

I Believe in the Son's Life and Death

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith. Our beliefs about his life and his death set us apart from all other religions. The Apostles' Creed summarizes everything the four New Testament gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—tell us about Jesus' life and death in just a few short statements: “who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontious Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell.” Let's examine the scriptures that support these statements so that we might better understand the gift God has given us in Jesus Christ and appreciate the crucial importance of these beliefs for our faith.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What aspect of Christ's birth, life, or death do you find most striking?
- Why do you think the Apostles' Creed articulates our beliefs in Jesus' conception, birth, trial, crucifixion, death, and burial, but NOT his public ministry?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*I Believe in the Son's Life and Death*](#)

READ [Luke 1:26-35](#), [Matthew 27:11-26](#), [Luke 23:44-46](#), [1 Peter 3:18-20](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- As host Scott Hoezee closes segment 1, he notes that the miracle of Christ's conception and birth “shows how determined God was to save us. God knew that we were never going to get saved from the inside of just humanity...A miracle was needed from the outside to jumpstart salvation, and that is what he did; he gave us this miracle child, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.” Reflect on this statement. What does this highlight about God and his love for you?
- What stories and teachings from Jesus' earthly ministry have impacted you the most? With those in mind, take the challenge Scott gave his Sunday School class: “if you had to come up with a line...a short, pithy line, to add to the Apostles' Creed to cover the ministry, what would it be?”
- In segment 2, Scott and host Dave Bast discuss how we often focus on the physical suffering Jesus Christ endured through his death by crucifixion, but we aren't always cognizant of the life-long suffering and immense weight of spiritual suffering Christ bore on the cross. Has this been true in your experience? Why is it important for us to intentionally remember and reflect on the suffering Christ endured?
- Why is it possible for us to believe that Jesus “descended into hell,” even if there are different interpretations of precisely what that means?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 1:20-21](#), [Philippians 2:1-11](#), [Isaiah 53:4-6](#), [Ephesians 4:7-10](#)

CONCLUSION

Reciting and remembering what we believe the Bible teaches about Jesus' life and death helps us never take for granted God's gift of salvation or its great cost. Write a prayer, a song, a poem, or draw a picture as a way of reciting and remembering again what you believe about Jesus Christ's life and death.

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