

CREDO *This I Believe*

WEEK 1 | APRIL 25

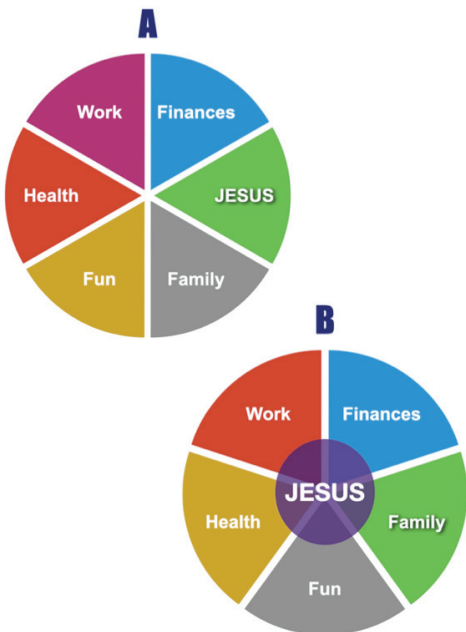
I believe in Jesus

RECEIVE

- Prayerfully recite the Apostles' Creed (see page two).
- Focus Section: **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord**
- Read Colossians 3:1–17 (MSG)

REFLECT

- What phrase, image or section of this passage from Colossians captures your attention? Why?
- How does this passage from Colossians relate to our focus section of the Creed this week? I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
- Consider these two images. How are they different? How would your life look lived according to A versus B?



COLOSSIANS 3:1–17 (MSG) | HE IS YOUR LIFE

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from His perspective.

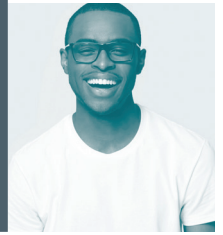
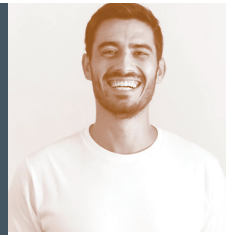
Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. It's because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger. It wasn't long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk.

Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.



- Which image best captures how you live your life right now? Explain with examples.
- Which image do you see the Colossians 3 passage being an example of? Why?

RESPOND

- Using the Jesus at Center (graphic B) above, choose one or two of the wedges to actively engage with Jesus in that area of your life in a focused way over the next week. Make it a family activity. Ask everyone to offer an idea, for each area, and then choose as a family how to live it out together over the next week.

RESOURCES

(for personal and group study)

- *The Jesus I Never Knew*, by Philip Yancey
- *The Bad Habits of Jesus: Showing Us the Way to Live Right in a World Gone Wrong*, by Leonard Sweet
- *Jesus Manifesto: Restoring the Supremacy and Sovereignty of Jesus Christ*, by Leonard Sweet and Frank Viola
- *Discipleship Essentials*, by Greg Ogden

RECALL

- Work on memorizing the Apostles' Creed this week by **book-ending your day with the Creed**: Recite the Creed as soon as you wake up and right before you go to bed.

The Apostles' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ,
His only begotten Son, our Lord.

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.

He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty.
From there He shall come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.