



WE BELIEVE!

Spring 2026 Study
Men at Magnify



SCHEDULE

WK I - WE BELIEVE!
(MARCH 9 & 11)

WK II - CREATION
(MARCH 16 & 18)

WK III - FALL
(MARCH 23 & 25)

WK IV - REDEMPTION (PT I)
(MARCH 30 & APRIL 1)

WK V - OFF
(APRIL 6 & 8)

WK VI - REDEMPTION (PT II)
(APRIL 13 & 15)

WK VII - NEW HEAVEN
& NEW EARTH
(APRIL 20 & 22)

WK VIII - WE BELIEVE!
(APRIL 27 & 29)

TO THE MEN AT MAGNIFY, GREETINGS FROM
TRENT & JOSH, SERVANTS OF CHRIST AND
BROTHERS IN THE FAITH.
GRACE & PEACE BE WITH YOU.

Each spring we do a series on theology, and the past few years we've focused on God's nature. But why take time to study our doctrinal statement? How is this relevant to a man's life?

Doctrine just means "teaching." Our Savior Jesus Christ came to serve, to sacrifice Himself, to heal, and also to teach. He had disciples. People usually addressed Him as "Teacher" during His earthly ministry. And He didn't just teach by setting an example, He taught in lessons, in concepts, in sayings. "Do unto others" and "render unto Caesar" and "let he who is without sin cast the first stone" testify to Jesus the communicator, the teacher.

A doctrinal statement is a summary of teachings that have been passed down to us, right beliefs that come from God's Word. We believe because God has spoken. We respond in faith and in confession. We testify to who God is, and how everything relates to Him. We confess our faith to one another, to our children, and to an unbelieving world. We also confess our faith to God, responding to His voice with a loud "amen!"

As we will see in week 1, the "application" section of our statement of beliefs reminds us that these doctrines matter for our life together. We are united in faith—not just a general faith in God, but in convictions about what He has revealed about what is true and how to follow Him. We want men to belong here and to serve with us, and this statement of faith helps make that happen.

Beyond our life together at Magnify, we also recognize that good doctrine is not something we invented. These pearls of wisdom and truth have been passed down for centuries, some from the very beginning, and sometimes at great cost. Professor Mike Wittmer talks about how the sand of false teaching and heresy has time and again called the church to rise up and confess with clarity what the Scriptures say. So the sand of heresy in the oyster of orthodoxy produces these pearls of good doctrine.

When churches downplay doctrine, bad things happen. They lose sight of who God is. They downplay the truths of God's Word. They sacrifice the faith once for all delivered to the saints, often in the name of love or justice as defined by culture. It's possible—and tragic—to have right doctrine without love. As Louie used to say, it's a terrible thing to be right *only*. But it's not possible to love your neighbor without the truth. Love without truth is the blind leading the blind. Both fall into a pit.

Author Dorothy Sayers was sometimes accused of making dry doctrine interesting by the way she incorporated it in her drama. She was appalled. The Creator of all things enters His creation as a man born of a virgin? After going around teaching and healing He submits to a corrupt trial and execution in order to pay for our sins? He rose to life again and is coming back?! This is the greatest story ever told! *And it's right there in our creeds.* The dogma is the drama. Doctrine only becomes dry and lifeless when we take it for granted and forget what we're really talking about.

Men, we encourage you to take these 8 weeks in stride. Dig deep in the riches of Truth we receive from the Scriptures. See to it to figure out for yourself how these truths intersect with your current beliefs about the world and be renewed in the transforming of your mind as you bend your will to God. Trust that He will strengthen you and fill you. He desires us to know Him as He has revealed and to worship Him with our lives more and more. We cannot wait to see all that He will do as we grab onto right belief, which helps us in right conduct, so that we may honor Christ as Lord and God as the Holy Father that He truly is.

REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU. DO NOT QUENCH THE SPIRIT. DO NOT DESPISE PROPHECIES, BUT TEST EVERYTHING;
HOLD FAST WHAT IS GOOD.

ABSTAIN FROM EVERY FORM OF EVIL.
NOW MAY THE GOD OF PEACE HIMSELF SANCTIFY YOU COMPLETELY, AND MAY YOUR WHOLE SPIRIT AND SOUL AND BODY BE KEPT BLAMELESS AT THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. HE WHO CALLS YOU IS FAITHFUL; HE WILL SURELY DO IT. (I THESS. 5:16-24)



WE BELIEVE!

WK I - INTRODUCTION

Why Doctrine?

Introduction to Confessions of Faith

Faith always expresses itself in witness. We believe therefore we confess. At Blythefield Hills, our confession is in response to God's Word. Our "Narrative Confession of Faith" is a simple statement that follows the storyline of the Bible from Creation to the Fall of Humanity into Sin to God's Redemption and the Church and ultimately to Consummation. Our "Founding Confession of Faith" is a systematic statement of what we believe with a reference to the biblical texts that elicit our response. Together these confessions present a rich, historical and contemporary expression of what we believe. They are an aid to understanding, a guide to raising our children, and a guard against false stories that surround us.

Authority and Other Beliefs

The Confession of Faith and statements on specific beliefs contained in this Statement of Beliefs do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all we believe. For purposes of Blythefield Hills Baptist Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Church Board is Blythefield Hills Baptist Church's final interpretive authority on this Statement of Beliefs and the Bible's meaning and application relative to what we believe.

Application

All of our members, employees and volunteers must affirm and adhere to this Statement of Beliefs, and the church must operate in adherence to the Statement of Beliefs. This is necessary to accomplish our mission, goals and purpose. Behavior and actions that are contrary to this Statement of Beliefs will impede and burden our integrity and mission.

Key Scriptures for the Week

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Matthew 28:19-20
- Jude 3-4
- 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 6:3-5
- 2 Timothy 1:13-14
- Titus 2:1

Key Points

- **Witness:** Testifying to who God is and what He has done is at the heart of our faith.
- **Authority:** The Bible is our authority because it is the voice of God, who is over all.
- **Unity:** Doctrine is a necessary element of our identity as a church and our practice as believers. Doctrine, as an expression of God's will and wisdom, unites us and empowers our work.
- **Action:** What we believe is reflected in what we do. Actions that run counter to our beliefs hinder the gospel and our life together.

WK I - CONT.

Discussion Questions:

- On a scale of 1-to-10, with 10 being “love it” and 1 being “run away!,” how does the thought of studying doctrine strike you?
- What’s one lesson your parents drilled into you that you want to make sure you pass on to your kids?
- What is the cost of not knowing sound doctrine?
- In what ways does doctrine impact our life today?
- What “doctrine” exists in spaces outside the church? Why is it important to that institution? What would happen if that institution did not regularly teach or support those ideas?

We Believe! Outside the Gate

Your boss calls you to his office and says that you need to tone it down. Your faith keeps coming up at work, and while he has nothing against it personally, he insists that stuff is private. You need to be more professional and leave your religion at home. He wants you to agree not to mention or practice your beliefs on company time.

- What assumptions is your boss making about the relevance of your beliefs to everyday life?
- What other beliefs do you see reflected in the workplace? What do your coworkers value? How can you tell?
- Where is the line between respecting your boss’s wishes as an authority in that sphere and disobeying the higher authority of Jesus Christ? What does faithful submission look like?
- What are other ways your faith informs your work? How might concepts like Creation, Fall, and Redemption play out in how you think about what you do?
- Ultimately what would you say in that situation and how would you say it?

“I BELIEVE...”

Summarize in your own words your beliefs about why doctrine matters.