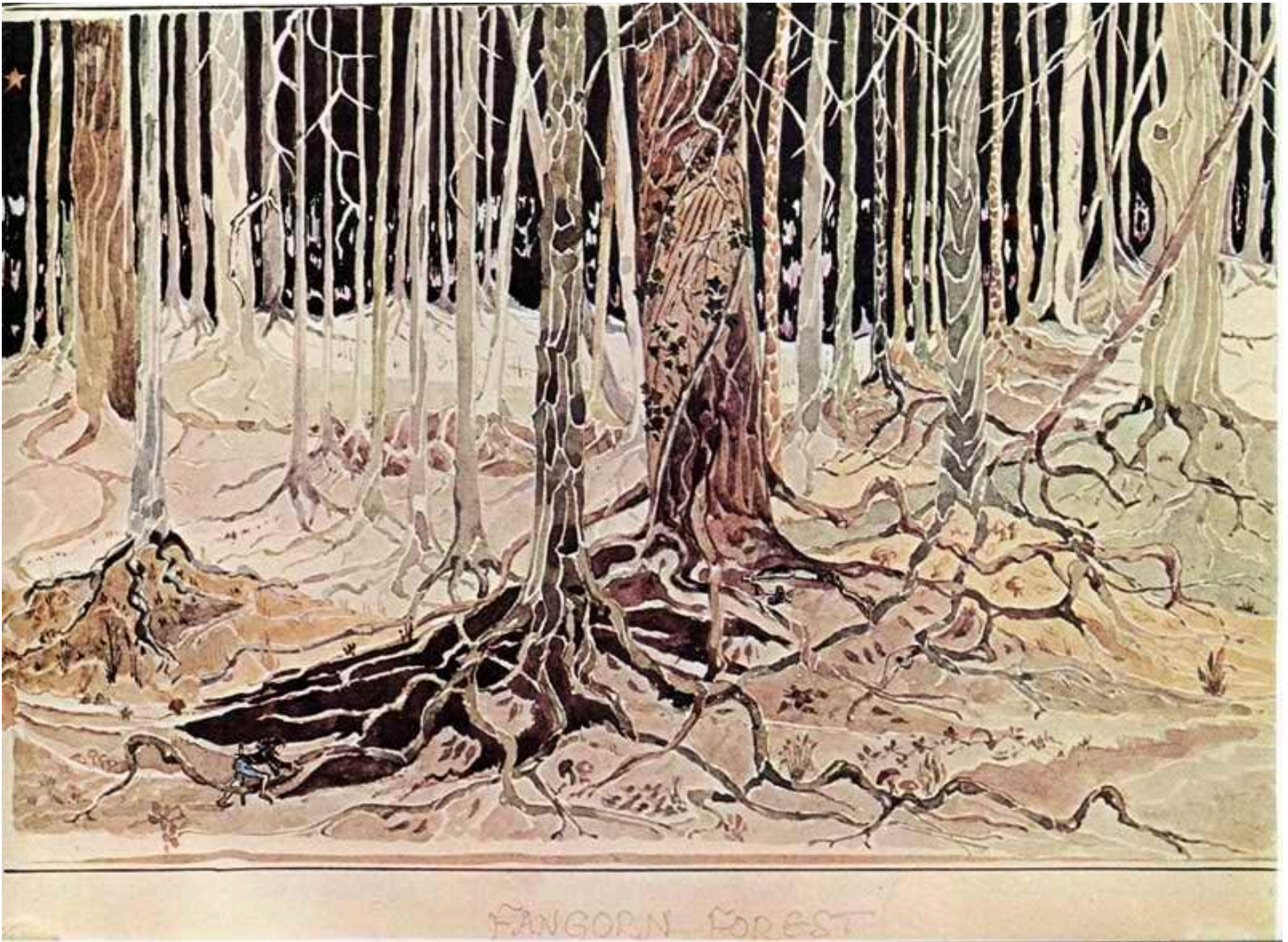


# ROOTED IN THE FAITH

COMMUNICANTS CLASS



**NEW ST PETER'S**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*In a city that pursues arrival, New St. Peter's exists to make disciples by inviting pilgrims and skeptics into life on the road with Jesus.*

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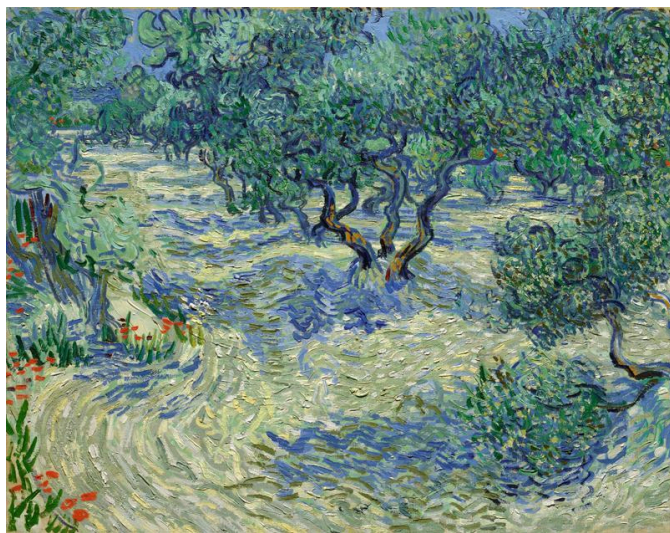
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# INTRODUCTION

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Students, we are thrilled you are walking through our communicants class over the next year! As you start this journey (for a journey, it is!), know that your parents, pastors, elders, and teachers will be praying for you—that the Holy Spirit will guide you in God's truth, and this His truth would make His great love for you in Jesus fill your hearts and guard your minds.

Parents, this will be the primary workbook used by teachers and students for this class, and we encourage you to use it at home for family discussions! You can also refer to the *Family Communion Guide* at <https://newstpeters.org/resources/>



Did you know that many types of trees don't show signs of growth for years after they are planted? But this is NOT because they are not growing. Actually, they are developing deep and intricate root systems underground so that later they may shoot up and bear fruit. That's what this class aims to do—to help you grow deep roots in the Christian faith so that you might bear good fruit for years to come. Trees grow slowly...and really...so do we. That's actually part of God's design. So, we will take it slow and

give you opportunities to ask questions, reflect, worship, and grow at your own pace. Each lesson will contain the following elements:

## IN-CLASS:

**KNOW:** In a class like this, we want you to know God's truth, so that you can be equipped to know and love him, and to share his love with others. This section will include the main teaching of each lesson...

GROW: ...But like water to the roots of trees, we want these truths to help you grow as a Christian. In this section, we will think and talk about how these truths matter in our lives each and every day.

## AT-HOME:

WORSHIP: The goal of our lives in worship! In this section, we will explore how the concepts we are learning help us to worship God, to adore some aspect of his beauty, and more. This will usually include some kind of song, piece of art, or story that helps these truths move from our heads to our hearts.

ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS: All of us are on a journey. We have not arrived at some extra-spiritual place where we have no questions, doubts, or difficult feelings. So, at the end of each lesson, you will have the chance to answer two questions:

*What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?*

*How do these truths make you feel?*

We encourage you to write down your answers and talk about them with your parents, teachers, and pastors!

Have you ever read "The Hobbit?" Bilbo Baggins, the main character of the story, once told his nephew Frodo:

*"IT'S A DANGEROUS BUSINESS, FRODO, GOING OUT OF YOUR DOOR... YOU STEP INTO THE ROAD, AND IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR FEET, THERE IS NO KNOWING WHERE YOU MIGHT BE SWEEPED OFF TO."*

We invite you on this exciting journey! May you be swept up in the great story our God has been writing for all eternity!

# WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

## 1

### WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 2.

WHAT RULE HAS GOD GIVEN TO DIRECT US HOW WE MAY GLORIFY AND ENJOY HIM?

THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH IS CONTAINED IN THE SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS,  
IS THE ONLY RULE TO DIRECT US HOW WE MAY GLORIFY AND ENJOY HIM.

---

## KNOW

The Bible is an amazing book that tells God's story for all of history. But it is much more than just a book...it is God's authoritative love letter to his people. It is living and active, working in our hearts and minds and teaching us to love what God loves. It is given to us by God himself, to show us his great rescue plan and to show us how to live as his children!

Look up the following Scripture verses and write down what they teach us about the Word of God?

PSALM 19:7-11

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

2 PETER 1:20-21

JOHN 20:30-31

HEBREWS 4:12

Now, open your Bible to the table of contents.

How many books are there in the Old Testament?

What is the first and last book of the Old Testament?

How many books are there in the New Testament?

What is the first and last book of the New Testament?

Next, watch this video from the Bible Project: [What is the Bible?](#)

What questions do you have from this video?

## GROW

On a separate piece of paper, write a letter to someone you love, telling them how and why you love them.

Is it encouraging to get a letter like this?

Have you ever gotten an encouraging note like this? How did it make you feel?

How does it make you feel to know that God has told us how much he loves us in the Bible? (See John 3:16)

## WORSHIP

*\*\*To be clear, we don't worship images, no matter how beautiful. God has communicated clearly in his Word (the Bible), and it gives us all we need in order to know and worship him! However, his Word has inspired works of beauty throughout the history of the church—hymns, paintings, stories (like The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe), and through these kinds of beauty, we can learn about and rejoice in the true glory and beauty of God in the face of Jesus Christ. If you have questions about how images relate to the Christian faith, feel free to ask one of our pastors!\*\**



*Saint Matthew and the Angel, Caravaggio  
(1602)*

Study the painting on the previous page. Caravaggio was an Italian painter in the late 16th Century. He painted this portrait (which was lost during WWII) of Matthew, the Apostle and writer of the book of Matthew, being guided along by an angel as he writes. This is an imaginative way to illustrate the idea of biblical *inspiration*.

The Bible is not just a human book. Rather, it is inspired by God, and more specifically the Holy Spirit carried along by the authors of Scripture as they went about their work (see 2 Peter 1:20-21).

Isn't it beautiful to know that God has communicated with us, his people, and that he has done so through inspiring the authors of Scripture in such a way that the Bible is without error and completely true?

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# BIG PICTURE OF THE BIBLE

## 2

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 3.

WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES PRINCIPALLY TEACH?

THE SCRIPTURES PRINCIPALLY TEACH WHAT MAN IS TO BELIEVE CONCERNING GOD,  
AND WHAT DUTY GOD REQUIRES OF MAN.

---

## KNOW

Have you ever seen a live play? Do you remember how many acts, or scenes the play had? A long, long time ago, an ancient philosopher named Aristotle said that plays (and stories) needed to have a beginning, a middle, and an end. Think about it...all of the stories, plays, and films you love have a beginning and an end, right? Something like...

*Once upon a time....(the beginning)...*

*There was a brave prince who had a problem...(the middle)...*

*And they all lived happily ever after (the end)!*

This is true because the story of everything moves in acts. And understanding these acts gives us an understanding of the Bible's big picture. There are four big acts in the Bible's story. Look up the following verses for each act and discuss them with your teachers. Take notes on what each group of passages teach about God and about humans.

## ACT 1: CREATION

GENESIS 1:1; JOHN 1:1-4; ACTS 17:24-25

## ACT 2: FALL

GENESIS 3:1-7, 13-19, 23-24

### ACT 3: REDEMPTION

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-18, 21

### ACT 4: RESTORATION

REVELATION 21:3-4

Since the Bible is one big story, there are so many things in it that connect the Old Testament with the New Testament. Each book of the Bible has its own themes, audience, and more, but the entire Bible is meant to be read as God's Big Story. Open your Bible, look up the verses below, and write down the words or phrases that are similar in both Old and New Testaments.

OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
Genesis 1:1	John 1:1-3
Genesis 2:9	Revelation 22:1-2
Exodus 12:21-23	John 1:29
Psalms 22:1	Mark 15:34
Exodus 29:45	Revelation 21:3

How should this shape the way we read our Bible?

Who is the main character of the Bible?

# GROW

Now, let's try drawing a picture that represents each act of creation you learned about this week:

ACT 1: CREATION

ACT 2: FALL

ACT 3: REDEMPTION

ACT 4: RESTORATION

## WORSHIP

Listen to this song called "Promises" by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell.

Write down words, phrases, and themes that you have heard in this lesson, and words, phrases, and themes that make you feel worship, awe, and wonder:

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# THE OLD TESTAMENT

## 3

NEW CITY CATECHISM, Q. 7.

WHAT DOES THE LAW OF GOD REQUIRE?

THAT WE LOVE GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART, SOUL, MIND, AND STRENGTH;  
AND LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES.

---

## KNOW

The Bible is an incredible gift from God, and the Old Testament is the first part of that gift. It tells us the story of how God created the world, made promises to His people, and began to work out His rescue plan for everyone. Even though these stories happened a long time ago, they are still important today because they teach us who God is, how He loves us, and how we should live as His people.

The Old Testament is more than just a collection of stories—it is God speaking to us. It shows us His power, His faithfulness, and His desire to be with His people. God didn't just create the world and leave us alone. He has always been involved in the lives of His people, guiding them and caring for them. As you learn about the Old Testament, you'll discover how God's plan to save the world started long before Jesus came, and how everything in the Bible fits together like a puzzle.

Before we begin today, take a moment to write down every story from the Old Testament you can remember.

LET'S WRITE THOSE HERE...

Now, let's turn our attention to some of the major plots of the Old Testament. Take a look at these Scripture verses and write down the promises you see in each passage.

ADAM AND EVE

GENESIS 1:31, GENESIS 1:27-28, GENESIS 3:6-7, GENESIS 3:15

NOAH

GENESIS 6:13-11

ABRAHAM

GENESIS 12:2-3

MOSES

EXODUS 2, EXODUS 12:23

KING DAVID

2 SAMUEL 7:12-13

THE PROPHETS

ISAIAH 53:6; EZEKIEL 37:3-5

## GROW

Now, let's turn our attention to the 10 Commandments. In the left hand column you will see one of the ten commandments, in the right hand column, write out what you think the commandment means in your own words.

"You shall have no other gods before me"	
"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them..."	
"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain..."	
"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God..."	

<p>"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."</p>	
<p>"You shall not murder."</p>	
<p>"You shall not commit adultery."</p>	
<p>"You shall not steal."</p>	
<p>"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."</p>	
<p>"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."</p>	

## WORSHIP



*Moses with the Ten Commandments, Rembrandt  
(1659)*

Study the painting on the previous page. Rembrandt was a Dutch painter of the 17th century, known for his ability to capture profound emotion and drama in his works. In *Moses with the Ten Commandments*, we see Moses descending Mount Sinai, his face radiating both divine authority and righteous anger as he prepares to smash the tablets

upon seeing Israel's rebellion. The scene conveys not only the holiness of God's law but also the gravity of humanity's sin.

This painting serves as a powerful reminder that God's commandments are not just rules but a reflection of His character and His covenant with His people. It is both humbling and awe-inspiring to consider that God has revealed His will to us so clearly. Through Moses, God handed down these commandments, showing us how we are to live in response to His holiness and grace.

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# THE NEW TESTAMENT

4

NEW CITY CATECHISM, Q. 19.

IS THERE ANY WAY TO ESCAPE PUNISHMENT AND BE BROUGHT BACK INTO GOD'S FAVOR?

YES, GOD RECONCILES US TO HIMSELF BY A REDEEMER.

---

## KNOW

Remember, we've already said that the Bible is God's incredible story of redemption. Today, we'll see how the New Testament brings that story to its climax. It introduces us to Jesus, God's Son, who came to save us and invite us into a relationship with Him. The New Testament is filled with accounts of Jesus' teachings, miracles, and ultimate sacrifice, as well as the story of how His followers spread His message of hope and salvation to the world.

While the Old Testament centers on the story of God's people, the New Testament focuses on Jesus, who is God in the flesh. It shows us how Jesus fulfilled every promise God made and how His life, death, and resurrection transformed everything. As you read, you'll discover that God's plan wasn't just for the people of the Bible but for you, too. Each page invites you to know Jesus and live in His grace.

Before we begin, take a moment to think about what you already know about Jesus and His story. Write down some of the things you remember about Him, and then draw a picture of your favorite moment from the New Testament.

LET'S WRITE THOSE HERE...

LET'S DRAW THAT PICTURE HERE...

Now, let's turn our attention to some of the major points of the New Testament. Take a look at these Scripture verses and write down what they teach us about God's Word!

JESUS IN THE WORLD

JOHN 1

JESUS' MIRACLES

MATTHEW 14:13-21

JESUS' DEATH & RESURRECTION

ROMANS 5:8, 1 PETER 2:24-25

THE CHURCH

ACTS 2:42-47, EPHESIANS 2:19-22

JESUS WILL RETURN

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17

## GROW

Now, let's turn our attention to the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament. Below, you'll see several teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount in the left hand column. In the right hand column, write out what you think each teaching means in your own words and how it could apply to your life today.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.	
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.	
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.	
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.	
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.	
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.	
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	

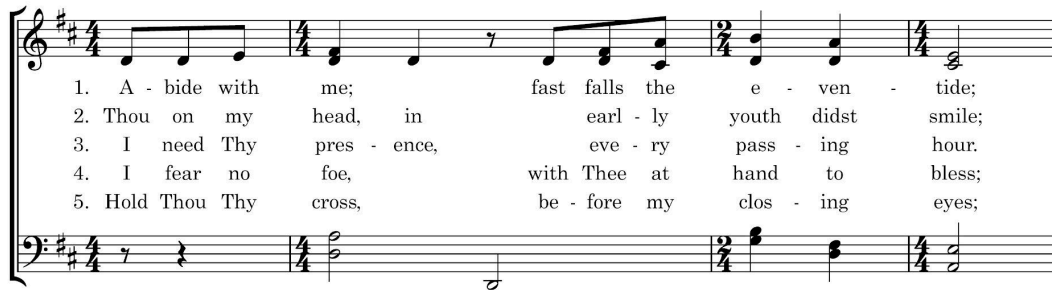
# WORSHIP

Listen to the hymn, Abide with Me, and write down any words or themes that stand out to you.

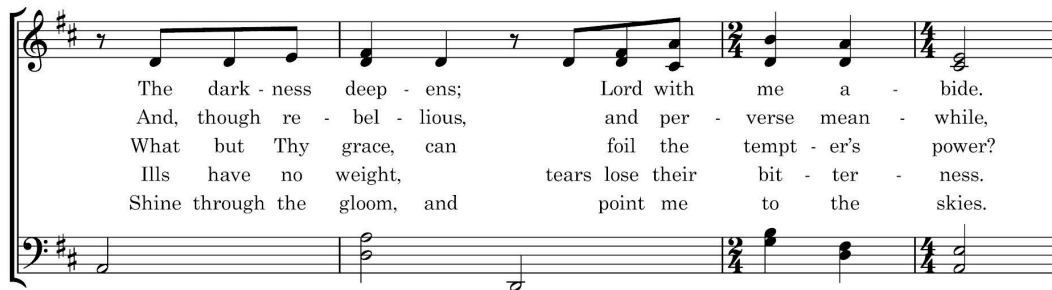
## Abide With Me

Henry Lyte,  
Justin Smith; alt.

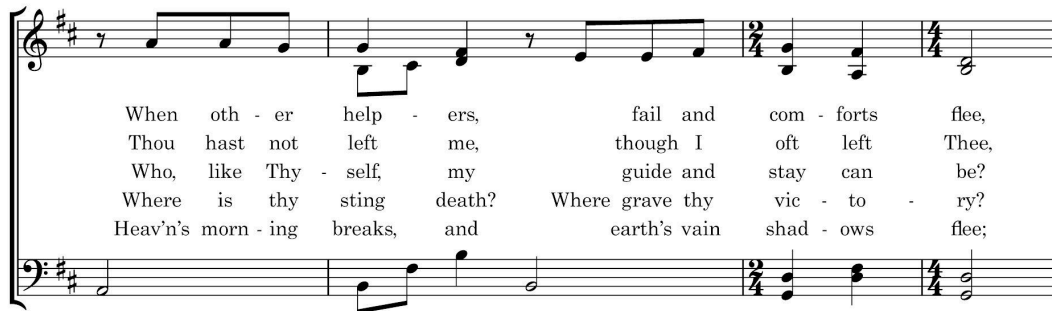
Justin Smith  
arr. Joel Littlepage



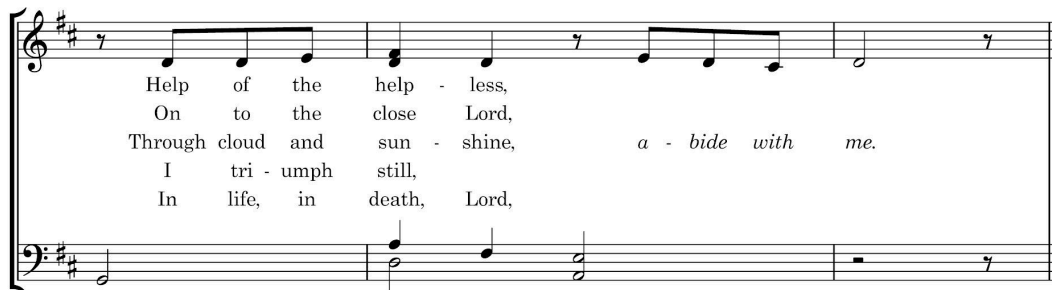
1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;  
 2. Thou on my head, in earl - ly youth didst smile;  
 3. I need Thy pres - ence, eve - ry pass - ing hour.  
 4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
 5. Hold Thou Thy cross, be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a - bide.  
 And, though re - bel - lious, and per - verse mean - while,  
 What but Thy grace, can foil the tempt - er's power?  
 Ills have no weight, tears lose their bit - ter - ness.  
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts flee,  
 Thou hast not left me, though I oft left Thee,  
 Who, like Thy - self, my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy vic - to - ry?  
 Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less,  
 On to the close Lord,  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still,  
 In life, in death, Lord,

Abide with Me is a beloved Christian hymn written by Henry Francis Lyte in 1847, during a time of personal suffering and reflection. Its words capture a deep sense of trust and dependence on God, especially in times of trial and uncertainty. The hymn's refrain, "Abide with me," echoes the cry of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, asking Jesus to stay with them as evening falls (Luke 24:29).

This hymn serves as a beautiful reminder of God's constant presence with His people. Just as the New Testament reveals that Jesus is Emmanuel, "God with us," Abide with Me reminds us that He is near in every season of life. It calls us to rely on His unchanging love and grace, especially when we face challenges or fear. Let the words of this hymn inspire you to draw closer to Jesus, who has promised to never leave us or forsake us.

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# SEEING JESUS IN THE BIBLE

## 5

NEW CITY CATECHISM, Q. 20.

WHO IS THE REDEEMER?

THE ONLY REDEEMER IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

---

When we are reading a book series like Harry Potter or Lord of the Rings, the author of those books keeps us captivated and guessing what will happen next! We get hints and clues as to how the main character will come in and save the day, the Bible does the same thing.

Throughout the Old Testament we see again and again how Jesus was going to come, how he would save us from our sins. Woven throughout the Old Testament we can see God whispering to us, someone even greater is coming and he will make all things right. He will make every sad thing untrue.

Just like we learned in our lesson on the Old Testament, God was working on His rescue plan to save his people. He did not leave us or forsake us but is a good Father who loves us and would do anything for his children to bring us back to Him. We are going to look through the Old Testament to see how God was whispering to His people, telling a bigger story about how He would save us.

## FORESHADOWING OF JESUS:

Genesis 22:8-14	The Sacrificial Lamb
Exodus 12:13	The Passover Lamb
Isaiah 53:5-6	The Suffering Servant

## PROPHECIES OF HIS COMING:

Isaiah 7:14	Born of a virgin
Micah 5:2	Born in Bethlehem
Psalms 22:16	Pierced hands and feet

## GROW

We can see that throughout the Old Testament God was weaving His great redemption story of sending His only Son, Jesus, to come and save His children. Using the verses that we read from the Old Testament, let's look at some verses from the New Testament to see how Jesus fulfilled these promises. As you read through the verses, write down how Jesus fulfilled what was written in the Old Testament.

### THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB:

JOHN 1:29

1 PETER 1:18-19

### THE PASSOVER LAMB:

1 CORINTHIANS 5:7

### THE SUFFERING SERVANT:

MATTHEW 8:17

MARK 10:45

## WORSHIP

In the Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd Jones looks at the Old Testament stories through the scope of God whispering His greater story of our redemption through Jesus. She often ends the stories with "And one day, God would send another..." This week read through one or two of the Old Testament stories from the Jesus Storybook Bible and look for those clues of Jesus. Write down some of them to share with the class next week!

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHO IS GOD?

6

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 4.

WHAT IS GOD?

GOD IS A SPIRIT, INFINITE, ETERNAL, AND UNCHANGEABLE, IN HIS BEING, WISDOM, POWER, HOLINESS, JUSTICE,  
GOODNESS AND TRUTH.

---

## KNOW

Have you ever tried to explain something really big, like the universe or the ocean? No matter how hard we try, some things are so amazing and vast that it's hard to fully understand them. That's what it's like when we ask, "What is God?"

The Bible tells us that God is not like anything or anyone else. He is completely unique. He has no beginning and no end. He is all powerful, all knowing, and always present. God is spirit, which means He is not made of anything we can see or touch, but He is more real than anything in the world. He is perfect, holy, and full of love.

Even though we can't fully understand everything about God, He wants us to know Him! That's why He has revealed Himself in the Bible and most perfectly in Jesus. Today, we are going to explore what the Bible teaches us about what God is and why that's such good news for us. Let's look at some scripture that talks about that. As you read through the scripture, write down what the Bible says about who God is:

EXODUS 3:14:

DEUTERONOMY 6:4:

PSALM 145:3:

JEREMIAH 23:23-24:

MATTHEW 5:48:

JOHN 10:30:

JOHN 15:26:

## GROW:

Your teacher has been given a bag with three mystery objects inside. Reach into the bag and try to describe one of the objects. Try to describe its texture, size, and shape. Try to describe what you think the object is or what it is used for.

LET'S DO THAT HERE... (TRY TO DRAW A PICTURE OF IT, IF THAT HELPS)

What was easy about that task?

What was hard about it?

Does not being able to see the object make it easier or harder to describe? Why?

Now try to describe God in the best way you can? Try to use some of the scripture verses we read earlier, or some other ones you already know.

# WORSHIP:

Listen to the hymn *Holy, Holy Holy*.

## Holy, Holy, Holy!

Reginald Heber, 1783–1826

NIGAEA  
John B. Dykes, 1861  
alt. Ben Weldy

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord— God Al - might - y!  
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,  
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord— God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty.  
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

What does this song make you think about God?

What are some of the attributes of God you see in this song?

If you were trying to describe God to a friend, is there anything in this song that could help you describe God better?

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# TRINITY

## 7

### NEW CITY CATECHISM, Q. 3.

#### HOW MANY PERSONS ARE THERE IN GOD?

THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN THE ONE TRUE AND LIVING GOD: THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. THEY ARE THE SAME IN SUBSTANCE, EQUAL IN POWER AND GLORY.

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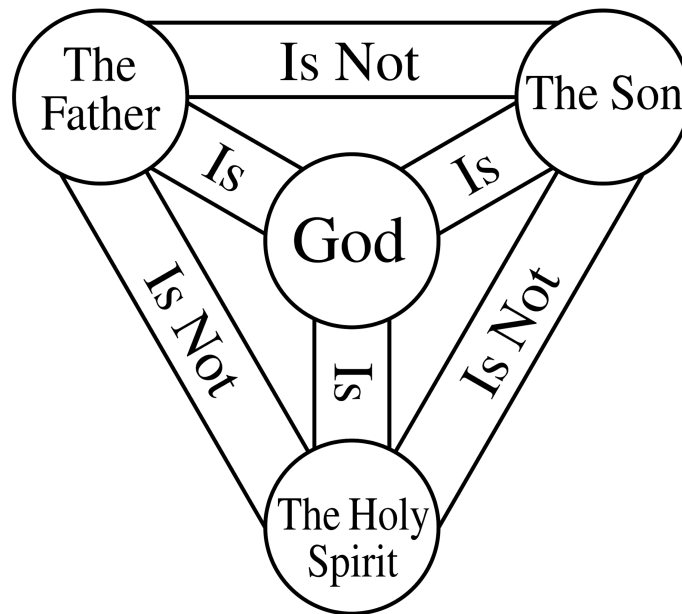
## KNOW

The Bible teaches that there is only one God. From the very beginning, God has revealed Himself as the Creator, the King, and the only true God. But as we read Scripture, we also see something amazing- God exists as three persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. These three are not separate gods, nor are they just different forms of God. They are one God in three persons.

This is what we call the Trinity- one God in three persons, and three persons in one God. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, but they are not three gods- they are perfectly united as one. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Spirit, and the Spirit is not the Father, yet they are all fully and completely God.

The Trinity has always existed in perfect unity- one God, three persons, always working together, always in perfect love. The Father sends the Son, the Son accomplishes salvation, and the Spirit applies it to our hearts. Today, we will explore what the Bible says about the Trinity and why this great mystery is at the very heart of our faith.

Let's look at an image that helps us picture this!



Obviously we aren't looking at God when we look at this picture! But this picture does help us visualize how the Trinity operates!

The Father IS God, but he ISN'T the Son or the Spirit

The Son IS God, but he ISN'T the Father or the Spirit

And the Spirit IS God, but he ISN'T the Father or the Son

Now let's look at a few passages of Scripture. Write down what these verses tell you about the Trinity.

JOHN 1:1-5

JOHN 10:30

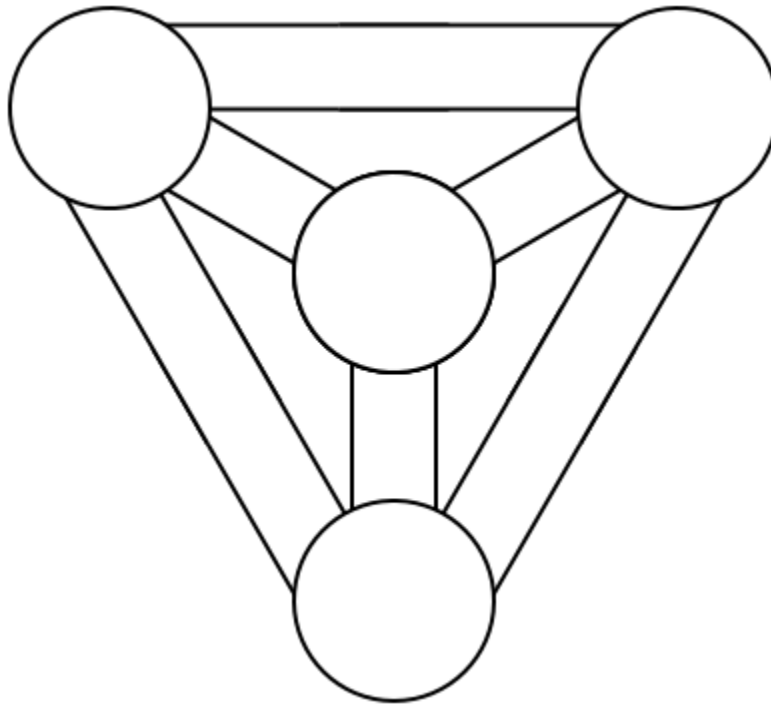
DEUTERONOMY 6:4

MATTHEW 3:16-17

## GROW

Below you will find that same image we looked at earlier, but blank. Try to fill it in to the best of your ability and discuss the importance of each of the elements.

For an extra challenge, try to fill this out without looking at the original image!



Why do you think it means that God is Three in One?

What makes the Father, Son, and Spirit different from each other?

What makes them the same?

## WORSHIP

The following is a passage from the Athanasian Creed. Some parts may sound confusing or feel like old fashioned language, but do your best to follow along. As you read, think about what this ancient creed teaches us about who God is.

“...We worship one God in Trinity and the Trinity in unity, neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence. The person of the Father is distinct, the person of the Son is another, and the person of the Holy Spirit is yet another. However, the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, and their majesty coeternal. Whatever quality the Father has, the Son has, and the Holy Spirit has. The Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated, and the Holy Spirit is uncreated. The Father is immeasurable, the Son is immeasurable, and the Holy Spirit is immeasurable. The Father is eternal, the Son is eternal, and the Holy Spirit is eternal. Yet, there are not three eternal beings, but one eternal being. Likewise, there are not three uncreated or immeasurable beings, but one uncreated and immeasurable being.

Similarly, the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, and the Holy Spirit is almighty. Yet, there are not three almighty beings, but one almighty being. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. Yet, there are not three gods, but one God. The Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, and the Holy Spirit is Lord. Yet, there are not three lords, but one Lord...

Nothing in this Trinity is before or after, nothing is greater or smaller. In their entirety, the three persons are coeternal and coequal with each other. Therefore, in everything, we must worship their Trinity in their unity and their unity in their Trinity...”

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# CREATION & PROVIDENCE

## 8

### NEW CITY CATECHISM, Q. 4. HOW AND WHY DID GOD CREATE US?

GOD CREATED US MALE AND FEMALE IN HIS OWN IMAGE TO KNOW HIM, LOVE HIM, LIVE WITH HIM, AND GLORIFY HIM. AND IT IS RIGHT THAT WE WHO WERE CREATED BY GOD SHOULD LIVE TO HIS GLORY.

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## KNOW

God created us with a purpose. In the beginning, He made us, male and female, in his own image, not because he needed us, but because He wanted to share His love and creation with us so that we might glorify Him. God formed us to be in a relationship with Him, He created us to know Him, to love Him, and to reflect His glory in the world. As we see in the Scriptures, it is right that we who were created by God should live to His glory, fulfilling the purpose for which we were made. Our lives are meant to reflect His greatness and live in accordance with His will. Let's look at some scripture that talks about that. As you read through the scripture, write down what the Bible says about why God created us:

GENESIS 1:26-27

ISAIAH 43:7

ROMANS 11:36

EPHESIANS 1:11-12

God didn't just create us and leave us; He made us to have a deep relationship with Him, where we could enjoy His presence and walk in His ways. Throughout history, God's hand has been guiding us, providing for us, and offering us hope. He doesn't leave us to wander aimlessly but instead He walks beside us, ensuring we have everything that we need, whether it is through the beauty of his creation, the provision of our daily needs, or the gift of His presence. God's story for us is filled with love, purpose, and promise of salvation, reminding us that everything was created to honor and glorify Him. As you read through these verses, write down what the Bible says about how God has cared for and provided for His people:

MATTHEW 6: 25-26

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

PSALM 23:1-2

ROMANS 8:32

## GROW

These verses remind us that God, as our loving Father, provides for us in every season of life, meeting both our physical and spiritual needs, and we can trust Him to care for and guide us. Think about prayers you have prayed, how has God answered those prayers? How did He provide for you? List out ways God has provided for you!

## WORSHIP

One way we can worship is through prayer! Jesus gave us The Lord's Prayer as an example of how we can pray. During your week find a time to sit down and write out a prayer praising God for all that He has done for you. You can use the Lord's Prayer to help you write out your own prayer.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER:

"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil."

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# GOD'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH MAN

9

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM, Q. 31.

WITH WHOM WAS THE COVENANT OF GRACE MADE?

THE COVENANT OF GRACE WAS MADE WITH CHRIST AS THE SECOND ADAM,  
AND IN HIM WITH ALL THE ELECT AS HIS SEED

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## KNOW

All throughout Scripture, we see God unfolding His great rescue plan, revealing His faithfulness and love for His people. From the very beginning, when sin entered the world, He did not abandon us but made a promise, a covenant, to bring redemption. This is what we call the Covenant of Grace, a promise made with Christ as the second Adam, and in Him, with all the elect as His seed.

God's covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David were not separate plans, but different parts of the same great promise, a promise that pointed forward to Jesus. With each covenant, God was revealing more of His plan, showing His people that He would send a Savior to rescue them from sin and restore what was broken.

Through the Old Testament, we hear God whispering to His people, reminding them, "Someone greater is coming." He promised a King who would reign forever, a Lamb who would take away sin, a Shepherd who would gather His lost sheep. And in Jesus, every promise was fulfilled.

God was never distant or silent, He was always working, always pursuing, always keeping His word. And through Christ, the Covenant of Grace is made complete, bringing us into His family, forgiving our sins, and restoring our relationship with Him. This was His plan all along, a plan of love, redemption, and grace.

God's Covenant With...	Verses	What does God promise?
Noah	Genesis 9:10-17	
Abraham	Genesis 15: 5-6 Genesis 17:4-8	
Moses	Exodus 19:4-6 Exodus 24:3-8	
David	2 Samuel 7:8-16 Psalm 89:3-4	
New Covenant-	Hebrews 10:14-18	

## GROW:

How would you describe the purpose of a covenant? Jesus fulfills each of the covenants God made with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. Let's take a look at the following scriptures to see how Christ fulfills each covenant promise:

NOAH: LUKE 1:31-33

ABRAHAM: JOHN 3:16-18

MOSES: MATTHEW 5:17

DAVID: LUKE 1:32-33

## WORSHIP

The author of the hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness wrote the hymn based on the scripture Lamentations 3:22-23 that says "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Jeremiah was having a difficult time, God's people who he had chosen through his covenant promises to Noah, Abraham and Moses, were not listening. They were facing the consequences of their faithlessness but Jeremiah wrote this as a pillar of hope. God is faithful, He never changes and will not leave His people. Listen to the song, Great is Thy Faithfulness. What characteristics of God do you hear? How do these remind you of His faithfulness to us, His children?

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHO IS JESUS?

10

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 21.

WHO IS THE REDEEMER OF GOD'S ELECT?

THE ONLY REDEEMER OF GOD'S ELECT IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO, BEING THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD, BECAME  
MAN, AND SO WAS, AND CONTINUES TO BE, GOD AND MAN IN TWO DISTINCT NATURES,  
AND ONE PERSON, FOREVER.

---

## KNOW

When we look at the Bible, it's easy to think the New Testament is about Jesus in a way that the Old Testament isn't. But that's not the whole story! The Bible, from beginning to end, is all about Jesus. He's at the center of everything God is doing in the world. But who is Jesus, really?

The early Church used the phrase "fully God and fully man" to describe Jesus. That's a very important starting point! But the Bible also describes Jesus in many other ways: He's called a Shepherd, a Teacher, the Spotless Lamb, the Lion of Judah, and even our Friend. With so many amazing descriptions, it's easy to wonder, "Who is Jesus to me?"

Take a moment to think about this: Of all the things the Bible says about Jesus, which one means the most to you? Write a few sentences or draw a picture to show what that means to you.

LET'S DO THAT HERE...

Let's now look at some of the things the Bible says about Jesus.

## FULLY GOD

Jesus isn't just a really good person- He is God! This means He has all the power, wisdom, and love of God. When we look at Jesus, we see exactly what God is like because we are looking at God himself.

## FULLY MAN

Even though Jesus is God, He became human like us. He was born as a baby, grew up, felt pain, and even got hungry and tired. Because He's fully human, He understands everything we go through.

## SHEPHERD

Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd because He takes care of us like a shepherd takes care of sheep. He watches over us, keeps us safe, disciplines us, and leads us where we need to go.

## TEACHER

Jesus taught people about God and how to live. His teachings are found in the Bible, and they help us learn how to love God and love others.

## SPOTLESS LAMB

In Bible times, lambs were offered as a sacrifice for sins. Jesus is called the Spotless Lamb because He gave His life to take away our sins forever. And he is called spotless because he is the only person who ever lived without sin!

## LION OF JUDAH

Jesus is powerful and brave, like a lion! This title reminds us that Jesus is the King of everything, and He will protect and rule His people with strength and justice.

## OUR FRIEND

Jesus isn't just someone we read about- He's our friend. He loves us, listens to our prayers, and is always with us, no matter what.

## GROW

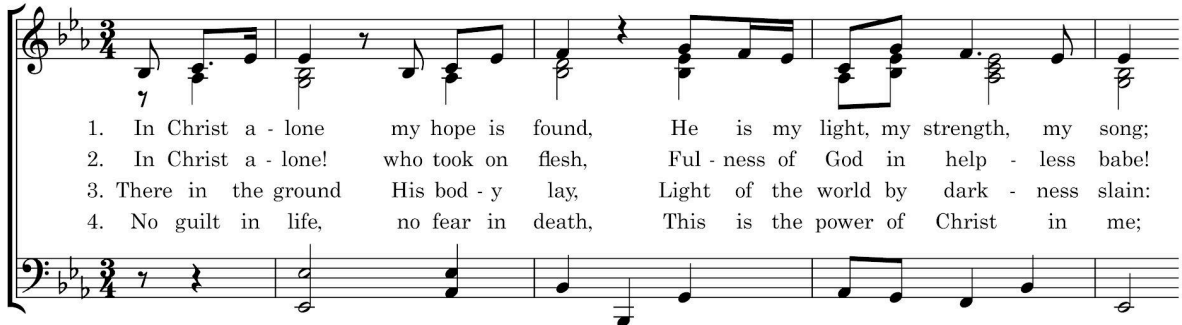
On a separate piece of paper, write a letter to a friend explaining one of these titles of Jesus (Fully God, Fully Man, Shepherd, Teacher, Lion of Judah, Spotless Lamb, Our Friend). Be sure to explain to your friend why this is a meaningful aspect of Jesus to you. Try to include some Bible stories that you can remember that help explain this title of Christ.

If you need, you can draw a picture instead of writing. But be sure to explain what your picture means.

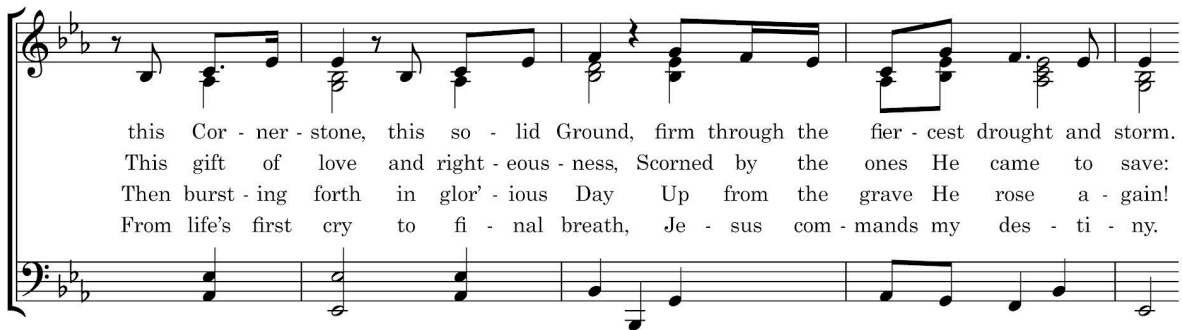
# WORSHIP

## In Christ Alone

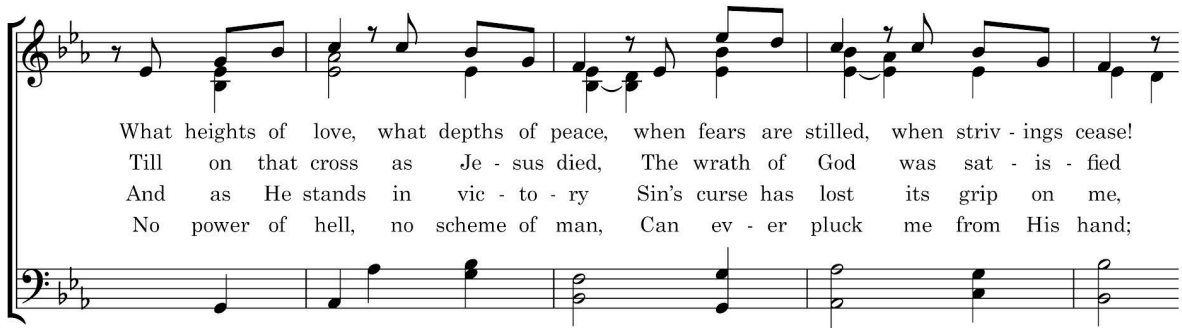
Words: Stuart Townend  
Music: Keith Getty



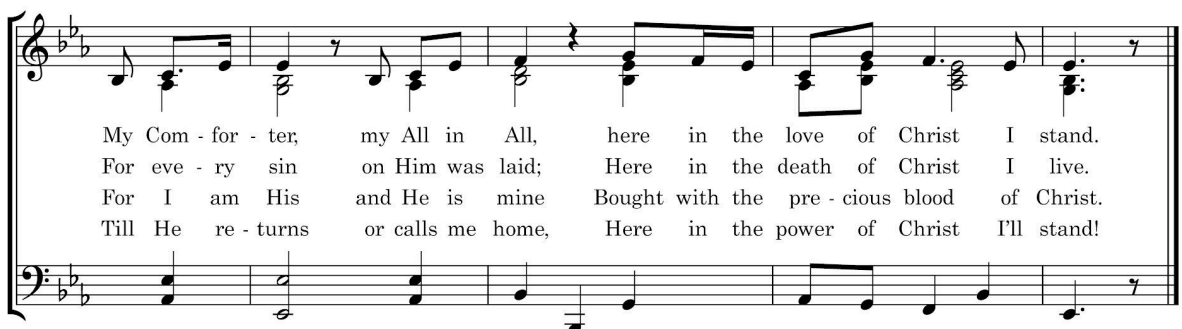
1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;  
2. In Christ a - lone! who took on flesh, Ful - ness of God in help - less babe!  
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness slain:  
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;



this Cor - ner - stone, this so - lid Ground, firm through the fier - cest drought and storm.  
This gift of love and right - eous - ness, Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Then burst - ing forth in glor' - ious Day Up from the grave He rose a - gain!  
From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease!  
Till on that cross as Je - sus died, The wrath of God was sat - is - fied  
And as He stands in vic - to - ry Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ev - er pluck me from His hand;



My Com - for - ter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.  
For eve - ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.  
For I am His and He is mine Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
Till He re - turns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Listen to the hymn, In Christ Alone, and write down any words or themes that stand out to you.

In Christ Alone is a song about how Jesus is everything we need. It helps us remember how much Jesus loves us and how He saves us. The song starts by saying, "In Christ alone my hope is found," showing that Jesus is the only one we can count on for everything in life.

The song tells the story of Jesus: how He came to earth, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again to give us new life. It reminds us that because of Jesus, we don't have to be afraid of anything—not even death. It says, "No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me," meaning Jesus is always with us and gives us strength.

The next time you feel worried or scared, remember this song. Think about how Jesus loves you, stays with you, and promises to help you no matter what. Maybe even pray something like, "Jesus, thank You for being my hope and my strength. Help me trust You today."

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHAT DID JESUS DO?

11

NEW CITY CATECHISM, Q. 21.

WHAT SORT OF REDEEMER IS NEEDED TO BRING US BACK TO GOD?

ONE WHO IS TRULY HUMAN AND ALSO TRULY GOD.

---

## KNOW

When we think about Jesus, it's easy to focus on who He is- fully God and fully man, our Shepherd, Teacher, and Friend. But just as important as who Jesus is, is what Jesus did. From the very beginning, God had a plan to save the world through Jesus, and everything Jesus did on earth was part of that plan.

The Bible tells us that Jesus lived a perfect life, showing us what it means to love God and others. He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and then He rose again, defeating death so we could have eternal life. What Jesus did wasn't just for the people in Bible times- it's for you, too!

## PROPTIATION

Before we begin today's lesson, let's learn a new word- **Propitiation!** (pruh-pi-shee-ay-shun). It's a big word, but it's really important for understanding what Jesus did for us. Propitiation means that Jesus took the punishment for our sins so that we could be forgiven and have peace with God.

Imagine if you broke a rule and someone else stepped in to take the consequences for you- that's kind of what propitiation is! Because of Jesus, God's justice is satisfied, and instead of being separated from Him, we can be close to Him. Let's keep this word in mind as we learn more about what Jesus did for us today!

Below, write a definition of "propitiation" in your own words:

## THE PROBLEM

In the beginning, God created us to have a close relationship with Him. But there's a problem- sin. We are sinners, and because of that, our relationship with God is broken.

## ROMANS 3:23

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

## JAMES 1:14-15

"But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

In your own words, what is "the problem"?

## THE SOLUTION

But that's not the end of the story! God knew that on our own, we would never be able to fix our broken relationship with Him. So, He did something amazing!

God came to earth as a little baby. He grew up and lived a perfect, sinless life. Then, one day, when all His friends had betrayed Him, He willingly died on the cross. Three days later, He rose from the dead, defeating death forever. Because Jesus did this, we can have a restored relationship with God that lasts forever. He truly became a propitiation for us.

## JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

## ROMANS 3:23-25

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith."

## ROMANS 5:8

"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

## 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

## 1 TIMOTHY 2:5

"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time."

## 1 PETER 2:24-25

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

In your own words, what is "the solution"?

## GROW

Sin separates us from God, and no matter how hard we try, we can't fix that broken relationship on our own. But the good news is that God made a way! Through Jesus- His perfect life, His death on the cross, and His resurrection- God offers us forgiveness and a restored relationship with Him.

Jesus Himself said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). That means Jesus is the only way back to God. No amount of good deeds, trying harder, or being religious can save us- only trusting in what Jesus did can.

Let's take a moment to write 3 or 4 sentences in your own words about what Jesus did for us. Think about how Jesus saves us, what He saves us from, and why He is the only one who can save us. Be sure to include why what Jesus did is so important for our relationship with God and how that makes you feel!

LET'S DO THAT HERE...

## WORSHIP

Think about the part of the church service when we take communion. What are some things you remember our pastor saying?

Sometimes he says something like this

That the Lord Jesus Christ on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, gave it to His disciples, as I, ministering in His name, give this bread to you, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same manner, He also took the cup, and having given thanks as has been done in His name, He gave it to the disciples, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Drink from it, all of you."

Let's thank God for His incredible mercy and kindness shown to us in the Lord's Supper. We pray for the Holy Spirit's help to live like followers of Jesus, holding on tightly to what we've learned and staying faithful. Let's pray that our lives reflect the Gospel, that we remember Jesus' sacrifice, and that His life shines through us. May our actions be like a light, showing others the goodness of God and leading them to glorify Him in heaven.

Why are these things said? And why are they important?

When we take the Lord's Supper, we are celebrating the work of Jesus 2000 years ago at the Cross, and the work he continues to do in our lives today. Today when we take the Lord's Supper as a body, listen extra carefully to what our pastor says and think about what those words teach us about the work of Jesus.

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

12

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 29.

HOW ARE WE MADE PARTAKERS OF THE REDEMPTION PURCHASED BY CHRIST?

WE ARE MADE PARTAKERS OF THE REDEMPTION PURCHASED BY CHRIST, BY THE EFFECTUAL APPLICATION OF IT TO US BY  
HIS HOLY SPIRIT.

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## KNOW

The Holy Spirit is God's presence with His people. He is the third person in the trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He has always been there, from the very beginning of time.

### IN THE BEGINNING-

In Genesis 1:2, we see the Spirit of God hovering over the waters at creation, bringing life and order to the world. Let's read Genesis 1:1-3.

### THROUGHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT-

All throughout the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit showed up in powerful ways. He filled the tabernacle and the temple with God's glory, showing that God was living among His people. He also gave special power to certain people for important tasks. He helped Joseph interpret dreams, gave Moses wisdom to lead, and spoke through the prophets so they could tell people God's truth. But not everyone had the Holy Spirit living in them—He only came to certain people for a time.

Read Genesis 41:16-39

What does the Holy Spirit do to help Joseph?

Read Isaiah 61:1-4

What did the Spirit of the Lord tell the prophet Isaiah to share with God's people?

## THE NEW TESTAMENT-

Everything changed in the New Testament with Jesus. The Holy Spirit was there at Jesus' baptism, coming down like a dove, showing that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus was filled with the Spirit as He taught, healed, and performed miracles. Then, after Jesus died and rose again, He sent the Holy Spirit to His followers. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to live in every believer, just like Jesus had promised. Now, the Spirit doesn't just come and go—He stays with us forever. He is the one who helps us believe in Jesus and makes us part of God's family. Through the Holy Spirit, we receive the salvation Jesus purchased for us, and He changes our hearts to love and follow God.

Read Matthew 3:16-17

What does the Holy Spirit do during Jesus' baptism?

Read Acts 1:1-8

Who does Jesus promise to send once he has gone?

Read Titus 3:4-7

How does the Holy Spirit help us come to Christ?

## GROW

Today, the Holy Spirit still guides, comforts, and strengthens us, reminding us that God is always with us. To help us reflect on what we learned about who the Holy Spirit is and how he has worked from the beginning of time to today we are going to respond to the passages we read.

Who is the Holy Spirit? Write one or two sentences about who He is and His role in God's plan.

How did the Holy Spirit work in the Old Testament? Give one example of how He helped someone like Joseph or the prophets.

What did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit? Why did Jesus send the Holy Spirit to His followers?

How does the Holy Spirit help today?

## WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit is with us everyday, helping us grow in our faith! Think about a time when you felt comforted or guided by God. How do you think the Holy Spirit was working in that moment? Write about that here.

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

13

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 30.

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT APPLY TO US THE BENEFITS OF CHRIST'S REDEMPTION?

THE SPIRIT APPLIES TO US THE REDEMPTION PURCHASED BY CHRIST, BY WORKING FAITH IN US, AND THEREBY  
UNITING US TO CHRIST IN OUR EFFECTUAL CALLING.

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## KNOW

All throughout Scripture, we see that God was not only planning our rescue but also making a way for us to truly belong to Him. Jesus came to accomplish our salvation, but God didn't stop there—He sent His Holy Spirit to bring that salvation to life in our hearts. The Holy Spirit applies to us the redemption that Jesus purchased by working faith in us and uniting us to Christ. Without the Spirit, we would remain blind to the beauty of the gospel, unable to believe or come to Jesus on our own. But the Spirit calls us, opens our eyes, and makes our hearts alive to the truth. He draws us to Christ, assuring us that we are His.

More than that, He stays with us, guiding, convicting, and comforting us every step of the way. Through the Spirit, we are not just forgiven—we are brought into God's family, forever united to Jesus, the One who makes all things new.

The Holy Spirit is the One who takes what Jesus has done and makes it real in our lives. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ through the effectual application of it to us by His Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who opens our eyes to see our need for Jesus, who softens our hearts to believe, and who assures us that we belong to God. Without Him, we would remain blind and lost, but through Him, we are made new. The Spirit guides us, convicts us, strengthens us, and comforts us. He reminds us of God's promises when we doubt and gives us the power to live as God's people. We are never alone, because the Spirit is always with us, leading us closer to Christ.

So when we think about our salvation, we can rejoice that it is not just something that happened in the past, it is something the Holy Spirit is working in us right now. God has not only saved us but has made His home with us. Through His Spirit, He is always near, always working, and always pointing us to Jesus, the One who makes all things right. Let's look at some passages in scripture that talk about how the Holy Spirit helps us.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TO FAITH IN CHRIST

1 Corinthians 2:12-16 *"Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ."*

John 14:26 *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING

1 Corinthians 2:12 *"Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God."*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY

Romans 8:26 *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT ENCOURAGES AND COMFORTS US

Romans 15:13 *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

Ephesians 3:16-19 *"that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS US OF SIN AND LEADS US TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

Galatians 5:16-17 *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."*

## GROW

In this lesson we learned about how the Holy Spirit is our comforter, encourager, and convicter. He brings peace in trials, strength in weakness, and conviction to lead us to repentance and righteousness. In your own words, answer these questions about the Holy Spirit based on what we learned.

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP US?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES?

HOW CAN WE LISTEN TO AND FOLLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT?

## WORSHIP

*Read Galatians 5:16-25 "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."*

In these verses the Bible tells us that if we believe in Christ and are redeemed there will be fruits from what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives. Draw the outline of some fruits. In the middle write one of each of the fruits of the Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you show these things in your life.

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# THE GOSPEL IN THE AIR

14

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 23.

WHAT OFFICES DOES CHRIST EXECUTE AS OUR REDEEMER?

CHRIST, AS OUR REDEEMER, EXECUTES THE OFFICES OF A PROPHET, OF A PRIEST, AND OF A KING, BOTH IN HIS ESTATE  
OF HUMILIATION AND EXALTATION.

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## KNOW

Way back in lesson 2, we discussed the “big picture,” or the grand story of the Bible. In this session, we will go deeper into that idea, to understand how this big picture view of the gospel helps us to know and love Jesus and to know his love for us!

Do you like a good story? The gospel is the greatest story ever told. It has villains and heroes, victory and defeat, kings and servants, and even miracles! Yes, it is a good story. And it is true. It is the true story that every other good story is pointing to.

What are some of your favorite fiction stories? Let’s think about how they point us to the Gospel Story...

## THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

*These stories show us that there is a good King, Aslan, who gives his life for people, and who comes back to life after he dies! They also show us the promise of the King’s return*

## HARRY POTTER

*These stories show us that sacrificial love is the most powerful kind of love in the world. Harry's mother died in his place, and her sacrifice protected Harry throughout his life. In the end, Harry knew he would have to sacrifice himself to save those he loved.*

## CHARLOTTE'S WEB

*In this story, something small and foolish (a spider) saves someone from death. Did you know that the Bible calls the cross "foolish"? This is because it is silly that a king should have to die to save his people. It doesn't make sense. But in the gospel, God uses things that seem foolish in the eyes of the world to accomplish his mission to save his people.*

## JESUS, THE STORYTELLER

*Did you know that Jesus told stories, called Parables? They were meant to communicate truths about the way God's kingdom works. Think about the story called "The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15:11-32). This story is meant to communicate God's unstoppable love for his children, even when we run away. God, our good Father, searches us out and longs to embrace us as we walk the road home in our desperation. In this story, we are all prodigals, whether we are the younger brother or the older brother. But because of Jesus, our perfect older brother, we are loved and forgiven by the Father.*

## ONE STORY, TWO WAYS TO TELL IT!

Imagine you are flying on an airplane, coming home from a family vacation, and you look out the window as the plane is about to land. You see things that you recognize—Downtown Dallas, baseball fields, your favorite museum. But they look WAY different from up here. From your spot in the sky, you get a view of your home that you usually don't get to see.

There are two ways to look at the gospel story—one from the air and one from the ground. In this lesson, we will talk about “The Gospel in the air!”.

### IN THE AIR

From the air, we zoom out and look at the whole story of the Bible from beginning to end—God's big story! It has four parts, and you've already been through them in lesson 2!

*Activity: Get into small groups of 2-3. Look back to lesson 2, and write down each of the four parts of God's Big Story, along with one Scripture reference for each!*

## GROW

Another way to think about the big story of the Bible is to see it through some big themes that run throughout the whole story. One of those themes is the Temple, the place where God lives with his people.

Watch [this video from the Bible Project](#).

What does it mean that Jesus is “the True Temple?” Discuss this with your teachers and classmates, and write down some thoughts here:

## WORSHIP



In the story *The Lord of the Rings*, there is a forest called Lothlorien (this is the author's illustration of it). He uses this forest to paint an imaginative picture of heaven, where all things are restored to the glory they had in creation. The colors there are bright and pure, and it is a place of peace. Right in the middle of his story, Tolkien gives his readers a picture of the end—peace, rest, and harmony. This helps the weary hobbits, who will still suffer much, to go on.

Heaven works this way for us too. Knowing God's promise for the end of the story (that we will dwell with him in a new creation) helps us to worship him and to endure all kinds of hardships. as we continue the Christian journey.

On a separate piece of paper, draw a picture of what you think heaven looks like.

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# THE GOSPEL ON THE GROUND

15

NEW CITY CATECHISM, Q. 29.

HOW CAN WE BE SAVED?

ONLY BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AND IN HIS SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONING DEATH ON THE CROSS.

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## KNOW

Last week, we talked about the big picture of the Gospel, or “The Gospel in the Air.” So how does this story become OUR story? By FAITH in Jesus. There is no work that we can do to earn our way back into God’s presence. Jesus calls us to believe in him, and this produces the gift of repentance (turning from our sin) and it causes us to joyfully tell his story to others with our words and our lives! Theologians call this “redemption applied,” as a way of talking about all the wonderful benefits that we receive personally from salvation in Jesus!

## THE GOLDEN CHAIN OF SALVATION

*For this activity, your teachers will provide golden strips of paper. On each strip, write down the aspect of salvation listed below, then look up the Bible verse next to it. Once you have read the verse and discussed, write the verse on your chain link and connect it to the next one. Make sure to follow the order listed below!*

1. Election (Ephesians 1:3-10)
2. Effectual Calling (John 6:35-40)
3. Regeneration (Ezekiel 36:24-27; John 3:1-8)
4. Faith & Repentance (Ephesians 2:8-9, Acts 11:18)

5. Justification (Zechariah 3:1-5; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
6. Adoption (Galatians 4:4-7)
7. Sanctification (Titus 2:11-14; Galatians 5:22-24)
8. Glorification (1 Corinthians 15:50-57)

## THE ROOT OF IT ALL

The “Root” that undergirds all of this is the doctrine of “union with Christ.” It is the way the Holy Spirit applies to us the benefits of this story of redemption. Sinclair Ferguson, a theology professor, says, “All that Christ has done for me representatively becomes mine actually.” (John 15:1-5, Romans 6:1-11). Through union with Christ, we are called, made alive, and kept by God’s grace, so that there can be no doubt that salvation is from the Lord from beginning to end! Below, draw a tree and label its roots “union with Christ.” Next, label each of the branches with one of the terms from your golden chain of salvation.

## GROW

You may be wondering, what is my response to this story? Here are three simple ways to think about responding to the good news of the Gospel!



### TRUST (FAITH): "WE TRUST IN JESUS TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS"

Jesus calls us to have faith in him and in the work that he did for us, dying for our sins on the cross and rising again! We can't save ourselves from our sin, so we need to trust in the only Savior!

What exactly is "faith"? It is like trusting in the chair you are sitting in to hold you. You believe it is strong enough to hold you up, and so you take a seat! Faith in Jesus means trusting that he is your only Savior, and resting in the story of his death on the cross for you!

Read John 3:16, Ephesians 2:1-10, Romans 3:23-24.



### TURN (REPENTANCE): "WE TURN FROM OUR SIN AND TO JESUS"

Jesus also calls us to turn away from our sins, because he has died to defeat them, and he wants us to follow his good path. If you are chasing something, you are running hard in one direction, right? Well, when we trust in Jesus, we STOP running hard after sin (breaking God's law), and we TURN AROUND to chase Jesus, with the help of His Holy Spirit!

Read Acts 2:38-39, 2 Corinthians 7:8-10



### TELL (CONFESSION & COMMUNITY): "WE TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM WITH OUR WORDS AND OUR LIVES"

Jesus wants us to tell the world what he has done for us, with our mouths and with our lives. When you come to the Communion table, you make a public confession (you tell everyone) that you have trusted in Jesus, turned from your sin, and promise to be part of his church, with the help of your family, friends, and the Holy Spirit.

Read Romans 10:9-10, 1 John 3.

## WORSHIP

Listen to the song "O God of Our Salvation" from The Village Church and Michael Bleecker. How does this song make you feel? Talk about this with your teachers and parents, and prepare to sing this song next time we sing it in worship!

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

16

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 92.

WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

A SACRAMENT IS AN HOLY ORDINANCE INSTITUTED BY CHRIST; WHEREIN, BY SENSIBLE SIGNS, CHRIST, AND THE BENEFITS OF THE NEW COVENANT, ARE REPRESENTED, SEALED, AND APPLIED TO BELIEVERS.

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## KNOW

“Sacrament” is one of those church words that sound hard to understand, but in this lesson, we’ll show how simple, exciting, and encouraging the sacraments are in the Christian life! Did you know that we get the word “sacrament” from the latin word *sacramentum*, meaning “mystery”? Reflect on this by writing down your answers to the following questions:

WHAT IS A “MYSTERY”?

READ EPHESIANS 3:1-6. TALK WITH YOUR TEACHERS AND YOUR GROUPS ABOUT WHAT THE "MYSTERY" IS HERE:

The sacraments are called "mysteries" because by them, God makes known to us his hidden plan in the gospel! They represent to us his gracious election (see lesson 15), and they assure us that we are part of his family. They are like God putting his stamp on us. They are outward signs that represent an inward grace. Now, let's talk about these things: the outward sign and the inward grace.

### THE OUTWARD SIGN....

Read Matthew 26:26-29. What is the "sign" here? (Hint: there are two outward things we can taste)

## THE INWARD GRACE....

Read Matthew 26:26-29 Again. What is the "inward grace" here? (Hint: See v. 28)

Can you think of other outward or "sensible" signs that represent something you can't touch?

## GROW

Activity: Write a letter to a friend and seal it in the envelope given. Next, with your teacher's help, put hot wax on the back of the envelope, and stamp it with your "signet ring" provided by your teacher!

Next, draw what you see in your seal below:

The sacraments are "seals" of God's grace to us. They assure us that his stamp is authentic, that he has claimed us for himself, and that we can trust him. When we have doubts, the sacraments remind us of God's great love for us. When we wander, they remind us that we belong to him! What wonderful gifts God has given to his people in the Sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper!

## WORSHIP

Take your workbook with you into worship today. Write down what you see, hear, and especially what you feel when you observe or participate in the sacraments (either baptism, the Lord's Supper, or both). Be ready to talk about this with your parents and your teachers next week!

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# BAPTISM

17

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 94.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

A. BAPTISM IS A SACRAMENT, WHEREIN THE WASHING WITH WATER IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST, DOES SIGNIFY AND SEAL OUR INGRAFTING INTO CHRIST, AND PARTAKING OF THE BENEFITS OF THE COVENANT OF GRACE, AND OUR ENGAGEMENT TO BE THE LORD'S.

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## KNOW

Baptism is the start of the Christian Journey. It stamps us as God's people and sets us out on the road of discipleship with Jesus. In the Old Testament, God gave a sign called "circumcision" to mark out his people. In the New Testament, Jesus and the Apostles established baptism in its place. Circumcision involved blood. It was a symbol of cutting away all that was unclean, a picture of what God does to our hearts. Now Baptism is conducted with water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is a bloodless symbol because Jesus has spilled his blood on the cross! It also represents the washing we receive in him, and the outpouring of his Holy Spirit.

Let's look at how baptism and circumcision are similar and how they are different.

READ GENESIS 17:1-14 AND ACTS 2:29-41. FILL OUT THE CHART BELOW

	Circumcision	Baptism
Who makes the promise?		
Who receives the sign?		

What similarities do you notice?

READ GENESIS 17:9-14 AND ACTS 8:36-38. FILL OUT THE CHART BELOW

	Circumcision	Baptism
Blood or water?		
Who receives the sign? (i.e. from what nation?)		

What differences do you notice?

Read these passages from the Old Testament and draw a picture of what they symbolize:

ISAIAH 44:1-5

JOEL 2:28-29

## GROW

Read these passages from the New Testament and draw a picture of what they symbolize:

ROMANS 6:1-11

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13-14

Think about the last time you saw someone baptized. What happened? Describe the process here:

How did it make you feel?

If you have been baptized, did it make you think of your own baptism? Why or why not?

If you have not been baptized, did it cause you to feel like you would like to be baptized? Why or why not?

## WORSHIP

Listen to [this song](#), by Michael Card. Do you recognize it?

### Jesus, Let Us Come to Know You

Michael Card

1. Je - sus, let us come to know You; let us see You  
2. Je - sus, draw us ev - er near - er, hold us in Your

face to face. Touch us, hold us, use us,  
lov - ing arms. Wrap us in Your gen - tle

mold us, on - ly let us live in You.  
pres - ence, and when the end comes bring us home.

Do you think it is helpful to sing a song we can recognize every time someone is baptized in our church? Why or why not?

There are two verses to this song. They are a prayer for Jesus to draw us near and keep us near, two things baptism points to. Based on what you have learned in this session, can you write a third verse of your own?

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

18

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 96.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A SACRAMENT, WHEREIN, BY GIVING AND RECEIVING BREAD AND WINE ACCORDING TO CHRIST'S APPOINTMENT, HIS DEATH IS SHOWED FORTH; AND THE WORTHY RECEIVERS ARE, NOT AFTER A CORPORAL AND CARNAL MANNER, BUT BY FAITH, MADE PARTAKERS OF HIS BODY AND BLOOD, WITH ALL HIS BENEFITS, TO THEIR SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT AND GROWTH IN GRACE.

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## KNOW

The second (and final) sacrament of the New Testament is The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a picture—a visible sign—that points us to the building blocks of the Gospel. It includes two things we can taste and touch: bread, representing Jesus' body broken for us, and wine, representing Jesus' blood poured out for us on the cross. It is a meal for Christians, members of Jesus' body, to enjoy together as we remember him, meet with him, and look forward to his return.

Read the following passages of Scripture and record any words or phrases that you see repeated.

Matthew 26:26-29, Luke 22:14-23, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Talk with your teachers about what these words and phrases mean. Write down any questions you have!

Just like Baptism, The Lord's Supper was foreshadowed in the Old Testament by another celebration—Passover.

Let's watch [this video](#) about the story of Exodus. Write down any similarities you hear between the Passover and the Lord's Supper.

Talk with your teachers about what these similarities mean. Write down any questions you have.

## GROW

The Lord's Supper is also about Christ's presence with his people in a special way. When Jesus said "this is my body," he did not mean that the bread magically turns into his physical body, or that the wine turns into his physical blood. Instead, he meant that his body and blood are offered to us by faith, and that he is present with us spiritually, really, and truly! He meets with us at his table, strengthens our faith, and gives us spiritual food for the journey with him.

Have someone read the following out loud, from the Heidelberg Catechism:

Q. How does the holy supper remind and assure you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all his benefits?

*A. In this way: Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in remembrance of him. With this command come these promises:*

*First, as surely as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup shared with me, so surely his body was offered and broken for me and his blood poured out for me on the cross.*

*Second, as surely as I receive from the hand of the one who serves, and taste with my mouth the bread and cup of the Lord, given me as sure signs of Christ's body and blood, so surely he nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life with his crucified body and poured-out blood.*

Now look at, touch, and smell the bread and wine your teachers have provided. We are not going to taste today, but we are going to observe with our other senses.

Now, underline words from the catechism above that talk about our senses. Why do you think it is important that Jesus gives us a sign like this that we can sense (taste, smell, touch)?

## WORSHIP

Take your booklet into worship and observe everything that happens while we partake of the Lord's Supper. Write down any sights, sounds, or smells that you notice. How do these things make you feel?

Also pay attention to the people who are coming to the table. How does it make you feel to know that they are part of your family (the Lord's Supper is a family meal!)?

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

19

NEW CITY CATECHISM, Q. 48.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

A COMMUNITY ELECTED FOR ETERNAL LIFE AND UNITED BY FAITH, WHO LOVE, FOLLOW, LEARN FROM, AND WORSHIP  
GOD TOGETHER.

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## KNOW

When God saves his people, he saves them into a community called the church. This community is committed to meeting together, worshipping Jesus together, and caring for one another on the journey of faith. The church is one of God's greatest gifts to us. Let's read some Scripture to find out why. For each passage below, record what we (the church) are called to do for one another.

ROMANS 12:10

ROMANS 15:7

GALATIANS 5:13

GALATIANS 6:2

EPHESIANS 4:32

HEBREWS 10:24-25

These passages are called the “one anothers” of Scripture, because they teach us how we are to live with our brothers and sisters in the church. How does it make you feel that God has given you a church family like this?

## GROW

Because of these truths, and so that we can be under the care of pastors and leaders God appoints, Christians take church membership vows, meaning we make promises to belong to a particular church in a particular way. We will look at those vows in the next two lessons. For now, let's think about what a vow is...

A VOW is a solemn (or important) promise. People make vows when they get married. Have you ever been to a wedding? If so, write down some of the 'vows' you remember being made:

Watch [this video](#) and answer the following questions about wedding vows.

1. In whose presence does the couple make these vows?

2. According to whose law are these vows made?

3. Fill in the blanks:

"in \_\_\_\_\_ and in health. For \_\_\_\_\_ or for \_\_\_\_\_."

4. What does it mean to make promises for when times will be hard?

5. Do you think it is important to stick with your church when times are hard? Why or why not?

# WORSHIP

This is a song our church sings each time new members join. Sing it together and discuss your favorite part of the song...

## The Church's One Foundation

Samuel J. Stone, 1866

ÀURELIA  
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

D G/D D D/A A D/F# G D/A A D

1. The church - 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,  
 4. The church shall nev - er per - ish! Her dear Lord to de - fend,  
 5. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,

[4] A/E D/F# G D/A Em D G/B A

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word:  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end;  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;

[8] D G D Bm Bm B/D# Em

from heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food;  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
 though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,  
 till with the vi - sion glo - 'rious her long - ing eyes are blest,

[12] A/C# D G D Gmaj7 Em/G G Em7 A D (Bm Bm/A G A D)

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 a - gainst or foe or trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.  
 and the great church vic - to - 'rious shall be the church at rest.

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# MEMBERSHIP VOWS, PART 1

20

NEW CITY CATECHISM, Q. 29

HOW CAN WE BE SAVED?

ONLY BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AND IN HIS SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONING DEATH ON THE CROSS.

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## KNOW

There are five church membership vows in the PCA (Presbyterian Church in America). You can divide them into two categories: 1). dependence on Jesus, and 2). dependence on His church. We will explain these things over the next two lessons, starting with dependence on Jesus.

Here is the first vow:

*Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?*

Read the following Scripture verses out loud:

Romans 3:23, Psalm 14:3, Romans 6:23

Here is the second vow:

*Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?*

Read the following Scripture verses out loud:

Romans 6:23, Romans 3:24, Galatians 2:16, Romans 10:9

Here is the third vow:

*Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?*

Read the following Scripture verses out loud:

Romans 8:9-11, Galatians 5:18-24, John 14:15-17

## GROW

Based on your study above, take some time to rewrite these three vows in your own words:

Vow #1:

Vow #2:

Vow #3:

# WORSHIP

You may recognize this song from worship. Sing it together, and read the lyrics carefully. Note which themes from this song you have studied this week.

## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Edward Mote, 1834

SOLID ROCK L.M.REF.  
William B. Bradbury, 1863

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and  
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -  
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the  
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

4  
 righ - teous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but  
 - chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my  
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he  
 him be found; dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

7  
 Bb C F Refrain Bb  
 whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all  
 then is all my hope and stay.  
 - less to stand be - fore the throne.

11  
 F C F Bb F C7 F  
 oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

## MEMBERSHIP VOWS, PART 2

21

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 26

HOW DOES CHRIST EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF A KING?

CHRIST EXECUTES THE OFFICE OF A KING, IN SUBDUING US TO HIMSELF, IN RULING AND DEFENDING US, AND IN RESTRAINING AND CONQUERING ALL HIS AND OUR ENEMIES.

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### KNOW

In this lesson, we will take about the last two membership vows, which focus on dependence on Jesus' church.

Here is the fourth membership vow:

*Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?*

Read the following Scriptures out loud:

Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Here is the fifth vow:

*Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?*

Read the following Scriptures out loud:

Hebrews 13:7, James 5:14, 1 Peter 5:5

GROW

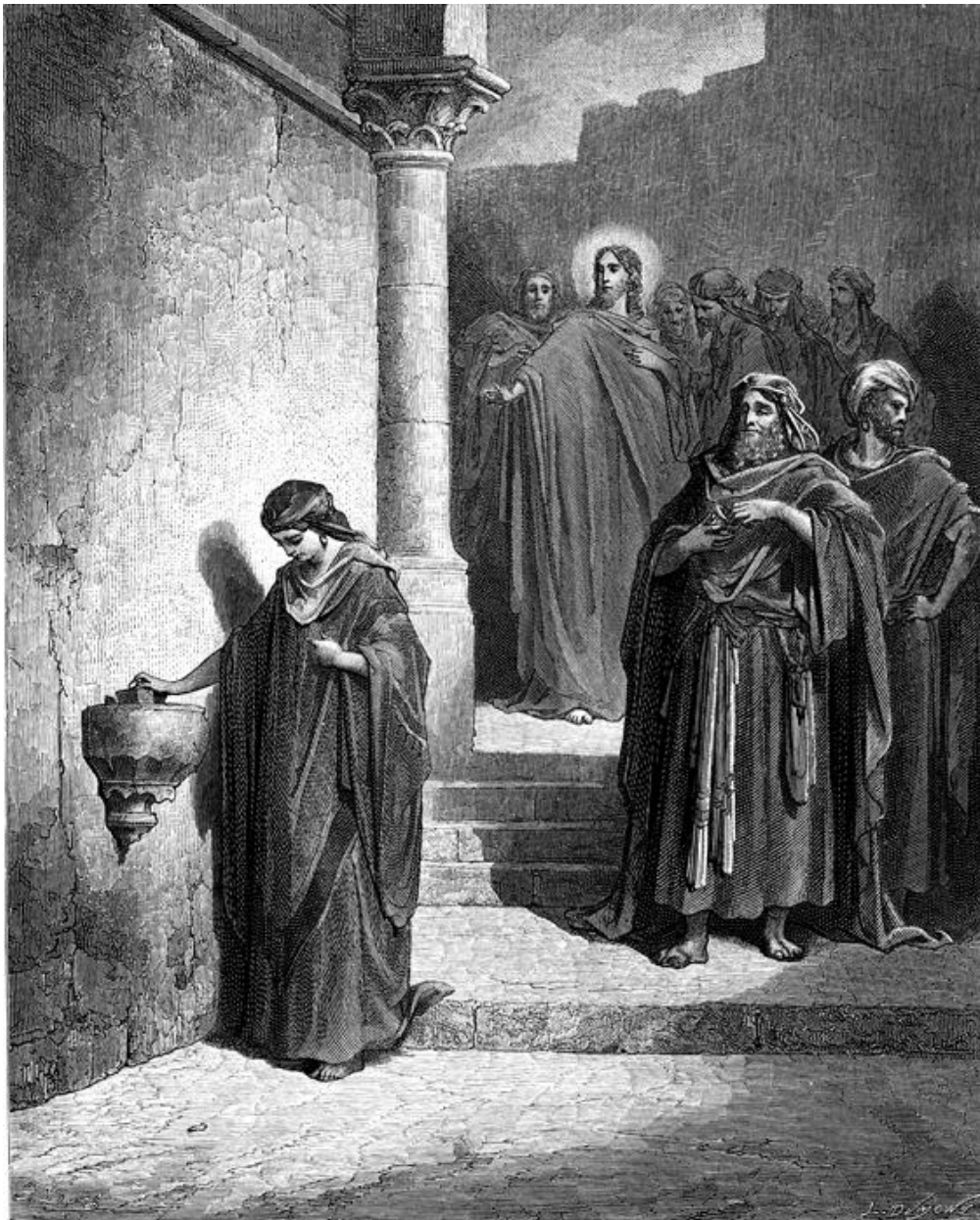
Based on your study above, take some time to rewrite these two vows in your own words:

Vow #4:

Vow #5:

## WORSHIP

This illustration by Gustave Dore (1832-1883) shows the story of the “widow’s mite” from Mark 12, where Jesus points out the significance of an offering given by this poor, humble woman. Notice that her head is humbly bowed, in contrast to the proud, rich men behind her. We are all called to give what we have to Jesus, who has given everything for us! At New St. Peter’s, we regularly collect tithes and offerings, which support the ministries of the church and of missionaries around the world, and we also collect alms, which help provide for those in need in our church and communities.



## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHAT IS CHURCH TRADITION?

22

CATECHISM, Q. 88

WHAT ARE THE ORDINARY, EXTERNAL WAYS CHRIST USES TO BRING US THE BENEFITS OF REDEMPTION?

THE ORDINARY, EXTERNAL WAYS CHRIST USES TO BRING US THE BENEFITS OF REDEMPTION ARE HIS REGULATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE WORD, SACRAMENTS, AND PRAYER, ALL OF WHICH ARE MADE EFFECTIVE FOR THE SALVATION OF HIS CHOSEN ONES.

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## KNOW

Does your family have any Christmas traditions that you do every year together? Some of our family Christmas traditions are baking ginger molasses cookies together and going with friends to look at Christmas lights. Just like our family traditions, the church has traditions that we do together. These church traditions have been passed down for many, many years. Church tradition refers to the beliefs, teachings, and practices that have been passed down through the history of the Christian church. It includes the ways in which Christians have understood and lived out our faith, alongside Scripture. Church tradition helps us to interpret and apply biblical truths, shaping our worship, beliefs, and Christian life. Presbyterian church traditions are rooted in what we call Reformed theology that came out of the Reformation, and emphasize the authority of Scripture, the sovereignty of God, and a structured, elder-led church government.

Here are some of the different church traditions we observe here at New St. Peter's...

## WORSHIP

Our worship services are simple and worshipful. We have an emphasis on preaching, prayer, and singing through hymns and Psalms.

We use liturgy, or the words, songs, and actions, to help guide our worship service. We have an established order of our worship service that includes hymns, prayers, scripture reading, confession of sin, assurance of pardon, sermon, and communion. All of these things connect us to the church from its earliest days and all around the world!

## SACRAMENTS

We observe two sacraments: baptism and The Lord's Supper or communion.

We practice covenant baptism as a sign and seal of God placing us into his family.

We practice The Lord's Supper weekly as a congregation to remember and be nourished by the sacrifice of Christ.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Like many Christians around the world, we observe some elements of the traditional church calendar, or what some also call the liturgical calendar. This can help us to remember significant events in the life of Jesus and the Church throughout the year. These events can help to guide our worship, readings, and celebrations, helping us to reflect on these events through the year. Some of the celebrations and events we take part in are:

Advent- the start of the liturgical year and helps us to anticipate Christmas, just like those before us anticipated the birth of Jesus.

Christmas- Celebrates the birth of Jesus

Lent- a 40-day period of reflection leading up to Easter

Maundy Thursday- the Thursday before Easter where we remember that Jesus introduced us to the Lord's Supper through his Last Supper with his disciples and gave them a new commandment, love one another as he has loved them.

Easter- We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. He is risen, He is risen indeed!

## CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Different “traditions” or branches of the church have different forms of church government. Our church is governed by several elders that we as a congregation elect. They help to serve our church by leading and guiding us. Our denomination (the group of other churches we are connected to) is organized in three tiers:

Session- our church’s elders

Presbytery- our region’s gathering churches

General Assembly- the national governing body of church

## GROW

The Church has its own set of traditions that have been practiced for many years. These include specific ways we worship and practices that help us connect to our faith. By following these traditions, we connect with the historical church, interpret and apply biblical truths, and shape our communal and individual Christian lives. Let's go through the traditions we have here at New St. Peters. Write a sentence or two or draw a picture to explain what is involved with each church tradition.

### WORSHIP

### SACRAMENTS

### CHURCH CALENDAR

### CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Why might these traditions be important to our faith?

## WORSHIP

Just like our family traditions are done together, our church traditions are done with our church family. Talk through these church traditions with your parents. Ask your parents how these church traditions affect their faith. How do they affect your faith? Write or draw a picture about how these traditions that we observe with our church family encourage you and help you connect more with your faith.

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHAT WAS THE REFORMATION?

23

## CATECHISM, Q. 33

### WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?

JUSTIFICATION IS THE ACT OF GOD'S FREE GRACE BY WHICH HE PARDONS ALL OUR SINS AND ACCEPTS US AS RIGHTEOUS IN HIS SIGHT. HE DOES SO ONLY BECAUSE HE COUNTS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST AS OURS. JUSTIFICATION IS RECEIVED BY FAITH ALONE.

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## KNOW

### HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION

The Reformation was a movement that began when Martin Luther, a priest in Germany, challenged the teachings of the Catholic Church. At that time, the Church taught that people could buy indulgences, which were letters from the pope promising forgiveness of their sins and less time in purgatory. A preacher named Tetzel convinced many that purchasing indulgences would help them or their loved ones reach heaven faster. But when Luther read the Bible for himself, God helped him discover the truth—salvation is not something we can buy or earn; it is a free gift from God through faith in Jesus Christ. Saddened by the false teachings, Luther wanted to help his congregation see that only faith in Christ makes sinners right with God. On October 31, 1517, he wrote 95 Theses (or reasons), listing his objections to indulgences, and nailed them to the door of Castle Church, hoping to start a discussion.

Instead, his words spread across Europe, sparking a movement to reform the church. The pope excommunicated Luther, and church leaders demanded that he take back his teachings, but he refused, saying that only Scripture could prove him wrong. The Reformation was not just about challenging church traditions—it was about restoring the good news of the gospel, that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

The reformation was a movement to bring the church back to some of the gospel truths. Martin Luther and some of the other church leaders across Europe, called Reformers, came up with five easy ways to understand the Gospel and remind everyone of the truth in the Bible. These are known as the 5 Solas, sola meaning “only” in Latin. Let’s look at the 5 Solas.

## THE FIVE SOLAS

Sola Scriptura	Only the Scripture	The Bible is the only authority. It is God’s word and it contains all we need to know about God, salvation, and how we should live
Solus Christus	Only Christ	Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. There is no other way to be saved
Sola Gratia	Only Grace	God has provided salvation for us even though we do not deserve it. He has chosen to provide it because he loves us.
Sola Fide	Only Faith	God gives us the faith we need to believe in Jesus Christ. We can only be saved through faith. Nothing we try to do to please God will save us.
Soli Deo Gloria	Only for God’s Glory	The reason for our salvation is to live a godly life that brings glory to God.

## GROW

These five solas were passed down through the years and are still used in reformed churches today. Many churches during the reformation and even today teach these to help people understand that salvation is completely God's work and that we should trust in His word and His promises. We are going to take time to reflect on each of the 5 Solas. Under each Sola write a sentence in your own words or draw a picture to represent each one.

SOLA SCRIPTURA- ONLY SCRIPTURE

SOLUS CHRISTUS- ONLY CHRIST

SOLA GRATIA- ONLY GRACE

SOLA FIDE- ONLY FAITH

SOLI DEO GLORIA- ONLY FOR GOD'S GLORY

Which of the 5 Solas sticks out to you? Why? How does it help you trust in God more?

## WORSHIP

Martin Luther wrote a hymn during the Reformation that became what some called the “battle hymn of the Reformation.” Creating change in the church was not an easy feat, many of the churches and people who joined in on the Reformation were persecuted for their faith. There was suffering, hardships, and even war that many endured during this time. The hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” was encouragement to those who were enduring such things. Listen to the hymn. How would this hymn encourage those going through a difficult suffering? How does it encourage you?

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHAT ARE CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS?

24

NEW CITY CATECHISM, Q.1

Q: WHAT IS OUR ONLY HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH?

THAT WE ARE NOT OUR OWN BUT BELONG TO GOD

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## KNOW

Creeds and confessions are used in our church and churches around the world to help remind us of Biblical truths. They are summaries of what Christians believe, based on Scripture, and passed down through history to guide the church. Both creeds and confessions are used in worship, teaching, and preaching to remind believers of God's truth. Let's take a look at the differences between the two.

## WHAT IS A CREED?

A creed is a statement that explains what Christians believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible. In the early church they did not have access to the Bible. It was easy for false teachings, or heresy, to be taught to new believers. Church leaders would come together to discuss the wrong teachings and create creeds that clearly explain what the Bible says. Creeds were short so that it would be easy to memorize these Gospel truths. They were written to teach new believers Biblical truths and remind mature believers about what they believe. One creed that we use in our church is the Apostles Creed. Let's read through it together.

The Apostles Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the  
Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

This creed was written by church leaders in the early church to help teach new converts about what they believe. Every part of the creed is based on God's Word. We read through the Apostles Creed almost weekly as a congregation to help remind us about what we believe. How does this creed encourage you and remind you about the Christian beliefs?

## WHAT IS A CONFESSION?

Confessions are much longer than creeds. Creeds are used to remind believers or teach new believers about what they believe but confessions go into more detail about Christian beliefs. Churches often use confessions to teach doctrine, train leaders and help people grow in their faith. They are detailed statements about what we believe based on the Bible. They help explain important truths about God, Jesus, salvation, the church, and how we should live.

## THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION

The Westminster Confession is one that our church uses. This confession came out of the Reformation when church leaders came together in England and Scotland to help churches stay faithful to the Bible. These became a foundational document for Presbyterian churches. This confession outlined key beliefs and practices of Presbyterianism, including the importance of scripture, the sovereignty of God, and the role of elders in church governance. The Westminster Confession includes two catechisms, which are short question and answer teachings to help people learn about their faith based on the confession. In fact, the headings of each section in this workbook contains catechism questions from the Westminster Confession! Go back and look through some of the questions and answers at the top of each section. How do these catechisms help you understand your faith?

# GROW

The Westminster Confession is a very important part of the Presbyterian Church. This Confession of faith is based on the Bible because as we learned last week, the Bible is the only authority. We are going to look at the first 3 catechism questions that came out of this confession. Each answer to the questions is based on the scripture, go through each of these questions and read the verses. How is the question answered based on these verses?

Question	Answer	Scripture
Q 1. What is the chief end of man?	Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.	Psalm 86:9  1 Corinthians 10:31
Q 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?	The word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.	Luke 24:27  Deuteronomy 4:2
Q 3. What do the scriptures principally teach?	The scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.	John 5:39  Deuteronomy 10:12-13

## WORSHIP

The Apostles Creed and Westminster Confession are both important documents that we use in our own church services. Bring your workbook into the church service with you. Listen as we go through the liturgy: liturgy of the word, confession of faith, assurance of pardon, invitation to the table. Our pastors and liturgists often use the Westminster Confession of Faith when writing our liturgy. Write down phrases that you hear that help you in your own faith. Talk with a pastor or liturgist after the service and ask if any of the liturgy written for today's service was written using the Westminster Confession.

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHAT IS A PRESBYTERIAN?

25

## ECCLESIA REFORMATA, SEMPER REFORMANDA (THE CHURCH REFORMED AND ALWAYS REFORMING)

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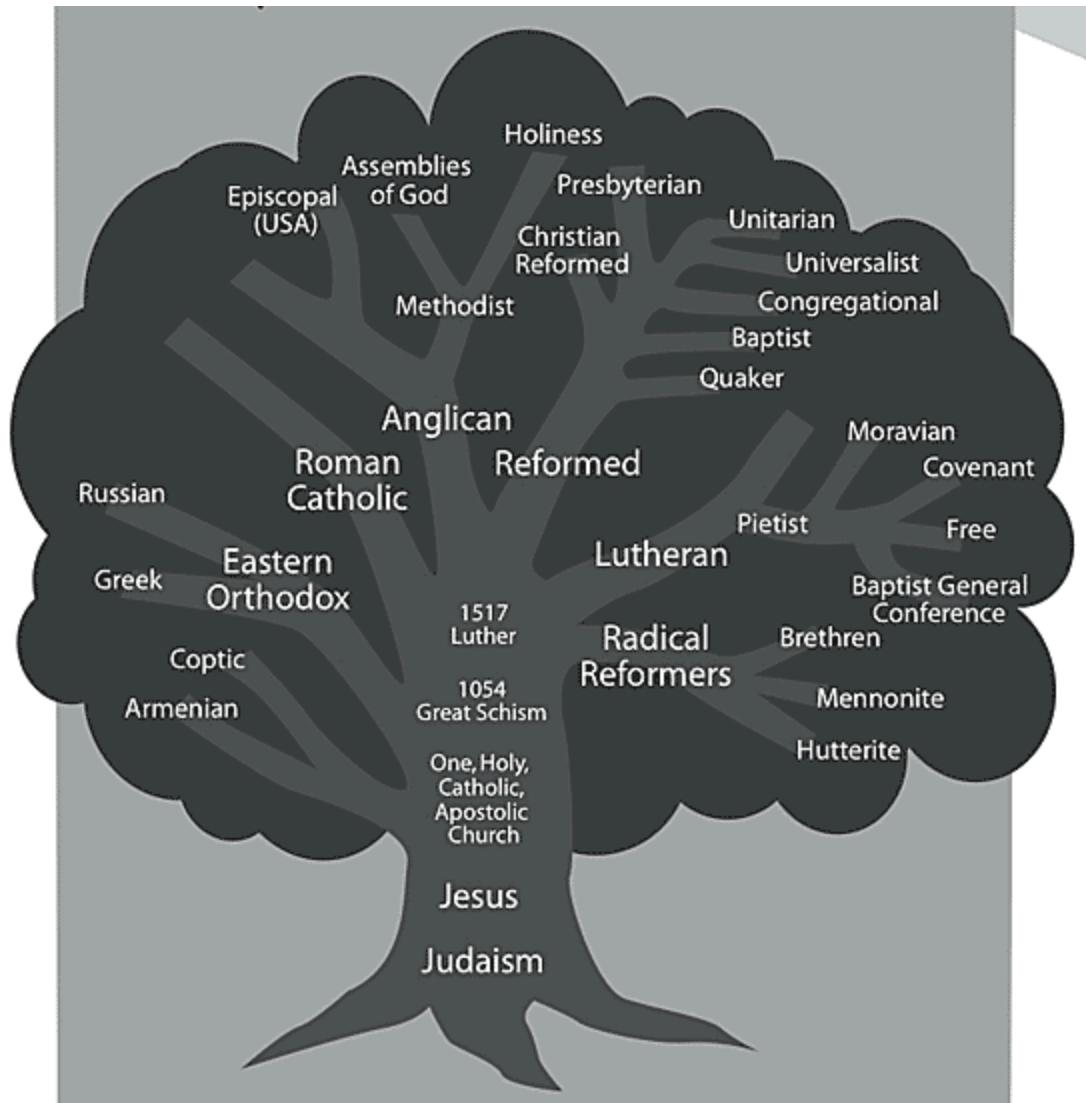
### KNOW

Think about a forest with thousands of trees, and in that forest, a single tree with its own branches and leaves. Each leaf is part of a tree, and each tree is part of the forest.

Our church, New St. Peter's, is like one of those leaves. We are part of a larger tree- a family of churches called the PCA (Presbyterian Church in America). And the PCA is part of an even bigger forest, a worldwide family of churches and denominations that follow the Presbyterian tradition.

When people at New St. Peter's talk about being "Presbyterian," they might be talking about the leaf (our church), the tree (the PCA), or the forest (Presbyterians as a whole). And so its important to know what we are talking about when we describe who we are and what we believe.

Today, we're going to take a closer look at the forest- what it means to be Presbyterian and the traditions that shape who we are as a church.



## SO WHAT EVEN IS A PRESBYTERIAN? (PREZ-BUH-TEE-RE-UHN)

The word Presbyterian comes from the Greek word *presbyteros*, which means "elder." This tells us something important: Presbyterian churches are led by elders who guide the church and make decisions. Just like the Bible talks about elders leading the early church, we believe this is how God wants churches to be led today.

## GOD'S WORD IS OUR FOUNDATION

Presbyterians believe the Bible is the most important guide for our faith and life. It tells us who God is, what He has done for us, and how we should live. Everything we believe and do as a church is based on the truths found in Scripture. When we have questions about worship, decisions, or how to live as Christians, we turn to God's Word for answers.

## GOD IS SOVEREIGN (IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING)

We believe God is completely in control of everything in the world and in our lives. Nothing happens without His knowledge and plan. This truth helps us trust Him, even when life is difficult or confusing. Knowing that God is in charge reminds us that we can depend on Him because His plans are always good and perfect.

## WE BELIEVE IN GRACE

Grace means getting something wonderful that we don't deserve. Presbyterians believe we are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus, not because of anything we can do on our own. This amazing gift from God shows His love and kindness to us. Grace is what gives us hope and brings us into a right relationship with God.

## THE SACRAMENTS

In the Presbyterian church, we believe that sacraments are special actions that God gave us to help us remember and grow closer to Him. The two sacraments we celebrate are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is a way to show that we are part of God's family, and it's a sign of God's promise to love and care for us. In the Presbyterian tradition, Baptism is administered to infants. And the Lord's Supper helps us remember Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross, and it's a way for us to remember and celebrate what He did for us. Presbyterians believe that these sacraments don't just remind us of God's love; they also help us grow in our faith as we experience them with other believers.

## HOW WE WORSHIP (DECENT AND ORDERLY)

We believe that worship should be done in a way that honors God and is respectful. This means our services are organized and thoughtful, so everyone can focus on God and learn from His Word. We follow a structure that helps us stay focused and allow space for everyone to participate in worship, whether through prayer, singing, or hearing the sermon. Having order in worship reminds us that God values both the big and small parts of our gatherings and that everything should be done in a way that brings Him glory.

## GROW

We learned about a lot of the distinctives of Presbyterianism today. Take a moment to think about which one of those distinctives is most important to you.

Write a few sentences of how you would explain this aspect of Presbyterianism to a friend or family member who might think differently than you.

LET'S DO THAT HERE...

## WORSHIP

Take this booklet into Church with you today. As we go through the liturgy think about how we are living out these distinctives in the worship service. Write down some of the ways you see our liturgy embody the distinctives of our tradition.

When we worship together at New St Peters we are also worshipping with believers all across the world from all times and ages. How does it make you feel to be part of a body of believers that large?

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

# WHAT IS THE PCA?

26

FAITHFUL TO THE SCRIPTURES, TRUE TO THE REFORMED FAITH, OBEDIENT TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

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## KNOW

Last week, we learned about what it means to be a Presbyterian. In the Presbyterian tradition, there are many different groups or smaller denominations. In the United States, some of these are the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, the Covenant Order of Presbyterian Churches, and the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), which is the denomination we belong to here at New St. Peters.

All of these denominations are like individual trees in the forest of Presbyterianism we talked about last week. They all share similar beliefs but may have different ways of understanding some of the distinctives we learned about last week. While we work with other Presbyterian denominations to promote unity in Christ, today we are going to focus on the PCA and how we live out our faith.

The PCA was started in the 1970s when some Presbyterian churches began doing things that didn't seem to follow what the Bible teaches, like allowing women to be preachers or teaching ideas that went against the Bible, such as saying God didn't create the world. A group of faithful people decided to start the PCA to offer a different approach to being Presbyterian in America. Their motto became: Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, Obedient to the Great Commission. Today, we'll explore how we live out these three principles as a denomination.

## TAKING THE BIBLE SERIOUSLY (OBEDIENT TO THE SCRIPTURES)

The PCA believes that the Bible is God's special message to us, showing us how to love Him and others. It's not just about knowing what the Bible says, but also about living it out in our daily lives. We seek to obey the Scriptures because we trust that God's way is the best, and following His teachings helps us live a life that honors Him. If there was something we wanted to do, but the Bible said that is was a sin, we would have to take the Bible at its word.

## REFORMED (TRUE TO THE REFORMED FAITH)

Being "Reformed" means that we follow the teachings that came out of the Protestant Reformation, a time in history when Christians worked to return to the Bible's true teachings. Presbyterians are Reformed because we believe in key ideas like salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, and that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and life.

## CREEDAL (TRUE TO THE REFORMED FAITH)

Creedalism is the belief that the creeds are important. The PCA is creedal because we hold to historic creeds like the Nicene Creed, the Apostles' Creed, and the Westminster Confession of Faith. These creeds summarize key beliefs about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and they help us remember the truths of the Christian faith and stay connected to Christians throughout history who have believed the same things.

## EVANGELICAL (OBEDIENT TO THE GREAT COMMISSION)

Being "evangelical" means we focus on sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Presbyterians are evangelical because we believe that everyone needs to hear about Jesus and how He saves us from our sins. We believe in the power of the Gospel to change lives, and it's important to spread this message so others can experience God's love and salvation. Being evangelical also means living out our faith by loving others and sharing the hope we have in Jesus.

## GROW

In your own words, explain what the PCA believes. You can include things like: What does "Faithful to the Scriptures" mean? What does "True to the Reformed Faith" mean? Why is it important to follow the Great Commission?

How does it make you feel to know that our church, New St. Peters, is part of a larger body of churches all over the world that are pursuing the same goals as New St. Peters.

## WORSHIP



The above image is of John and Ellen Buerger and their family. One important part of being in the PCA is being faithful to the Great Commission. And when John worked at New St. Peter's, he felt God calling him to global missions. So, being obedient to the Great Commission, John and his family joined one of the PCA's global mission ministries to plant a church in Lisbon, Portugal.

As a group, pray for missionaries like the Buergers. Pray that God would help make faithful disciples around the world, in places like Portugal, Malawi, Cambodia, and everywhere else. Write down some of your prayers here...

Think about a few ways you can help support the global church while living here in Dallas, TX.

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

## WHO IS NEW ST. PETER'S?

27

IN A CITY THAT PURSUES ARRIVAL, NEW ST. PETER'S EXISTS TO MAKE DISCIPLES BY INVITING PILGRIMS AND SKEPTICS INTO LIFE ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS.

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### KNOW

Do you know the story of Peter's Denial? Read Luke 22:31-34, 54-62. How did Peter feel after he claimed he didn't know Jesus?

Now read John 21:1-19. How do you think it made Peter feel that Jesus had breakfast with him and restored him after his denial?

Our church's name comes from this story. Have you ever felt sad about your sin, knowing that it causes grief for God, and ultimately that our sins are the reason Jesus had to die? Do you ever feel guilty when you mess up again and again? The good news is that Jesus is faithful, even when we deny him, even when we doubt, even when we run and hide! Jesus made Peter new, and he makes us new as well. Because Jesus died as if he were the worst of deniers (though he never sinned), we can cling to the hope of the cross and the restoration he promises! That is why our church logo includes a rooster holding a cross!



Our “DNA” as a church is built on four core values. These are like family traits that we try to share with everyone who is part of our community. Read each core value listed below and the Bible verses attached. Talk with your teachers about how you see these core values in the ministries of New St. Peter’s.

WORSHIP (MATTHEW 11:28-29)

CALLING (JOHN 20:21)

SUFFERING (1 CORINTHIANS 12:26, LUKE 9:22-23)

MEMBERSHIP (JOHN 17:20-21)

## GROW

We talk a lot about “life on the road with Jesus.” The painting below (*Difficult Journey* by Fritz von Uhde) shows Mary and Joseph on the road to Bethlehem. Their journey must have been hard, like so many other journeys God’s people took in the Bible. The truth is, we are all on a journey called discipleship. We are followers of Jesus, who calls us to take up our cross and follow him (Luke 9:23). This means that we leave behind other things that we are prone to worship—comfort, money, possessions, and more. It also means that we invite others on the journey with us. That is why our mission statement is:



*In a city that pursues arrival, New St. Peter's exists to make disciples by inviting pilgrims and skeptics into life on the road with Jesus.*

Write down the name of someone you would like to invite to church. Pray for that person to have the faith to follow Jesus on the journey of discipleship!

## WORSHIP

Use this page to write down some of your favorite things about our church. They could be songs we sing, your teachers in your class, friends, things we do in worship, and more! After you list them out, thank God for these good gifts!

## ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

What questions or doubts do you have about this lesson?

How do these truths make you feel?

