



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week 3

This week we continued our summer series looking at the belief laid out in the words of the Apostles' Creed. We focused on the humanity of Jesus Christ. *I believe...in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;* The idea that Jesus came to earth as a human being is at the core of our understanding of salvation through him. Jesus became human. He was God with flesh on. Incarnate. No other god worshiped on earth has demonstrated such humility and a willingness to lower himself in order to save us.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this prayer from Pastor Angela or your own prayer.

*O God, my Almighty Father, I believe in you. I believe in you, Jesus. I believe you are God's only son. I believe you were conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. I believe you suffered, were crucified, dead, and were buried. I believe you descended to the dead and rose again on the third day. I believe you ascended into heaven and are seated at the Father's right hand. I believe you will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in you, Holy Spirit. And in the Holy Catholic Church. I believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, I believe; help my unbelief. Amen.*

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: PHILIPPIANS 2.5-8

Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,

*he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!*

- This early song of the church was a way of identifying what we believe about Jesus Christ. What we believe about Jesus Christ *really* matters. Jesus was divine (the Son of God) but also human (Son of Man). The human condition very often leads us to use any advantage we have to our own gain. Jesus did not do that. He used his status as the Son of God to show a different way of leading—by serving. His servant posture led him all the way to the cross. His willingness to enter into everything it means to be human (even suffering and death) allows us to know salvation from our own death and destruction.
- *Jesus, your humility stands out against the ways of this world. And your willingness to be obedient all the way to your death is how I can know life. All I can do is marvel and be grateful.*

## **TUESDAY: JOHN 1.14**

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

- The Word became flesh and the invisible became visible. We are able to see the glory of God because God dwells with us in Jesus. Where has the glory of God become visible in your life recently? How are you embodying Jesus (making the glory of God visible) to others?
- *Lord, reveal your glory to me and maybe even through me today.*

## **WEDNESDAY: GALATIANS 4.3b-5**

*...we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world.<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.*

- Paul is reiterating the humanity of Jesus in no uncertain terms. Jesus was born of a woman. God sent Jesus at the right time to free us from slavery under the forces of this world. Jesus was born under the law which means that he had to deal with all of the same expectations and human-interpreted rules that the people around him did. In the man Jesus, God has shown a way for us to be adopted into his family.
- *God, help us to live as part of the family of God.*

## **THURSDAY: 1 TIMOTHY 1.15-17**

*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.<sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.<sup>17</sup> Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

- When others witnessed the grace that God extended to Paul they began to believe in Jesus and received eternal life. Paul says that this was the very reason that mercy was shown to him—so that others might believe. His testimony is powerful. We don't have a full record of each person who believed because of the drastic change in Paul's life, but it is likely that many of those people then became witnesses of Jesus' mercy to others. It's an exponential impact that makes it possible *"that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of*

*those under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2.10-11)*

- *God, may my life point others to the mercy and salvation available to them in Jesus Christ.*

## **FRIDAY: 1 PETER 2.21-24a**

*To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

<sup>22</sup> *“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”*

<sup>23</sup> *When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.* <sup>24</sup> *“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross,*

- Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross. This is not an easy teaching to understand. But the very mindset of Jesus is what allows us to see a different way. His humanity was on the cross, feeling the pain we could only imagine, and somehow our humanity was on the cross too. He didn't lash out or make threats. He would have been right in doing so, but (as in all things) Jesus demonstrated a different way. A way of peace—and a way for us to have life with God forever.
- *Jesus, expand my heart with gratitude for your willingness to make a way for peace. May every place of warring hearts experience and receive this grace.*

## **SATURDAY: 1 JOHN 3.2**

*Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*

- We have hope in the promised return of Christ. If we are to be “like him” then that means we are in a process of being transformed (from glory to glory) into his likeness. The way this happens is only by Jesus living in us, doing the transforming work from the inside out.
- *Holy Spirit, work in me today. Prepare my heart, mind and soul for the return of Jesus.*

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Pastor Jacob said,

*“At the center of the Christian belief is a cross. And yes it is offensive, and yes we want to turn our heads away when we consider what Jesus endured. But he endured it for us, so we could be saved from our loneliness, our depression, our anxiety, he comes into our grief, our deep grief, he knows every inch of it because he has experienced it, fully human.”*

- Have you ever thought of the depiction of Jesus' death as offensive or something that would be hard to look at? How has your response to the cross changed in different seasons of your life of faith?
- What does the humanity of Jesus mean to you? Why is it important?