

# CREDO *This I Believe*

WEEK 3 | MAY 17

*I believe in power on high*

## RECEIVE

- Prayerfully recite the Apostles' Creed (see page two).
- Focus Section: **He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**
- Read Acts 1:1–11 and Hebrews 7:23–28

## REFLECT

- What stirs in you (questions, doubts, fears, excitement, etc.) as you recite this section of the Apostles' Creed?
- In what situations have you thought it would be easier to follow Jesus if you could just see Him physically?
- What do you imagine was going on in the disciples' mind in Acts 1? What emotions do you imagine—confusion, fear or excitement? Why?
- What do you think is implied by "seated at the right hand of the Father"? Why is that important? How does Hebrews 7:23–28 shape your reflections?
- How does reflecting on Hebrews 7:23–28 give you hope and confidence in your relationship with Jesus?
- On your behalf, at the right hand of the Father, now and forever—until the end of the age—what comes up in you as you contemplate this? What do you feel? How can this affect the everyday moments of your life?

## ACTS 1:1–11 | JESUS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN

In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. After His suffering, He presented Himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then they gathered around Him and asked Him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

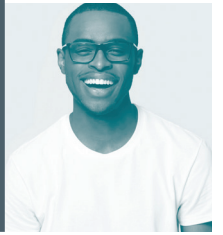
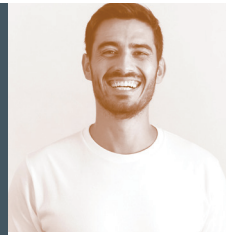
After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."

## HEBREWS 7:23–28

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.



## RESPOND

- Follow in the way of Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to whom you can bring before God. Send that person God gives you a card in the mail letting them know (maybe anonymously) that God sees and loves them and someone is praying for them. Share the names and stories with your small group to celebrate and look for God's active presence in their lives.
- Over the next week, at the end of each day, look back and examine the places where "power on high" may have been at work. Simply put, "where did you see God?" And—give thanks for that.
- If you are doing this as a small group or as a family, share with each other the ways you have seen "power on high" at work in the everyday moments of your life. If you haven't seen God at work lately or "can't" for whatever reason, talk about that as well.

## RESOURCES

(for personal and group study)

- *My Utmost for His Highest*, by Oswald Chambers
- *Practicing the Presence of Christ*, by Brother Lawrence
- [Bible Project Podcast](#) on the significance of the ascension of Jesus.

## RECALL

- Work on memorizing the Apostles' Creed this week by **erasing one word at a time**. Grab a dry erase marker board or write on your bathroom mirror with a dry erase marker the Apostles' Creed. Each day, as you are getting ready, erase one word or phrase and continue to recite the Creed as you get ready.

## The Apostles' CREED

*I believe* in God the Father Almighty,  
 Maker of heaven and earth,  
 and in Jesus Christ,  
 His only begotten Son, our Lord.

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 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 is seated at the right hand  
 of God the Father Almighty.  
 From there He shall come  
 to judge the living and the dead.

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

Amen.