

April 02 | Sunday

Creed: What Christians Believe and Why

Read [Luke 7:36-50](#)



03 | Mon – “I believe in the forgiveness of sin...” | Read [Matthew 5:48](#)

Sin - such a loaded word. The original word literally meant “to miss the mark.” That does sound a little less guilt-laden but what is the mark we all need to be aiming for? It is the perfection and holiness of God’s character. Sin is more than just making mistakes. This is the way one catechism defines sin: *when I tell God “NO!”* Have you ever told God “No, I don’t want to so I *won’t*” or “Yes, I *will* because I want to, even though I know it is wrong”? If so, welcome to the human race - all of us need forgiveness.

04 | Tue – It all started when... | Read [Genesis 2:15-17](#) and [3:1-6](#)

Every Sunday school child has heard the story. Adam and Eve were given everything they could ever need or want. But the Intruder suggested otherwise. His question “*Did God really say...?*” implied that God was holding out on them, denying them something good because God was selfish. Ultimately they decided that God was not to be trusted and took matters into their own hands. Has this ever happen to you?

05 | Wed – Forgiveness needed | Read [1 John 1:9](#)

There is something about sin that always results in damage to relationships. Our willful choices change the way we look at God, often wanting to stay away from Him. What is the solution? Could it be as simple as **agreeing with God** (yes, I did _____), being **repentant** (I am so sorry for _____) and **asking** (will you forgive me for _____?) You might want to try this approach when you need forgiveness from people too.

06 | Thu – Forgiving others | Read [Matthew 6:14-15](#) and [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

Jesus was very clear about the impact on our relationship with God when we choose not to forgive others. Is it because we are placing ourselves in God’s chair when we say we cannot or will not forgive? It is always a choice. Have you experienced the great freedom that comes from choosing to forgive someone else, even when they don’t really deserve it?

07 | Fri – Forgiving yourself | Read [Romans 12:3](#)

Conscientious people do try to live up to a high standard so it can come as quite a shock, at times, when we realize we are not as good a person as we thought we were. Is that why God lets us fail, to remind us how much we need God’s grace and help? If you believe that God can forgive you but you can’t seem to forgive yourself, isn’t that putting your Self a step above the sovereign Lord of the universe?

08 | Sat – Why does it matter? | Read [John 3:16](#) and [Romans 5:8](#)

In many religions, it is a common belief that people are flawed and need to become perfect so their god or gods will accept them. Many spend their whole lives trying to become good enough, but are never quite sure if they have succeeded. Jesus taught that we will never be good enough but God loved people so much He provided a way to satisfy the requirement of the moral law so that we would no longer be separated from Him. Forgiveness can never be earned but it can be received. If you believe that, how will it affect your life today?