

# We believe...

THE CREED OF THE NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH

**APRIL 2020**

**Session 1: Holy Communion**

**Session 2: On the night of His betrayal**

**Session 3: Finding forgiveness**

**Session 4: The meals of Holy Communion**



**Facilitators:** Please remember to report your small group attendance to the appropriate person in your congregation. **If you're interested in being able to text in your attendance, talk to your rector about the Text2Voucher option.** For any additional questions, please email [communications@nac-usa.org](mailto:communications@nac-usa.org).

If you have participants in your small group that do not attend the New Apostolic Church, please encourage them to bring their Catechism or statement of beliefs to add to the discussion.

# 2020 April MIDWEEK GUIDE

## Session 1: The Creed: Holy Communion

1. At the very end of John 17:23, Jesus says, “...and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved me.” Let that sink in for a minute. Jesus is saying that God loves us as much as He loves His Son. What’s your response to this? How does this affect the way we love one another? (nac.today articles – Let us love our neighbour as we are loved by God, Everybody should feel loved)

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2. Paul mentions in Corinthians, *Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. **But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup*** (1 Corinthians 11:27-28). When should this self-examination begin to take place? How do you examine your thoughts and actions?

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3. It’s mentioned in the video that Holy Communion commemorates our liberation from sin. What does it mean to be liberated from sin? (See John 8:31-36 and nac.today article, Four steps that lead to freedom.)

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4. Remember an experience when you particularly felt the strength that comes from partaking in Holy Communion. How did that experience make an impact on you?

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5. What do you express in your prayer after receiving the communion wafer?

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6. If you had the opportunity to explain Holy Communion to a friend or nonbeliever, how would you describe it?

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7. When you read the beliefs stated in the seventh Article of Faith, how do you respond to it? In what way does it impact your faith?

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### Bible References

1 John 3:8	John 17:22-23
1 Corinthians 11:27-28	John 8:31-36

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### Seventh Article of Faith

I believe that Holy Communion was instituted by the Lord Himself in memory of the once brought, fully valid sacrifice, and bitter suffering and death of Christ. The worthy partaking of Holy Communion establishes our fellowship with Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is celebrated with unleavened bread and wine; both must be consecrated and dispensed by a minister authorized by an Apostle.

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## Session 2: On the night of His betrayal

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1. In ancient times, the night was much more sinister than it may seem to us today. It was dark, unknown, dangerous, overwhelming. What emotions does this atmosphere add to the story of the Last Supper and Jesus' arrest?

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2. What are some things that cause you to be distracted from or even miss the true meaning of Holy Communion?

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3. *Then Satan entered Judas...* (Luke 22:3). What do you think this means? Was Judas still responsible for his actions? What happens when you try to push off responsibility for your actions on something or someone else?

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4. Judas' betrayal of Jesus was one of the ways Jesus suffered. Could this insight affect the way you receive the sacrament? If so, why?

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5. Judas, a close disciple of Jesus, betrayed Him. Slowly and steadily, he had distanced himself from the Lord and the other disciples. As His present-day disciples, how might we betray the Lord Jesus today

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6. How does reflecting upon the events leading up to Jesus' death heighten the impact when we come together to celebrate Holy Communion?

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7. Do you have a favorite Good Friday song or hymn that encapsulates some of the feelings we've talked about in this session?

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### Bible References

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1 Corinthians 11:23

Luke 22:3

John 13:21-26, 30

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## Seventh Article of Faith

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## Session 3: Forgiveness

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1. The Greek word for repentance is *metanoeo*, which can be interpreted as “rethinking” or “changing one’s direction.” Think of a time you’ve changed direction or rethought something in your life. Share with the group how you worked through that process.

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2. How does the process of repentance lead us to forgiveness?

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3. In the Lord’s Prayer, we pray, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” How can you pursue reconciliation with those who have wronged you or with those you have wronged?

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4. Is my decision to forgive someone 100% in my control? How about reconciliation?

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5. Describe the importance of the absolution. Why is it so important that we hear those words said over us?

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6. What can you learn from the stories of Peter and Judas?

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7. In some way, all the disciples abandoned Jesus during His arrest and execution. How do you think they felt when the resurrected Christ appeared to them and said, “*Peace be with you*” (John 20:19)? How do you feel when you hear those words every Sunday, “the peace of the Risen One abide with you”?

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8. Why do we continually need to have a repentant heart, even after experiencing the forgiveness of God?

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9. The video said that it is through hearing the words of the absolution that we are assured of forgiveness, love, and the peace of Christ. What other things are we assured of when we are in community with each other?

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### Bible References

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1 John 1:9  
Matthew 27:3-10

Matthew 26:69-75  
Luke 22:54-62

Romans 10:17

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## Session 4: Meals of Holy Communion

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1. Read Luke 22:14-20. What meals of Holy Communion are referenced in the institution of the Lord’s Supper?

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2. Discuss what each of the meals of Holy Communion mean:

a. What do we remember?

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b. What and whom do we profess?

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c. Who are we having fellowship with?

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d. What do we look forward to?

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3. Complete the following thought: Because Jesus shares His life with me, I can...

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4. How does the power of Holy Communion help transform us into the nature of Jesus Christ?  
What are some characteristics of His nature?

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5. How does our participation in Holy Communion unite us together as believers?

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6. One of the names of communion is “Eucharist,” a word that comes from the Greek *eucharistia*, which means, “to give thanks.” Share examples of what you are thankful for when you receive Holy Communion.

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### Bible References

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John 6:35

John 6:48-53, 56, 58

Luke 22:18-19

Exodus 16

Matthew 26:26-28

1 Corinthians 11:26

Deuteronomy 8:3

John 8:34-36

Small Group Theme for May: The Creed