

# I BELIEVE

## *Scripture Readings and Prayers for the Apostles' Creed*

In days like these, it's reassuring to know that our spiritual roots run deep into biblical truth. Utilizing the Apostles' Creed, an ancient confession of faith used by Christians all over the world, we can reflect on the foundational truths of the Trinity, creation, salvation in Christ, the church, and the last things. This prayerful study equips believers to worship and witness with increased knowledge, passion, and power.

### 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 saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

### SCRIPTURES AND PRAYERS

As you reflect on these passages, you can use the following pattern that builds in the practices of prayerful reading, inviting God to speak, and praying scripture:

*Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage.  
*Pray.* Use words from the passage to pray it to Jesus and the Father.  
*Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense the Holy Spirit communicating to you.

#### WEEK 1 I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

- \_\_\_ **Matthew 9:18-31** Examples of belief during Jesus' ministry
- \_\_\_ **Matthew 6:9-13** Jesus' model prayer addressing God as Father
- \_\_\_ **John 14:5-14** Part of Jesus' teaching about his relationship with God the Father
- \_\_\_ **Romans 8:13-17** The Holy Spirit's work in making Christians aware of their identity as God's children
- \_\_\_ **Isaiah 40:21-31** Some implications of God as creator

#### WEEK 2 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.

- \_\_\_ **Luke 1:26-56 and 2:1-20** Luke's account of the birth of Jesus
- \_\_\_ **John 1:1-18** The significance of Jesus' life among us
- \_\_\_ **John 17** Jesus' prayer to his Father
- \_\_\_ **Romans 10:5-15** (with 1 Corinthians 12:3) The significance of saying "Jesus is Lord"
- \_\_\_ **Philippians 2:5-11** An early Christian hymn about Jesus

#### WEEK 3 He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

- \_\_\_ **Isaiah 52:13-53:12** A prophecy about the death of the Messiah
- \_\_\_ **Matthew 16:13-28** Jesus explains that he will die

- \_\_\_ **John 19** John's account of the death and burial of Jesus
- \_\_\_ **1 Corinthians 15:1-11** Jesus' death at the center of the gospel message
- \_\_\_ **Romans 5:1-8** While we were still sinners, Christ died for us

**WEEK 4 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.**

- \_\_\_ **Matthew 28** Matthew's account of Jesus after his resurrection
- \_\_\_ **John 20** John's account of Jesus after his resurrection
- \_\_\_ **1 Corinthians 15:1-28** What Paul says about the central importance of the resurrection
- \_\_\_ **Acts 1:1-11** The ascension of Jesus
- \_\_\_ **Colossians 3:1-11** How all Christians participate in Jesus' ascension

**WEEK 5 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

- \_\_\_ **John 5:16-30** The Father has given Jesus authority to judge
- \_\_\_ **Matthew 25:31-46** Part of Jesus' teaching about his coming
- \_\_\_ **Acts 10:39-43** Judgment as part of the message of the gospel
- \_\_\_ **1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11** Paul's teaching about the return of Christ and its implications
- \_\_\_ **Revelation 19:1-16** John's vision of the glory and justice of God

**WEEK 6 I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

- \_\_\_ **1 Samuel 16:1-13, 2 Samuel 23:1-4** The Holy Spirit comes on King David and speaks through him
- \_\_\_ **Isaiah 11:2-3** The Spirit of the Lord will work in the Messiah
- \_\_\_ **John 14:15-27** Part of what Jesus told his disciples about the work of the Holy Spirit
- \_\_\_ **Acts 2:1-21** The Holy Spirit poured out on Pentecost
- \_\_\_ **1 Corinthians 14:1-25** Paul addresses the use of the Spirit's gifts

**WEEK 7 I believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints.**

- \_\_\_ **Acts 4:32-37** An insight into the life of the early church
- \_\_\_ **1 Corinthians 12:4-31** The church as the body of Christ
- \_\_\_ **Ephesians 5:25-33** Paul uses marriage to illustrate the relationship between Christ and the church
- \_\_\_ **Hebrews 11:1-12:3** A roll call of those who have gone ahead
- \_\_\_ **Revelation 7:9-17** The redeemed from every tribe and nation

**WEEK 8 I believe in the forgiveness of sins.**

- \_\_\_ **Isaiah 59:1-15** Why forgiveness is necessary
- \_\_\_ **Colossians 1:9-14, 2:13-15** God's gracious forgiveness
- \_\_\_ **Matthew 6:9-15** Forgiveness as essential to life with God
- \_\_\_ **2 Corinthians 5:16-21** Passing on the good news of forgiveness
- \_\_\_ **1 John 1:8-9** The promise of forgiveness when we confess

**WEEK 9 I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

- \_\_\_ **John 11:1-43** Jesus' response to death
- \_\_\_ **Romans 8:5-11** The Spirit will give life to our mortal bodies
- \_\_\_ **1 Corinthians 15** The implications of the resurrection of Jesus
- \_\_\_ **1 Peter 1:3-9** Endurance through hope of the future
- \_\_\_ **Revelation 21:1-22:6** The life awaiting us

*Some Scripture readings taken from Alister McGrath, I Believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997).*



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