Covenant Group and Personal Study Guide Bible Verses and Sermon Discussion for Sept. 14, 2025 Scripture Focus: Romans 10:9-10, John 20:19-31

If you weren’t able to hear the sermon on Sunday, it can be viewed on the Church’s YouTube page. Note: The New International Version (NIV) Bible, published in 2011, is utilized for this Study Guide.

Sermon Series: **Know What You Believe – We Believe in: Faith as Trust and Allegiance**

**Background**: Contrasting the faith of those who put their hope in Jesus with those who put their hope in obedience to the law, Paul teaches that Jesus is the end of the law - the one in whom true life is found, if we are willing to pay the price to follow him.

**Central Idea**: The words “We Believe In” invite us to trust more than a doctrine; they invite us into a living, trusting relationship with God himself.

1. Read Romans 10:1-4. a. Why does Paul state that zeal without knowledge is a problem?
2. What is God’s righteousness? Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Philippians 1:9-11.

c. What does it mean that Christ is the end of the Law? Read Matthew 5:17 and Romans 6:8-14.

d. How does the concept of salvation being open to all prompt your understanding of God's character?

1. Read Romans 10:9-10. Consider the following questions, then write the declaration in your own words. What two things are necessary according to this verse to be saved? Why confess? Does a confession guarantee true belief? What does the phrase “as Lord” mean?
2. Read John 20:19-31. This passage gives expression, not just to each of our personal faith, but to the faith of the Church as a community.

a. What is probably a good object lesson we can learn from the fact that Thomas was not with the other disciples when they met on the evening of Resurrection Day? What did Thomas miss by sacrificing fellowship with his spiritual family?

1. How might this lesson be applied to our personal need for Church fellowship and the times we sacrifice it?

Note the critical first three words in the Nicene Creed and in each stanza of the Creed.

* We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty
* We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ
* We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life
* We believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

1. Application. Take an inventory of your faith. How are you living differently because you are following Jesus as Lord? (Hint: look at the way you use your time and money. Consider your relationships and priorities. What would others say marks your life?)

See flip side for the Nicene Creed.

Ways for making the most of this Study Series:

* Memorize the Creed, so that you can meditate on it.
* Get the Book “What is a Christian, Anyway?” and read along.
* Join a group when they are offered.
* Use the Creed to look for ways to stand together as followers of Jesus

and apart from those who only claim to follow Jesus.

**Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

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 Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us men 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 worshipped 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.