

# CREED

## STUDY GUIDE

<sup>1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." – John 19:1-4

<sup>15</sup>They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." <sup>16</sup>So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, <sup>17</sup>and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. – John 19:15-18

**THE POINT:** God wants us to see everything we do as part of the assignment He's given us—to help people know the power of the love of God through The Cross.

The Apostles' Creed proclaims the load-bearing walls of the Christian faith—the essentials, the non-negotiables, the irreducible minimums. In Week 1, we examined the personage of God the Father: infinitely powerful, yet intensely personal. In Week 2, we continued with God the Son, Jesus Christ, and how His identity and ancestry are at the center of the Creed and the Christian faith.

The next of our load-bearing walls is The Cross and the four crucial things we need to know about it: Jesus's death on the cross was a specific event that actually happened; His death on the cross was the most shameful and painful death imaginable; His death on the cross was predicted in advance; and His death was Jesus dying in our place. God wants us to view everything we do FOR his people as part of the assignment He's given us—to help people know the power of the love of God through The Cross.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Our words "crucial" and "crux" (as in the crux of the matter) comes from the Latin word for "cross." It is crucial that we have an understanding of what the cross is and what the cross means. How has your understanding of the cross impacted your belief in Jesus? Do you feel like you have a deep understanding of what happened on the cross?
2. Pontius Pilate was a real man, the prefect (similar to a governor) of Judea under the emperor Tiberius, who ordered Jesus' crucifixion. Scripture and the Apostles' Creed uses this information to make sure we know that Jesus' crucifixion was a specific event that actually happened. How does knowing this information impact your understanding of the cross and your ability to share the story with others?
3. Crucifixion was the most shameful and painful death imaginable. What does the type of death Jesus had to endure for us tell us about how God views our sin?
4. Read **Isaiah 53:3-12**. How do the details in these verses, written 700 years before Jesus' birth, predict in advance God's plan on our behalf and what does it tell us about God?
5. By dying as a sacrifice on our behalf, The Cross was Jesus dying in our place. He experienced torture, death, and hell on our behalf, so that we can experience true relationship with God, a reality that had never been possible before. What does this truth say about God's intention to have relationship with us?

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### NEXT STEPS

1. **Train Your Soul** – Continue, or start, the practice of taking a one-minute pause two or more times in your busy/hectic day. If you need a reminder to accomplish this, consider the One Minute Pause App ([www.pauseapp.com](http://www.pauseapp.com)). This week use this time to focus on The Cross and what it means to your relationship with God the Father and the Son.
2. **Know Your Why** – Continue to read or recite the Apostles' Creed daily and reflect on its truths. Additionally, read and reflect daily on one of the following scriptures: **John 19:1-18, Isaiah 53:3-12, 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 10:18, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.**
3. **Know What You're FOR** - God wants you to see that everything you do is part of the assignment He's given of helping people know the power of the love of God through the cross. Have your Community Group hold you accountable this week to be intentional with this assignment FOR someone who is far from God.

*North Ridge Church is a movement FOR all people to discover and deepen a relationship with Jesus.*