

# SERMON GUIDES

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add in any optional scriptures and questions if needed, then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Visit [woodlakeumc.org/sermonessentials](http://woodlakeumc.org/sermonessentials) for weekly sermon guides, devotionals, and more or if you have questions, contact **Jill Perrin** at [jperrin@woodlakeumc.org](mailto:jperrin@woodlakeumc.org).

## Creed: What Christians Believe and Why it Matters – The Church and the Saints – Week 4

01.

### INTRODUCTION

Read John 17: 20-26 (NIV) - Jesus prays for all believers, including us, today!

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given to me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

02.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Apostles Creed: I believe in God the Father, I believe in Jesus Christ, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints ...

1. The Holy Catholic Church

How many denominations are there across the world?

How many Christians recite the Apostles Creed? The Apostles Creed connects us to all of these believers.

How did Pastor Josh define Communion of Saints and the holy catholic church?

- Holy: sacred to God, or, set apart for God
- Catholic: Greek term (“Kata Holos”) throughout, all, whole. **Acts 9:31**
- Church Ekklesia: called out, or assembly
- Kuriakom: “belonging to the Lord” – people belonging to God



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- e. Greek "kuriakon" became "kirsch" in German, which in English became "church". We belong to the church.

Holy catholic – "I believe in ... the gathering of people called out by Jesus, who belong to Jesus, set apart to worship and do his will and work throughout all the world. It is a belief that you and I are set apart for God. That we belong in God's family, we are to be in unity through out all of the world. To be in communion with one another.

## 2. The Communion of Saints

- Communion: sharing or fellowship
- Saints: Greek word "hagios" – which means holy. Saints are people set apart for God (you and I are set apart for God). We are in communion with all believers, living or dead. It connects all of us. It connects us in worship.
- I believe in... the communion of Saints
- I believe in ... fellowship of people set apart for God
- We worship as saints, we commune
- Come together in common unity in the name of Jesus. Look toward the things where we have common unity



## NEXT STEPS

1. Know that you are a "Gathering of people called out by Jesus, who belong to Jesus, set apart for worship and to do his will and work throughout all the world." We are the Holy catholic church and we are the communion of saints!
2. Find the one thing, the common ground, that connects you to others.