



THE NICENE CREED

c.325 AD

CHECK-IN & CHECK-UP

// CHECK-IN

:: Everyone take a minute or two to share how they've been since the last time you met.

// CHECK-UP

:: Do a spiritual check-up. *How's your bible-reading, prayer, church attendance? In what ways do you feel encouraged/discouraged? Where do you see evidence of the Spirit's work in your own life?*

• SEMESTER II • SESSION III •
CHRIST IS ASCENDED

*“...[He] ascended into heaven, and sits
at the right hand of the Father...”*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith. It supports the validity of the Apostle's preaching and witness. If Christ was not raised, then Christian preaching is pointless and Christian faith is futile. It means Jesus was merely a religious figure, but not the divine Son of God. The Apostle Paul argues that without the resurrection, believers are still in their sins and have no hope for the afterlife.

So the resurrection is central. We explored six effects of the resurrection of Christ. **First**, the resurrection proved the divinity of Christ. On the basis of His resurrection, He claims the power over life and death and authority to reform worship of Yahweh. **Second**, Jesus' death and resurrection have revealed that He is Lord over all and worthy of the praise of all. **Third**, the resurrection secures the forgiveness of sins and justification of the saints. **Fourth**, Peter says it secures the new birth (1Peter 1:3). **Fifth**, the resurrection empowers the Christian life, providing victory over sin and enabling believers to overcome temptation. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to the believer, guaranteeing final victory over temptation and sin. **Sixth**, the resurrection of Christ secures His people's future glorification. The Bible calls refers to the resurrection of Christ as the firstfruits. What is true of Him is true of His people. All believers are guaranteed transformed bodies like His glorious body in the New Heavens and New Earth.

The resurrection is the central event of the Christian faith, encapsulating and validating the truth of the entire body of Christian doctrine.

REVIEW

• SEMESTER II • SESSION III •
CHRIST IS ASCENDED

*“...[He] ascended into heaven, and sits
at the right hand of the Father...”*

READ TOGETHER:

Acts 1:9-11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What does it mean that the ascension of Jesus was a physical, bodily event—and why is that important for our faith today?

How does Christ’s session (His being seated at the right hand of the Father) fulfill Old Testament imagery of kingship and priesthood?

Ephesians 2:6 says the saints are “**seated in heavenly places**” with Christ. What does this mean? What are the implications for our lives? (Hint: Read Eph 2:1-7)

READ TOGETHER:

Ephesians 1:19-22 and Philippians 2:9-11

How does Ephesians 1:19-22 challenge or strengthen your view of earthly rulers and spiritual warfare?

How does the Lord’s example described in Philippians 2:9-11, of humility leading to glory, influence how we think about setbacks, loss, and marginalization of Christians?

CHRIST-FORMING DISCIPLESHIP

// GETTING TO CHRIST

Why does the humanity of Christ in heaven matter for us when we suffer or pray?

How does Christ's heavenly intercession give you confidence in your salvation and daily walk with God?

// GETTING TO ME

Jesus said it is before that He goes away. How is this possible? Explain the role of the Spirit in Christ's physical absence on earth.

In what ways can the ascension and exaltation of Christ encourage boldness in evangelism and global missions?

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

