

- What does this say about God? Does God care that things are broken? Does God want them to be broken?

- Read John 1:10-18
 - What Happened?

 - Did people accept Jesus?

 - What does it feel like to be rejected?

 - What does it mean to know God understands rejection?

- Incarnation: “Carne” in flesh. God becomes FLESH in Jesus.
- In John, we read “No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.”
- How does God choose to become human? What kind of person was Jesus? Why does it matter?
 - Jesus related to people of privilege and people who were oppressed:
 - Privilege: Man. Free, not slave. Employed/business owner. Jewish, not Samaritan.
 - Oppression: Jewish in Roman society. Poor. Palestinian. Teen mom. Radical.

- Read Luke 4: 16-21
 - What happened?

 - What did Jesus say he was coming to do?

 - Imagine somebody who grew up at North Cape came home and read this passage to the congregation and then closed the bulletin and told the church, "I'm going to do these things. Get ready".
 - Would our congregation be happy with this person?

 - What if "freeing the captives" meant people would be released from prison? What if it meant we would soon have to build relationships with people who aren't like us. Would that be easy?

- Jesus is a prophet. Depending the way things are.
- "Frustrated and Saved by Jesus"-Nadia video
- Read Philippians 2:5-11
- Questions:
 - What does it mean to be "self emptying"?

 - What does it mean to be humble?

 - How did Jesus do this?

- Why is it hard to have the same mind as in Jesus?
- Finally, Jesus is killed. He pushes the empire too far, and they are upset, they can't take it.
- Read John 20:11-18
 - Who does he appear to? Why is this worthy of noting?
 - What is resurrection? Jesus is resurrected and triumphs over the power of death and brokenness in the world. What are places of death and brokenness in the world that you hope will experience resurrection?
- Apostle's creed
 - What is a creed? A statement of belief.
 - Every week, we say the Apostle's Creed. It is how we say what we believe together in community.
 - By saying it together, we hold one another's faith and doubt. If I have trouble believing part of it, saying it with others holds my faith. This is the Importance of saying it together; "Faith is made whole in community"
- Write your own creed. A creed is a statement of what you believe, your core values. Write your own, at least four lines.
 - Example:
 - I believe all people have worth.
 - I believe the world is not as it should be.
 - I believe other people's stories are important.
 - I believe that I am enough.
 - I believe that the Image of God is imprinted on everyone.
 - I believe that one day things will be just and equitable.
 - I believe I am responsible to my neighbors and the earth.
- Write your creed:

- The Apostle's Creed has three articles; today we will look at the first two and Martin Luther's explanations of them.
 - Article one: I believe in God, the father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
 - Martin Luther's Meaning:

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

 - What does Luther say the "first article" means? Translation, please!

 - What does God provide for us?

 - Why? Is it because we prove ourselves as worthy of God blessing us?

- Article Two: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead [or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use]. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- Luther's Meaning:
I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true
 - What does Luther say Jesus does?

- Summing it Up:
 - God took on flesh in Jesus and lived among people in a particular way.
 - Jesus is fully God and fully human. All the time.
 - Jesus is prophetic (depending the way things are)
 - Jesus is self emptying
 - Jesus was killed and rose, to have the final word against death and the power of sin.
 - In rising from the dead, Jesus reigns over all those things that keep us down.
- Say the Lord's Prayer with your family member.

