

CREED

STUDY GUIDE

³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is FOR you and FOR your children and FOR all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. -- Acts 2:38-42

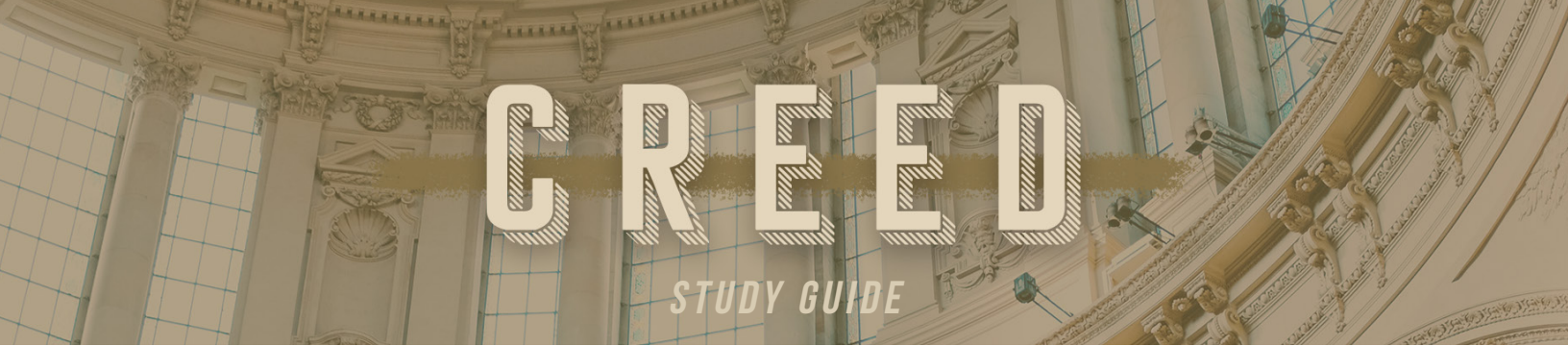
THE POINT: God wants all of us to participate in and see ourselves as the Church.

The Apostles' Creed describes the load-bearing walls of the Christian faith. So far we have examined God, Jesus, the Cross, the Resurrection, and the Ascension. This week we look at the next load-bearing wall—the Church and, specifically, the four words that describe the Church:

1. **POWERFUL** - Because the Church is powered by the Holy Spirit.
2. **GLOBAL** - Because all Jesus followers on earth are considered one Church.
3. **ETERNAL** - Because we are not only connected horizontally with the global Church (referring to the church communities we live in), we are also connected vertically with the Church in Heaven, referring to those who have gone before us.
4. **FORGIVEN** - Because we are fully, freely, and forever forgiven through Jesus Christ. This is the Church God wants all of us to participate in and identify with when he refers to the Church throughout Scripture.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Acts 2:38-42.** This is the birth of the Church and the beginning of the story God wants us to participate in—our story. How do you see yourself and North Ridge fitting into this story; this same church?
2. Peter, just 51 days before, was hopeless and lost, denying Jesus three times, but God chose him anyway and now we're reading about him preaching for the salvation of 3000. How are we, both as individuals and a church, like Peter?
3. The church is powerful because it is powered by the Holy Spirit. How do you see the Holy Spirit's power working through you?
4. When we hear “catholic,” we think Roman Catholic, but the word actually means universal or global, being part of a church that includes every follower of Jesus in the world. How do you see yourself as part of the global church?
5. When we recite the Creed, we are saying the Church is eternal and connected vertically with the Church in Heaven—with those who have gone on before us. How does it make you feel to think that those who have gone before us, even Peter, surround us and cheer us on in our race?
6. Jesus came to give himself as a sacrifice for those who believe in Him, His Church, to be fully, freely, and forever forgiven. What does it mean to you to be fully, freely, and forever forgiven?



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NEXT STEPS

1. **Train Your Soul** - Continue taking a one-minute pause two or more times a day using the One Minute Pause App (www.pauseapp.com) or other reminder. This week focus on the church, it's power through the Holy Spirit, it's global and eternal nature, and the forgiveness fully, freely, and forever given by Jesus.
2. **Know Your Why** - Continue to read or recite the Apostles' Creed daily and reflect on its truths. In addition, read and reflect daily on one of the following scriptures: Acts 2:38-42, Ephesians 3:20, Galatians 4:5, Hebrews 12:1, Romans 8:1, Ephesians 2:8-9.
3. **Know What You're FOR** - Be FOR social distancing, but not social isolation. What ways can you connect and share the church with family, neighbors, coworkers, and others from a distance?

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