

Worksheet 9
“He Was Crucified”
Reading and Worksheet

Please prayerfully and slowly read the Nicene Creed, and then watch the videos, read the article below, and answer the questions.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty ,maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

For Our Sake He Was Crucified

Why was Jesus crucified? To begin, we look at the religious leaders of His time, particularly the Pharisees and scribes. They were devoted to the Law and saw themselves as its authoritative interpreters. Yet when Jesus began teaching, He spoke with a clarity and authority that surpassed them. **He did not merely interpret the Law—He revealed its deepest meaning. This unsettled the Pharisees and scribes .**

Jesus also challenged them by His actions. He showed compassion toward sinners, eating with tax collectors and associating with those considered unclean. At the same time, He confronted pride and hypocrisy. Most striking of all, **Jesus spoke and acted with divine authority: He forgave sins and declared, “The Father and I are one.”** These were not simply bold claims—they were claims to equality with God. For many religious leaders, this crossed a line. What began as opposition grew into hostility, and eventually into a plot to have Him arrested and executed. Yet this does not fully explain the Cross.

Jesus was not a victim of circumstances. He freely chose to enter into suffering. As He Himself says, *“No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord”* (John 10:18). **To understand why, we must look deeper—into the mystery of sin.** From the beginning, humanity was created for communion with God. Yet through the disobedience of Adam and Eve, that relationship was wounded. **Sin is not simply the breaking of a rule; it is a rupture in our relationship with God.** As a result, we experience confusion, weakness, and a tendency toward sin. We struggle to hear God clearly and to choose the good consistently.

But God did not abandon us. In His love, He entered into our condition. In Jesus Christ, God took on our human nature—not to remain distant from our suffering, but to share in it fully. He embraced even death, *“death on a cross”* (Philippians 2:8), transforming it from within.

He Suffered Death and Was Buried

Why did Jesus have to die in such a painful and dramatic way? **Could God have saved us differently?**

Perhaps this story can help:

- Imagine two children who wander into a forest against their parents' instructions. At first, it is exciting—but as darkness falls, fear sets in. They realize they are lost. In the distance, they hear wolves. Then they hear a voice—it is their father. He finds them, comforts them, and assures them they are not alone. But the journey home is dangerous. He stays with them through the night, protecting them. At great cost to himself, he drives back the wolves and shows them the path to safety. In the end, he gives his life so that they may live.

This image points us toward the mystery of the Cross. **We are like those children—lost in a world darkened by sin, unable to find our way home on our own.** The dangers are real: temptation, suffering, and death. These are the “wolves” that Christ is fighting off. **Christ enters into that darkness, not from a distance, but from within it. He does not simply point the way—He *becomes* the way: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).**

Could God have saved us another way? Yes—God is all-powerful. But the **Cross reveals something essential: not just that we are saved, but how deeply we are loved.** On the Cross, we see a love that does not remain abstract or distant. It is a love willing to suffer with us and for us. **Christ's sacrifice not only redeems us—it also shows us how to live: to love sacrificially, to remain faithful in suffering, and to trust the Father even in darkness.** When we begin to grasp this, the natural response is gratitude—and a desire to follow Him. Watch this video for a short synopsis [Here](#)

He Descended into Hell

In the Apostles' Creed, we profess that Christ "descended into hell." This can be confusing. The Church does not mean the hell of eternal damnation. Rather, it refers to the **"abode of the dead"** (often called *Sheol* or *Hades*)—the state of those who had died before Christ opened the gates of heaven.

Because of sin, humanity was unable to enter into the fullness of communion with God. Even the righteous awaited redemption. Christ descended to this realm not as a victim, but as Savior. **Jesus entered even into death itself to proclaim victory and to free those who had gone before Him.** As the Catechism teaches, He opened heaven's gates for the just who had died in hope. In this way, there is no place untouched by Christ's saving presence—not even death.

Worksheet 9 Questions

If you need help answering the questions you may look at the answer sheet but please put it in your own words, and do not copy word-for-word what is on the Answer Sheet

Why did Jesus' teaching and actions provoke such strong opposition from the religious leaders?

How does understanding sin as a wounded relationship change how we view salvation?

What does the Cross reveal about the nature of God's love?

In what ways are we like the children in the forest?

How does Christ's descent into the dead deepen our understanding of His saving work?