

TALK IT OVER

The Apostle's Creed is deep and there's a lot to process. How is that going for everyone? What are things you're wrestling with? **(We want to shepherd our few really well. Give them space to walk through the Apostle's Creed.)**

Read the Apostles Creed together **(Found on 3r page & we are focusing in today on the third sentence)** and then John 19 **(Passage is on 2nd page. This is one of the accounts of Jesus' trial, death and burial)**. Once you've read the passage ask these questions:

- What new thing did you discover in the story that you did not know before?
- What did you learn about God? **(Why do you think Jesus allowed himself to go through such a gruesome experience? Joe said the cross was vicarious, voluntary and victorious. Which of those resonated with you the most? Why? The least? Why? How does Jesus sacrifice on the cross allow us to live through him? Why is the cross so crucial to our faith? What does it say about God that this whole event is fixed in a specific time and place? What does that say about who God is and what he wants for us?)**
- What did you learn about people? **(Joe said that we have over 5000 manuscripts within one generation of believers written about the life of Jesus. The works of Plato on Socrates spans a time frame of roughly 1,200 years. Why do we have such a hard time believing in the existence of Jesus but not Socrates? How does having an evidence based faith encourage you? Does it? Do you believe that it holds up under scrutiny? Does this make you want to dig more? Why/why not?)**
- What will you take away from this discussion? **(Has walking through the Apostle's Creed strengthened your faith? Why/why not? How does talking about the crucifixion of Jesus make you see him? Does it deepen your understanding of His love for you & others? Does it call you to respond in some way?)**
- What will you do with what you have learned? **(Maybe you need to do some digging for yourself? Have you always just taken the word of others about Jesus? How can you start researching on your own? An easy place to start is The Case for Christ. You can watch it on Netflix and/or buy the book. It also has resources for further research.)**
- Is there anything else you wanted to share that we didn't hit in this discussion?
- Next week make sure to read 1 Corinthians 15. Think through the questions we ask weekly as you read.

Make sure to check in with your SG this week. How can you pray for them? This is where the discipleship aspect comes in. Work towards identifying your 3 (that you can really pour into) and then your 1 (that person that will replicate what you're doing now). Take a few minutes each day and make a text or phone call to everyone in the group.

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Make sure to read ahead of time and either retell the story or have someone (multiple people) help you retelling the story. Make sure to use your update with points from Brad's sermon.

19 Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. ² The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him. ³ "Hail! King of the Jews!" they mocked, as they slapped him across the face.

⁴ Pilate went outside again and said to the people, "I am going to bring him out to you now, but understand clearly that I find him not guilty."

⁵ Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said, "Look, here is the man!"

⁶ When they saw him, the leading priests and Temple guards began shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

"Take him yourselves and crucify him," Pilate said. "I find him not guilty."

⁷ The Jewish leaders replied, "By our law he ought to die because he called himself the Son of God."

⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was more frightened than ever. ⁹ He took Jesus back into the headquarters^[a] again and asked him, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. ¹⁰ "Why don't you talk to me?" Pilate demanded. "Don't you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?"

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

¹² Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, "If you release this man, you are no 'friend of Caesar.'^[b] Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar."

¹³ When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again. Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement (in Hebrew, *Gabbatha*). ¹⁴ It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people,^[c] "Look, here is your king!"

¹⁵ "Away with him," they yelled. "Away with him! Crucify him!" "What? Crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the leading priests shouted back.

¹⁶ Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified.

The Crucifixion

So they took Jesus away. ¹⁷ Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, *Golgotha*).

¹⁸ There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ And Pilate posted a sign on the cross that read, "Jesus of Nazareth,^[d] the King of the Jews." ²⁰ The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, so that many people could read it.

²¹ Then the leading priests objected and said to Pilate, "Change it from 'The King of the Jews' to 'He said, I am King of the Jews.'"

²² Pilate replied, "No, what I have written, I have written."

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴ So they said, "Rather than tearing it apart, let's throw dice^[e] for it." This fulfilled the Scripture that says, "They divided my garments among themselves and threw dice for my clothing."^[f] So that is what they did.

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²⁵ Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." ²⁷ And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

The Death of Jesus

²⁸ Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty."^[g] ²⁹ A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. ³⁰ When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was Passover week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. ³³ But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. ³⁴ One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. ³⁵ (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also may continue to

believe.^[h]) ³⁶ These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, "Not one of his bones will be broken,"^[i] ³⁷ and "They will look on the one they pierced."^[j]

The Burial of Jesus

³⁸ Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. ³⁹ With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds^[k] of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. ⁴⁰ Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth. ⁴¹ The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. ⁴² And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover^[l] and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

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 the dead.

On 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.**