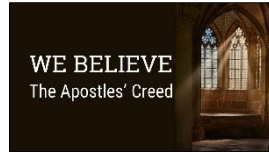


## God the Son, Ascended

Acts 2:22-36

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### NOTES

#### Apostles' Creed

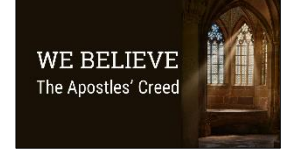
We believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

We 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. Amen.

## God the Son, Ascended

Acts 2:22-36

Suggested Questions for Individual Study or Group Discussion\*



- What affirmation in the Apostles' Creed seems to be a common sticking point for people? The virgin birth? The descent into hell? The holy catholic church? The resurrection of the body? Why do you think people get tripped up on some things more than other doctrinal claims in the creed?
- Does mention of hell make you squeamish? What have been some of the formative images or metaphors for "the realm of the dead" in your upbringing? How do you interpret 1 Peter 3:18-19?
- Read Acts 2:22-36. Also read Psalm 16 and 110. Why do you think Peter included David's psalms in his sermon on Pentecost? What is the difference between the affirmation that "Jesus descended into hell (Hades)" and the promise that Peter interprets as being true for Jesus and being fulfilled in Jesus that "you will not abandon my soul to Hades"?
- What does it mean that Jesus, who was crucified, is made both Lord and Messiah? (Acts 2:36)
- In Acts 2:33, Peter declares that Jesus is "exalted at the right hand of God." Do you think God's exaltation of Jesus happened primarily in the resurrection or is this a reference to Jesus' ascension into heaven?
- What comfort can be drawn from affirming that "he ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty"? Spend some time visualizing Jesus praying for you and for the world he so loves. What is his intercession sound like today? Then, spend some time giving thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is our Advocate and the one who is given to us after Jesus' ascension.

\*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.