



**For Us and For Our Salvation, Jesus
Various Verses**

*These questions are provided to lead the group in **applying** the teaching from Sunday. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in being a doer of God's Word. Challenge each other and be vulnerable as God works IN and THROUGH you together.*

1. How have you engaged in the **Taste & See** October spiritual practice of meditation? In what ways does meditation help you experience God and be formed by him?
2. **"For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven."** Read John 3:16-17 and Galatians 2:16. God sent his Son to save us. Why is it important to remember that Christianity begins with what God has done for us, not what we do for God?
3. **"By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man."** Read Matthew 1:18-23, John 1:14, Philippians 2:6-7, and Hebrews 4:15. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus did not remain distant but came to us? Why is it important that Jesus is both fully God and fully man? How does the incarnation – Jesus became human – help you when you experience weakness, pain, or temptation?
4. **"For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried."** Read Isaiah 53:4-5, 1 Peter 2:24, and Ephesians 1:7. What do these passages teach us about the substitutionary nature of Jesus' death on the cross and what it accomplished "for us"? Why do you think we have difficulty receiving forgiveness? Is there an area where you need to "stop paying" and simply receive God's forgiveness?
5. **"On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures."** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 17, 53-57; Psalm 16:10, and Romans 6:4. Why is the resurrection essential to Christianity? What would be different if Jesus had remained in the tomb? What promise do we have about our future resurrection? What promises do we have about our present resurrection in his life? Where do you most need resurrection life right now?
6. **"He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father."** Read Luke 24:50-51, Ephesians 1:20-22, 4:10, and Colossians 3:1. Jesus is reigning now. What kinds of circumstances cause you to forget that Jesus is on the throne? What does it mean practically that Jesus is reigning right now? What is one thing you need to surrender to Jesus' authority rather than trying to control yourself?
7. **"He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end."** Read Hebrews 9:28, Matthew 25:31-32, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Luke 1:30-33, and Revelation 11:15. What emotions do you experience when you think about Jesus returning? Why? If we genuinely believe that Jesus will return and his kingdom will finally be fully established and triumphant, how should this reality affect the way we live, spend our time, use our resources, serve other people, disciple, and share our faith?
8. The Nicene Creed tells the story of Jesus moving from heaven to earth, from the cross to the grave, from the resurrection to the throne, and ultimately to his return. Which part of that story is most meaningful to you personally? Why?
9. How can this group pray this week for our church, you, and your meditation?

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one essence with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1979.