

Renew: What Do Christians Believe?

Rescue

The Apostles' Creed

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 to the dead.
On the third day He rose again.**

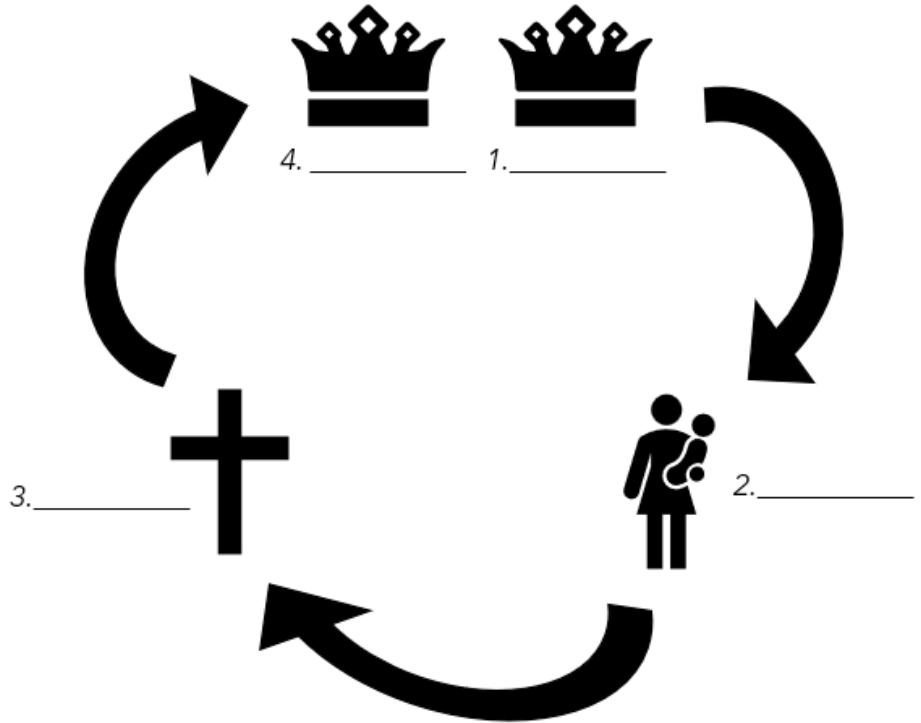
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the
living and the dead.**

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

Amen.

Jesus' Hero Journey



Scene 1: _____

The What: _____

The Why: _____



Scene 2: _____

The What: _____

The Why: _____

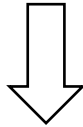




Scene 3: _____

The What:

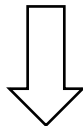
The Why:



Scene 4: _____

The What:

The Why:



BIG QUESTION: How then shall we live?

Discussion & Reflection Questions

Your group leader will choose 2 of these questions to discuss in the breakout meeting:

1. Which part of Jesus' "Hero Journey" are you most drawn towards? Why?
 2. When you think about or talk about Jesus, do you tend to focus on his humanity or his divinity? Why? Based on what you learned in this class, why is it important to hold onto both Jesus' full humanity and full divinity without neglecting either?
 3. Out of the three accomplishments of the cross that we discussed during the class (propitiation, reconciliation, redemption), which one do you find most helpful in your life right now? Why? Do you find any of them difficult to accept or understand? Why?
 4. How should the truths of Jesus' rescue operation that you learned in this class shape the way you think about, talk about, and react to the negative things happening all around us (e.g. wars, political divisions, economic troubles, scandals, tragedies, etc.)?
 5. What do you think it would look like for you (personally and uniquely) to live your life every day by faith in Jesus Christ and what He's done for you?
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Weekly Devotions

Over the course of the next three weeks, complete the devotions listed below by reading the assigned Scripture, answering the questions that follow, and praying in line with what you learned. Each devotion should take no more than 15 minutes. Consider using the **ReadScripture** app to assist you.

(The questions are based on the English Standard Version of the Bible)

Week 1: John 8:56-59

1. Who is Jesus speaking to in these verses? What does he say to them? How do they react?
2. What does this episode in Jesus' life teach us about who he really is?
3. What does this teach you about God?
4. What does this teach you about yourself (sinful attitudes/behaviors to confess and repent of, a need that you have, a way in which you need to grow/change, etc.)
5. Using what you learned, spend 5 minutes in prayer 1) adoring God for who He is, 2) thanking Him for what He's done, 3) depending on what you learned about yourself, asking Him for assistance, forgiveness, strength, etc., 4) and praising God for the assurance and love you have through the Gospel.

Week 2: Read Colossians 2:13-15

1. What kind of word picture or metaphor does Paul use to describe Jesus' crucifixion in verse 14?
2. Looking at all three verses, what benefits did Jesus actually accomplish for us through his death on the cross?
3. What does this teach you about God?
4. What does this teach you about yourself (sinful attitudes/behaviors to confess and repent of, a need that you have, a way in which you need to grow/change, etc.)
5. Using what you learned, spend 5 minutes in prayer 1) adoring God for who He is, 2) thanking Him for what He's done, 3) depending on what you learned about yourself, asking Him for assistance, forgiveness, strength, etc., 4) and praising God for the assurance and love you have through the Gospel.

Week 3: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1. The phrase "the day of the Lord" is a very common way for Biblical writers to talk about the return of Jesus Christ. How does the Apostle Paul describe this day?
 2. According to these verses, how should followers of Jesus respond to his impending return? What should their attitude be?
 3. What does this teach you about God?
 4. What does this teach you about yourself (sinful attitudes/behaviors to confess and repent of, a need that you have, a way in which you need to grow/change, etc.)
 5. Using what you learned, spend 5 minutes in prayer 1) adoring God for who He is, 2) thanking Him for what He's done, 3) depending on what you learned about yourself, asking Him for assistance, forgiveness, strength, etc., 4) and praising God for the assurance and love you have through the Gospel.
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Resources

Books

- [What Christians Ought to Believe](#) - Michael F. Bird
- [Systematic Theology](#) - Wayne Grudem
- [Bible Doctrine](#) - Wayne Grudem
- [Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ](#) - Timothy Keller
- [Encounters with Jesus](#) - Timothy Keller
- [The Cross of Christ](#) - John Stott
- [Scandalous: The Cross & Resurrection of Jesus](#) - D.A. Carson
- [50 Reason Why Jesus Came to Die](#) - John Piper (free to download online)
- [Surprised by Hope](#) - N.T. Wright
- [Come, Lord Jesus: Meditations on the Second Coming of Christ](#) - John Piper (free to download online)
- [The Theology of the Book of Revelation](#) - Richard Bauckham

Articles

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-can-jesus-be-god-and-man>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-hypostatic-union>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/faith-and-the-imputation-of-righteousness>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/substitutionary-atonement/>
- <https://www.9marks.org/article/what-did-the-cross-achieve-the-logic-of-penal-substitution/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/intercessory-work-christ/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/topics/atonement/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/eschatology/#course-introduction>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-return-of-christ/>

Video/Audio

- [Systematic Theology Lectures 1-8](#) - Dr. Bruce Ware for BiblicalTraining.org
- [The Birth of Jesus](#) - BibleProject
- [Animal Sacrifices in the Bible & the Connection to Jesus](#) - BibleProject
- [The Resurrection of Jesus](#) - BibleProject
- [Evening of Eschatology Roundtable Discussion](#) - DesiringGod Ministries

**In this context, "catholic church" simply refers to the one universal body of Christian believers from all over the world and throughout time. It is not referring to the institution of the Roman Catholic Church as it is known today, which did not exist when the Apostles' Creed first originated.*