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 4

## Day 1

### FOCUS PHRASE:

*The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

### DAY ONE HOMEWORK:

Each day this week, read the Apostles' Creed in its entirety, then read the Focus Phrase of the Apostle's Creed above. Next, read the Laser Focus words below and the Biblical passages which support them. Take note of anything that stands out to you. Then answer the questions.

**Laser Focus:** *The third day he rose again from the dead.*

**Read:** Matthew 27:63, 1 Corinthians 15:4, Mark 16:6, and 2 Timothy 2:8

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 4

## Day 1

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 4

Day 2

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## FOCUS PHRASE:

*The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

## DAY TWO HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** *He ascended to heaven...*

**Read:** Luke 24:51, Acts 1:9, Mark 16:19, Acts 1:11

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 4

## Day 2

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 4

Day 3

---

## FOCUS PHRASE:

*The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

## DAY THREE HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** *...and is seated...*

**Read:** Psalm 110:1, Luke 22:69, Hebrews 8:1 and 10:12

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 4

## Day 3

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 4

## Day 4

---

### FOCUS PHRASE:

*The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

### DAY FOUR HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** ...*at the right hand of God the Father almighty.*

**Read:** Acts 7:56–57, Hebrews 1:3 and 12:2, 1 Peter 3:22, Matthew 26:64

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 4

## Day 4

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Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 4

Day 5

---

## FOCUS PHRASE:

*The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

## DAY FOUR HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** *From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

**Read:** John 14:3, Acts 17:31, Acts 10:42, 1 Peter 4:5

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 4

## Day 5

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 5

## Day 1

---

### FOCUS PHRASE:

*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.*

### DAY ONE HOMEWORK:

Each day this week, read the Apostles' Creed in its entirety, then read the Focus Phrase of the Apostle's Creed above. Next, read the Laser Focus words below and the Biblical passages which support them. Take note of anything that stands out to you. Then answer the questions.

**Laser Focus:** *I believe in the Holy Spirit...*

**Read:** John 15:26, Luke 4:17-19, Matthew 28:19, Acts 13:2

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 5

*Day 1*

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Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 5

Day 2

---

## FOCUS PHRASE:

*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.*

## DAY TWO HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** ...*the holy catholic church*....

**Read:** Ephesians 5:27; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 3:26-29

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 5

## Day 2

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 5

Day 3

---

## FOCUS PHRASE:

*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.*

## DAY THREE HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** ...*the communion of saints*...

**Read:** Hebrews 10:25; Revelation 19:14, 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; Revelation 7:9

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 5

## Day 3

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 5

## Day 4

---

### FOCUS PHRASE:

*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.*

### DAY FOUR HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** ...*the forgiveness of sins...*

**Read:** 1 John 1:9; Psalm 103:10-12; Acts 2:38; Titus 3:5

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 5

## Day 4

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 5

## Day 5

---

### FOCUS PHRASE:

*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.*

### DAY FIVE HOMEWORK:

**Laser Focus:** ...*the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**Read:** 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:12-13, 20-21, and 52-55; John 3:16

How do these passages support the portion of the Apostle's Creed that we are studying this week?

What truths do you see?

# WEEK 5

## Day 5

---

Summarize both the portion of the creed and the supporting passages you are studying:

What belief do you need to change in order to make it align with Scripture?

Do you need to do something in response? (E.g., repent, pray, praise, share, etc.)

# WEEK 6

Day 1

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## FOCUS PROJECT:

*This week, you will evaluate your beliefs.*

## HOMework:

According to what you learned in Week 2, what is the role of belief in salvation?

What must someone believe in order to be saved?  
(Review the passages—especially those from Week 2, Day 1.)

Write down one wrong belief that you had before studying the Week 2 material (or in the past).

Write a Bible verse that corrects your view.

# WEEK 6

## Day 2

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### FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

Using what you've learned from Weeks 1 and 2, write a short explanation to the following questions:

Who is God the Father?

Who is God the Son?

Who is God the Spirit?

Did you learn anything new about the three persons of our Triune God?

Here is an excellent definition of the Trinity. It's worth memorizing:

*“God exists eternally in three persons, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— one in nature, equal in glory, distinct in relations.”*

# WEEK 6

## Day 3

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### FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

What power does death hold over Jesus? (Review Week 4, Day 1.)

What *eternal* power does death hold over those who are seated “in Christ”? (Review Week 5, Day 5.)

Give a Bible verse or two to back up your answer.

Now, put that Bible verse (or verses) in your own words.

In light of all this, what hope do you have as a Believer?

# WEEK 6

## Day 4

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### FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

The Holy Spirit is not an “it”, “force”, or *part* of God (God cannot be split into parts). He is one of the three *persons* of the Trinity, proceeding from the Father and the Son, and equal in power and glory to both the Father and the Son.

NOTE: When we talk about the Trinity, we use the word “person/s.” This does not mean *human*; it means a being with a mind, will, and emotions. The Holy Spirit has all three, in perfect harmony with the Father and Son.

As children, we are taught that “Jesus lives in our hearts.” This is a simple explanation of how the Holy Spirit indwells Believers. He makes Himself evident in our fruit and gifts (see Gal 5:22-23 and 1 Cor 12:4-11).

What evidence of the Spirit do you see in your life?

# WEEK 6

Day 4

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## FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

If you made a list of the kinds of things the Holy Spirit does in the life of a Believer and in the Body of Christ, what would be on your list?

Why do you think the Spirit is mentioned again toward the end of the creed? (Review Week 5. Could it be that some of the things that follow that statement are works the Spirit is involved in?)

### FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

The “holy catholic church” is all Believers everywhere, past and present. Keep that in mind as you answer the following questions.

Do you tend to think the holy catholic church all looks and worships like you do? Mostly like you do?

Do you tend to think they must/should believe what you believe about the non-essential matters of the faith? (i.e., music style, formal or informal worship, ritual practices, etc. Also review your answer on Day 1 of this week.)

What variety might you find in the holy catholic church? (Think denominations, culture, race, ethnicity, era/time, mindset, political leanings, country of origin, etc.)

So... whom should you share the gospel with?

# WEEK 7

## Day 1

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### FOCUS PROJECT:

*This week, you will do “interviews” as follows. You can interview as many people as you like. For example, you might interview a trusted spiritual mentor and a co-worker, friend, or even your child. Ask the follow questions. If appropriate, use the responses as door openers to gospel conversations. Share the conversation and how it went with your group and/or a trusted mentor.*

### HOMework:

**Ask:** How does one gain access to eternal life? (Week 2, Day 1 and Week 3, Day 2)

# WEEK 7

Day 2

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## FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

**Ask:** Who is God?

Is the Father God? Is Jesus God? The Holy Spirit?

So, does God have three parts? (Weeks 2 and 3. Also remember: God is one. See Mark 12:29)

# WEEK 7

## Day 3

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### FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

**Say:** Christians believe that the Holy Spirit indwells all Believers. (God lives in our hearts, though we do not become god/s.) He helps us, strengthens us, guides us, and comforts us.

**Ask:** Is that hard to believe? Why or why not? (See Weeks 3 and 5.)

# WEEK 7

Day 4

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## FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

**Say:** All people do things that are wrong. The Bible calls this sin. Sinners must be forgiven to enter into heaven (and eternal fellowship) with a holy God.

**Ask:** Do you/would you, like to know this freedom from sin for yourself? (Week 5, Day 4)

# WEEK 7

Day 5

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## FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

**Say:** Christians believe in a bodily resurrection for those who have placed their trust in who Jesus is and what He has done. Jesus was our example in this. He was risen; someday, we will be, too.

**Ask:** What do you know about this? (Week 5, Day 5)

**Ask:** What hope does this give you? (Week 5, Day 5)

# WEEK 7

Day 5

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## FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

**Ask:** If you have been a Christian for a long time, do you feel that most Believers have a good understanding of the bodily resurrection of believers? Why did you give that answer?

**Ask:** If we deny or don't emphasize the bodily resurrection of Believers, what error does that imply about Christ's resurrection? (1 Cor 15:12-15)

# WEEK 8

Day 1

## CONCLUSION:

*This week you will review everything you've learned. When you answer the following questions, seriously take into consideration any strengths or weaknesses you may have, that doing the interviews revealed to you.*

## HOMework:

**Review your homework from Weeks 1 and 2.**

What is God impressing on your heart?

What does He want you to remember or share?

What will you do? When? How? (Make a plan.)

# WEEK 8

Day 2

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## FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

**Review your Week 3 homework.**

What is God impressing on your heart?

What does He want you to remember or share?

What will you do? When? How? (Make a plan.)

# WEEK 8

## Day 3

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**Review your Week 4 homework.**

What is God impressing on your heart?

What does He want you to remember or share?



What will you do? When? How? (Make a plan.)

# WEEK 8

Day 2

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## FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

**Review your Week 3 homework.**

What is God impressing on your heart?

What does He want you to remember or share?

What will you do? When? How? (Make a plan.)

# WEEK 8

Day 5

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## FOCUS PROJECT, CONTINUED:

**Review your projects from Weeks 6 and 7.**

What is God impressing on your heart?

What does He want you to remember or share?

Do you need to follow up with any of the conversations you had? When? How? (Make a plan.)

*Remember these words: "The church ... carefully guards this preaching and this faith which she has received, as if she dwelt in one house. She likewise believes these things as if she had but one soul and one and the same heart. She preaches, teaches, and hands them down harmoniously, as if she possessed but one mouth."  
(Irenaeus of Lyon, 130 - 202 A.D.)*

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

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The Apostles' Creed uses some words and terms that we don't often use today. Also, there are some phrases that may be more common in some churches than others. This glossary gives common definitions found across denominations for words and phrases used in this creed.

## **Apostles**

The word "apostles" refers to the disciples (students) of Jesus who were also *eyewitnesses of the resurrection* (Acts 1:21-22), sent to be authoritative missionaries (Acts 1:8) into the world, sharing the gospel. In other words, the Apostles' Creed is a summary of core beliefs taught by the Apostles. (We don't know if the apostles or their students initially composed it. It was likely composed and memorized long before it was ever written down. Its earliest form goes back to about 140 A.D.)

## ***"...he descended to hell."***

This phrase has been the source of much debate over the past nearly two thousand years, so much so that it is often stated as "he descended to the dead," or it is dropped completely from the creed. It was likely not in the earliest forms of the creed, but since it is often included in today's versions, it was left for the purposes of this study. The stance of Southern Baptists is generally that when the phrase is left there, it should be interpreted to mean that Jesus remained in the state of death (Greek, *Hades*), but *not* to the place of eternal punishment (Greek, *Gehenna*) which we know to be true because of Luke 23:43. In short, Jesus was dead-dead. How dead was He? He was so dead that he was buried and remained in the tomb for three days. The fact that Jesus was truly dead and stayed dead for three days is a very important Christian belief. Among other things, it shows His complete victory over death and the mighty power of His resurrection.

## ***"...the holy catholic church..."***

Notice that the word catholic is not capitalized. This word has a Greek origin and means "concerning the whole" and refers to the true Christian church of *all times* and *all places*. Though we are not holy in the sense of perfection, we are holy in the sense of purity, having our sins removed and forgiven by Jesus' blood (1 John 1:7, Hebrews 9:14).

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

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## ***“...the communion of saints...”***

The word communion means “deep sharing on a mental, physical, or spiritual level.” As such, it is easy to see who the statement encompasses both the participation in holy communion as an act of worship and the general sharing and fellowshiping of Believers with one another.

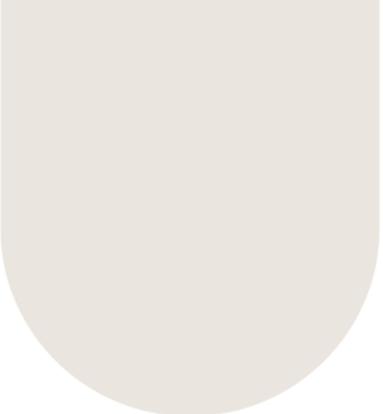
## ***“...the living and the dead...” or “...the quick and the dead...”?***

If you have memorized the Apostles’ Creed in the past, you may have noticed that this version does not use the word “quick.” The version of the Apostles’ Creed used in this guide has been updated a bit to more modern language and so it has replaced the word “quick” with its meaning: living.



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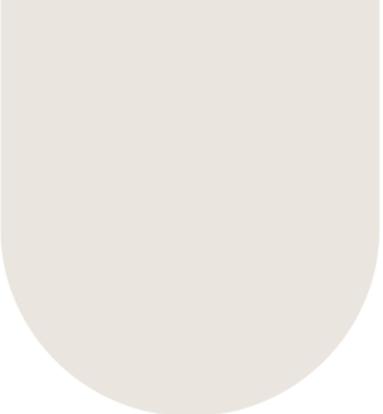


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