

# STEP UP IN FAITH

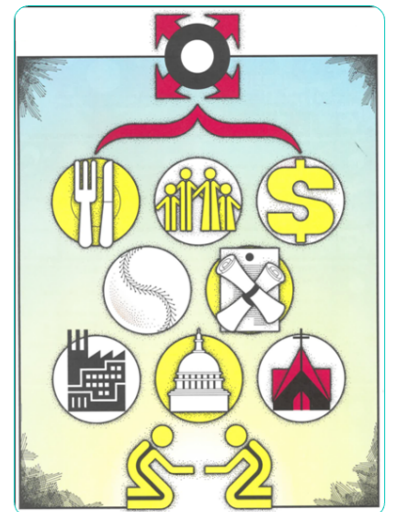
## THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY OF GRACE

### OPENING REFLECTION

- Do you remember a time when you did something wrong but didn't get caught? How did you feel as you waited to see if you would get caught?
- What kind of reactions were you afraid of?
- How did people react to you after you got caught?

### QUICK REVIEW

- The Great 2 Questions of the human life are:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- The First Article of the Apostles' Creed is about God the \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ the heavens, the earth, and all of creation.
- List 4 different identities you have: \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_.
- What is your most important identity that comes before every other identity?



### HOMEWORK: HOW WOULD YOU FINISH THIS QUESTION?

Talk with someone you trust/respect about their understanding of identity in Christ. What worldly messages are the hardest ones for them to wrestle with? What is the greatest comfort they find in their identity in Christ?



So there are a lot of great things in the world. And there are a lot of problems in the world. In the video, "A Man Fell in a Hole" what is the man's problem?

What does he need to do to address his problem?

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## The Second Article: Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?* I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won 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, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.



Reflection time:

Do you think all religions worship the same God?

Think about the second article of the creed above, which teaches us about Jesus who redeems us. If a religion doesn't say that Jesus is the only way to heaven, are they worshipping the same God as Christians?

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### THE PROBLEM ("THE HOLE") WE FACE

Every one of us comes to learn about evil in the world. And evil does not come from God. It comes from us.

- Do you think we can stop evil on our own? Why not? And if we can, how?

### What does the Bible say about our BROKEN identity?

- Romans 3:23 – Sin is...
- Romans 6:23 – Sin is...
- Isaiah 64:6 – Sin is...
- 1 John 1:8-9 – Sin is...
- Ephesians 2:2-5 – Sin is...

What do these verses tell us about ourselves?



How big of a problem is sin? Do you think we really need to talk about it?

Some other key passages that teach us about the nature of sin in us:

Matthew 19:16-30 [The Rich Man and the Kingdom of God]

Luke 18:9-14 [The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector]

Luke 15:11-32 [The Parable of the Prodigal Son]

Matthew 2:1-8, 16-20 [The Story of the Magi and Herod]

### QUICK QUIZ (True/False)

God takes sin very seriously.

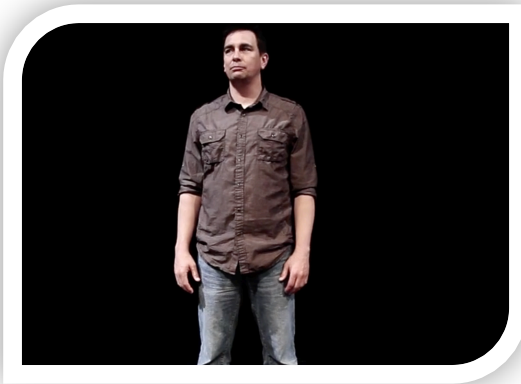
God doesn't love you when you sin.

God can't save a sinner.

As believers, God demands that we do the right thing.

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Take a moment to watch "Grace" by the Skit Guys.

As you watch this video, what do you learn about Jesus?



From the beginning of the Bible (Genesis), all the way to the end (Revelation), we learn the story of \_\_\_\_\_. It's what the Bible is all about. It's what our faith is all about.

It's what makes our faith unique. It's what makes Jesus unique.

And it's what we need more than anything in this world.

### YOUR HOMEWORK

Make a list of 8 things that are broken, messed up, or bad in this world that you would like to see God fix in heaven one day.