



Jesus, Our Savior

We continue the second part of the Apostle's Creed, our core beliefs about Jesus Christ. We've discussed Jesus as Our Lord, and now consider his life and death, called His Incarnation and Atonement.

Thomas Jefferson famously created his own "personalized version" of the New Testament by using a pen knife to physically cut out those verses and stories that he didn't like or found hard to believe. Jefferson was applying Enlightenment philosophy, which regarded miracles, healings, and some of Jesus' teachings as too illogical for "modern thinkers" in the Western world to believe in, dismissing these passages as superstition and myth.

* Share with your group -

- *What parts of the Jesus story that we've been reading in the New Testament and Apostle's Creed do people in 2024 find hard to believe?*
- *How about for you? Are things like the virgin birth, sinless life, crucifixion, or rising from death hard to believe or understand? (It's ok to work through doubts, Christians have wrestled with these issues for centuries - that's why we have the Creeds!)*

Watch Video #5, then read and discuss...

The Circles and Envelopes are back! Hopefully these are helpful tools...

- *Did the video, circles, or envelopes help provide new insights or understanding of beliefs about Jesus that were challenging before?*

Incarnation & Atonement -

- **Read Hebrews 4:14-16 - Jesus, Our High Priest**
 - *The High Priest in the Jerusalem Temple presented the sacrifices before God. Here we read that our High Priest is Jesus, who lived fully as a human being on earth. How do you think He is able to "sympathize with our weaknesses"?*
 - *Verse 15 states that Jesus was tempted, but was without sin. What is the amazing benefit of this to us in Verse 16?*
- **Read Genesis 2:7, Matthew 1:18-20, and Luke 1:26-35 - Conceived by the Holy Spirit**
 - *Adam becomes a living soul in the garden when God's Spirit breathes life into him. The same Spirit is present when Jesus is conceived in the womb of Mary.*
 - **Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-22** - *Adam and Jesus' actions both had far-reaching consequences. What did Adam's disobedience bring? What did Jesus' obedience bring? (Read Romans 5:12-21 for more!)*

Read The Apostle's Creed together:

- *What stands out to you this week as you read?*

ENCORE

JOURNEY

SCRIPTURE • BELIEFS • PRACTICES

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, 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.

(* not Roman Catholic, but all believers everywhere!)

Help my unbelief!

- Pray for one another that God would strengthen your faith and provide answers to any doubts or struggles.