

# week 4

## the creed:

### i believe that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day he rose again



- Welcome (5-10 minutes)

What special things about you make you unique? In the boxes below, write a word that defines aspects of your personality, then read out your list and ask the group if they agree!

Outlook on life	Shape/size	Random fact	Interest	Fe/male
Sunny	small	Pizza-eating	hiking	man

- Worship (10-15 minutes)



**pray!**

*Up from the grave he arose  
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes!  
He arose the victor from the dark domain  
And he lives forever with his saints to reign ...  
He arose... he arose... Alleluia, Christ arose!*

- Word (50 minutes)

Resurrection is the key to understanding God's power over sin, death and hell. Jesus rises from a grave that he does not deserve and which has no hold over him. Jesus' fame grows immensely after his resurrection. As it says in Colossians; 'he is the firstborn from among the dead.' (Col 1:18 NIV)

Read the Apostles' Creed together.

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord.*

*He was conceived by the power of the  
Holy Spirit*

*and born of the Virgin Mary,  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.*

*He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.*

*He ascended into heaven,*

*and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father...*

*...He will come again to judge the living  
and the dead.*

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

- **Read the passage:**

**Jesus on the Road to Emmaus**

13 That same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a town named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.14 They were talking about everything that had happened.15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and began walking with them,16 but they were kept from recognizing him. 17 Then he said, "What are these things you are talking about while you walk?"

The two followers stopped, looking very sad. 18 The one named Cleopas answered, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know what just happened there?"

19 Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about?"

They said, "About Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet who said and did many powerful things before God and all the people. 20 Our leaders and the leading priests handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him.21 But we were hoping that he would free Israel. Besides this, it is now the third day since this happened.22 And today some women among us amazed us. Early this morning they went to the tomb,23 but they did not find his body there. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels who said that Jesus was alive!24 So some of our group went to the tomb, too. They found it just as the women said, but they did not see Jesus."

25 Then Jesus said to them, "You are foolish and slow to believe everything the prophets said. 26 They said that the Christ must suffer these things before he enters his glory." 27 Then starting with what Moses and all the prophets had said about him, Jesus began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures.

28 They came near the town of Emmaus, and Jesus acted as if he were going farther.29 But they begged him, "Stay with us, because it is late; it is almost night." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When Jesus was at the table with them, he took some bread, gave thanks, divided it, and gave it to them.31 And then, they were allowed to recognize Jesus. But when they saw who he was, he disappeared.32 They said to each other, "It felt like a fire burning in us when Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us."

33 So the two followers got up at once and went back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven apostles and others gathered.34 They were saying, "The Lord really has risen from the dead! He showed himself to Simon."

35 Then the two followers told what had happened on the road and how they recognized Jesus when he divided the bread. **Luke 24 New Century Version**

**It is not simply Jesus' death that defines who he is ... rather it is his life and death in the retrospective light of the resurrection that defines him. It is through asking the question 'why did the resurrection happen?' that we are led back to examine his life and death. The disciples who walked through Jesus' ministry alongside him would have taken each day as it came. The life of Jesus becomes remarkable as we look back at it through the lens of resurrection victory.**

- **Look at the following statements about Jesus and rank them in order of importance as they impact or influence your faith. Can your group agree on a 'top 3'? Talk about why you have come to your conclusions.**

Jesus was a good man	Jesus was a powerful miracle-worker	Jesus taught a good moral code for social justice
	Jesus healed the sick	Jesus fed the hungry
Jesus was totally sinless	Jesus championed the cause of the oppressed	
Jesus died for the sins of the world	Jesus is God Incarnate	Jesus rose from the dead

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10		



**Group Top 3**

1	2	3
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- Why is Jesus' resurrection so crucial for the Christian?

People are often defined by their memorable actions. Everybody dies, but it is unique to conquer death's hold over a dead person in a sealed tomb! Any person might be described as 'good'! Gary Lineker was known as a good footballer because of his goal-scoring abilities and also because of his 'clean' approach to the game. Jesus' goodness takes on another level in the light of the resurrection. His goodness is without limit. The sin he bears on our behalf does not taint or impact his essential character. He is proved sinless by his resurrection.

- Draw a diagram, showing what happened to Jesus and to sin after Jesus had died and was buried!

Share the insights of your doodling with the group!



- Cleopas and companion are walking along a road. Identify the part of the passage where they recognise Jesus for who he is.
- Talk about why this was the moment they recognised Jesus for who he was.

We often let unimportant things become our defining 'label'. (I'm the funny one, the one with issues about death, the late-adopter, the musical one, the shy one, the not-very-bright one, the geeky one, the sporty one, the grumpy one, the cynical one, the one who sits on the fence, the computer nerd etc).

These can often mask our true definition. Our important characteristic is who we discover ourselves to be in Christ.

**pray**

- Take a moment to hand over to God your humanly ascribed definitions and ask him to remind you of who you are in his sight.

Many people walk alongside Jesus for years without recognising the truth of who he is. He is often unnoticed in the middle of a crowd, spoken of but still an unacknowledged presence.

- Share how you each discovered the hope of resurrection power. What was the defining moment that led you to understand who Jesus is?

- Read verse 32 again. Pray for each other to experience the 'fire' of excitement and power that comes from being in such close proximity to Jesus and the living power of his words.

**pray!**

- **Witness (20 – 25 minutes)**

This is Cleopas and his companion's testimony. It describes the way they came to faith.

Work out how you would tell your story to a colleague or non-Christian friend. Try it out in the group.

**pray!**

Pray for opportunities to share your faith over the coming weeks.

- **Time for refreshments, you've earned them!**

**Bibliography**

Derek Tidball, *The Message of the Cross*, BST, IVP, 2001  
 Michael Wilcock, *The Message of Luke*, BST, IVP, 1979

