

THE JESUS CREED

"Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your **heart**,

with all your **soul**, with all your **mind**, and with all your **strength**."

The second is this: "*Love* your **neighbor** as yourself."

There is no commandment greater

than these.

Questions for Further Reflection

Opening Question: In the last study guide we talked about the difference between a life focused on an idea, and a life focused on a person. Once our focus shifts to a person, what we watch for is not just what they say, but how they live—the patterns, rhythms and the intentional actions that characterize their lives. Are there people in your life that have provided this kind of pattern for you? How so?

Questions for Further Reflection

Study Guide 5

Scot McKnight suggests that in the Baptism of Jesus, Jesus identifies Himself with us in a very powerful way.

What are some of the ideas he shares that you find helpful?

Which of them do you have further questions about?

As you contemplate Jesus identifying Himself with us in baptism, take a few moments to realize the awesomeness of us being able to identify with Jesus in baptism—not only in going through the same motions, but in hearing the same words from God “This is my child, whom I love, with whom I am well pleased.” How does **Romans 6:1-5** give you additional insights into this?

Any additional insights from John 1:29-34?

Questions for Further Reflection

Study Guide 5

Scot McKnight suggests that in the Temptation of Jesus, Jesus identifies Himself with us in a very powerful way.

What are some of the ideas he shares that you find helpful?

Which of them do you have further questions about?

As you listen to the temptations of Jesus, two out of three of them begin with an insinuation. (See Matt 4:1-11). Why do you suppose that tack was taken? How effective is it when you face temptations?

As Jesus goes over the same ground that Israel went over in the wilderness, and that we go over in our own lives, what three general areas are targeted? How do these themes show up in your own experience?

Temptation 1

Temptation 2

Temptation 3

Questions for Further Reflection

Study Guide 5

Scot McKnight suggests that in the Transfiguration, Jesus identifies Himself with us in a very powerful way.

What are some of the ideas he shares that you find helpful?

Which of them do you have further questions about?

As you reflect on the story of the transfiguration in Luke 9:28-36, particularly in the context of the disciple's concern about what Jesus had been saying about going to Jerusalem to suffer and die, what seems the most significant to you?

Scot McKnight suggests that in the Last Supper of Jesus, Jesus identifies Himself with us in a very powerful way.

What are some of the ideas he shares that you find helpful?

Which of them do you have further questions about?

Questions for Further Reflection

Study Guide 5

What are some of the specific ways that Jesus took the path that Israel had been over (celebrated in the Passover), and enhanced those symbols to describe the path He was going over for us? Which of these speak to you the most powerfully? (See Luke 22:7-38)

Scot McKnight suggests that in the Cross of Jesus, Jesus identifies Himself with us in a very powerful way.

What are some of the ideas he shares that you find helpful?

Which of them do you have further questions about?

What is it about the cross of Christ that speaks to you the most powerfully?
(Luke 23:26-49)

Questions for Further Reflection

Study Guide 5

Scot McKnight suggests that in the Tomb of Jesus, Jesus identifies Himself with us in a very powerful way.

What are some of the ideas he shares that you find helpful?

Which of them do you have further questions about?

As you think about the path that Jesus traveled for us ending in the Resurrection morning, what speaks to your own spiritual experience the most powerfully? (Luke 24:13-35)

As you reflect on all these various aspects of the path that Jesus traveled for us, how does this impact your understanding of what it means to genuinely “love God” and “Love people”?