

# THE DISCIPLESHIP MANUAL



## LEADER'S GUIDE



AFLC  
**Evangelism  
& Discipleship**

This leader's guide includes a general overview, or core truths, for each lesson, which might help you focus the answers and discussion. We have also included some notes (in red) in the "Preparing for your next lesson" sections. We have kept the resources lists and appendix in this document, as well. We may expand the leader's guide, at a later date, to include some suggested answers to the lesson questions.

Be sure to read the Introduction and Preface from The Discipleship Manual. Remember that these lessons are intended as a basic foundation. You have the freedom to add from your own knowledge and experiences as you work through The Discipleship Manual. The suggested resources can be good for your personal study and preparation as well. It would be beneficial to ensure that everyone in your group has a Bible (or Bible app), and a copy of Luther's Small Catechism might also prove helpful (see the resource list for details).

Please be reasonable in expectations for the group. This is not meant to be an academic class where students pass or fail but an encouraging time studying God's Word and learning things that will help everyone to "...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." (2 Peter 3:18). Each individual may learn and/or process information differently and will likely have different comfort levels with talking out loud in a group setting. Be kind as you encourage each participant during your meetings together.

This may go without saying, but pray! Pray for those in your group, pray before you prepare for meetings, pray at the beginning of your meetings, and pray at the end of your meetings. God will answer your prayers!

Feel free to reach out to us if you have questions or comments.

AFLC Evangelism & Discipleship  
3110 E Medicine Lake Blvd  
Plymouth MN 55441  
763.545.5631 | [evangelism@aflc.org](mailto:evangelism@aflc.org)

# LESSON 1

## Assurance of Salvation

Salvation comes from God alone, by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. We can be confident in our salvation even when we don't feel saved or go through circumstances that cause us to doubt our salvation. We can turn to God's Word for assurance of salvation. The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are used by God to deliver His salvation to us. Because of the promises in God's Word regarding Baptism and the Lord's Supper, we can point to specific moments in our life when we received forgiveness of sins.

### **Recommended Resources for Lesson 1 (pp. 61-62):**

5, 8, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 34, 39, 40, 44, 45, 47

### **Preparing for your next discipleship meeting...**

- Go to church and take notes during the sermon. Bring them to your next discipleship meeting and show your group leader. (Feel free to read and discuss the things written in the sermon notes)
- Pray and ask God to help you understand and apply the truths from His Word that will be presented in Lesson 2.
- Complete Lesson 2—Life As a Disciple of Jesus Christ.
- If you don't already have them memorized, memorize the books of the Bible. (Feel free to provide accountability in memorization)

### **NOTES:**

## LESSON 2

### Life as a Disciple of Jesus Christ

Christians still struggle with sin, but God has promised that we can continually turn to Him in repentance and He will continually forgive our sins. According to the Augsburg Confession, "...repentance consists properly of these two parts: One is contrition, that is, terrors smiting the conscience through the knowledge of sin; the other is faith, which is born of the Gospel, or of absolution, and believes that for Christ's sake, sins are forgiven, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terrors. Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruits of repentance." (Source: <https://bookofconcord.org/augsburg-confession/of-repentance/#ac-xii-0002> ). The life of a Christian also consists of doing good works for the benefit of the people around you.

#### **Recommended Resources for Lesson 2 (pp. 61-62):**

1, 5, 8, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 25, 27, 29, 33, 34, 38, 39, 40, 44, 45

#### **Preparing for your next discipleship meeting...**

- Go to church and take notes during the sermon. Bring them to your next discipleship meeting and show your group leader. (Consider making this a regular practice.) (Feel free to read and discuss the things written in the sermon notes)
- Pray and ask God to help you understand and apply the truths from His Word that will be presented in Lesson 3.
- Complete Lesson 3—Reading the Bible.
- Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17. (Feel free to provide accountability in memorization)
- God speaks to you through His Word, the Bible. How does that affect your approach to reading the Bible? (This question is a reflection question after Lesson 3 is finished; Feel free to discuss answers at your Lesson 3 meeting)

#### **NOTES:**

# LESSON 3

## Reading the Bible

In Lesson 1, it was mentioned that God's Word is inspired, inerrant, and infallible. We learn about God (especially His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ) and our relationship to Him by reading/hearing His Word. Studying God's Word will strengthen our faith and help us to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Much of this lesson provides ideas and tools for studying the Bible. Remember, there are other good ideas and tools out there, too—feel free to share things that have worked and/or been difficult for you as you study God's Word.

### **Recommended Resources for Lesson 3 (pp. 61-62):**

4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 27, 29, 30, 37, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45

### **Preparing for your next discipleship meeting...**

- Begin the 40-Day Reading Plan from Lesson 3. (Feel free to provide accountability in Bible reading/listening)
- Pray and ask God to help you understand and apply the truths from His Word that will be presented in Lesson 4.
- Complete Lesson 4—Prayer.
- Memorize 1 John 5:14-15. (Feel free to provide accountability in memorization)
- Consider, what is the significance of our ability to talk directly to God in prayer? (This question is a reflection question after Lesson 4 is finished; Feel free to discuss answers at your Lesson 4 meeting)

### **NOTES:**

## 40-Day Reading Plan

Day 1	Genesis 1-2	The Creation Account
Day 2	Genesis 3	The Origin of Sin
Day 3	Genesis 12, 15, 17	God's Covenant with Abraham
Day 4	Genesis 21:1-7; 22	God's Faithfulness, Abraham's Faith
Day 5	Exodus 3-4	God Calls Moses to Deliver His People
Day 6	Exodus 20	The Ten Commandments
Day 7	Joshua 1	Conquering the Promised Land
Day 8	1 Samuel 16-17	David and Goliath
Day 9	1 Kings 3; 8:1-9:9	King Solomon's Wisdom and the Temple
Day 10	1 Kings 18	Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
Day 11	2 Kings 25	The Siege of Jerusalem and Exile of Judah
Day 12	Daniel 2-3	Daniel in Babylon and the Fiery Furnace
Day 13	Ezra 3	Rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem
Day 14	Isaiah 9, 35, 61	Isaiah's Prophecy of the Messiah
Day 15	Luke 1-2	The Birth of Jesus
Day 16	John 1:1-18	Who Jesus is
Day 17	Matthew 4:14-44	Jesus Begins His Ministry
Day 18	Matthew 5-7	The Core of Jesus' Teachings
Day 19	John 3	God's Love for the World
Day 20	John 5	Jesus' Miracles and Authority
Day 21	John 11	Jesus' Power Over Death
Day 22	John 15	The Christian Life Defined
Day 23	John 17	Jesus' High Priestly Prayer
Day 24	Matthew 26-27	The Arrest and Crucifixion of Jesus
Day 25	John 20	The Resurrection of Jesus
Day 26	Luke 24	The Ascension of Jesus
Day 27	Acts 2	The Coming of the Holy Spirit
Day 28	Acts 9	The Conversion of Saul (aka Paul)
Day 29	Acts 16	The Gospel Spreads to Europe
Day 30	Acts 26	Paul's Defense of the Christian Faith
Day 31	Romans 3	Justification by Faith Alone
Day 32	Romans 7-8	The Battle with Sin: Life in the Spirit
Day 33	1 Corinthians 13	The Way of Love
Day 34	1 Corinthians 15	The Power of the Resurrection
Day 35	Galatians 5	Freedom in Christ
Day 36	Ephesians 6	The Whole Armor of God
Day 37	Philippians 1:18-2:18	Christ's Example
Day 38	Colossians 3:1-17	Putting on the New Self
Day 39	James 1	Living as a Christian
Day 40	Revelation 21-22	The New Heaven and Earth

# LESSON 4

## Prayer

Prayer is a gift to us from God. Prayer can also be complicated as we can talk to God about the good, bad, and ugly and we will likely struggle in taking time to pray. This lesson includes ideas on how to pray, what to pray for, etc. Remember, there are other good ideas out there, too—feel free to share things that have worked and/or been difficult for you as you pray.

### **Recommended Resources for Lesson 4 (pp. 61-62):**

5, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 27, 29, 31, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46

### **Preparing for your next discipleship meeting...**

- Set aside a specific time and place each day to pray, making use of things you have learned and/or resources suggested from lesson 4. (Feel free to provide accountability for prayer)
- Continue using the reading plan from Lesson 3. (When you complete the 40-Day Reading Plan, begin a new plan to continue reading/listening to God's Word daily. Check out the suggested resources and talk with your discipleship group leader for ideas.) (Feel free to provide accountability in Bible reading/listening; be ready to have suggestions for Bible reading/listening resources/plans)
- Complete Lesson 5—Who Is God?
- Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-5. (Feel free to provide accountability in memorization)
- As you think about who God is and how He has been working in your life recently, which of His characteristics or attributes have you noticed? (This question is a reflection question after Lesson 5 is finished; Feel free to discuss answers at your Lesson 5 meeting)

### **NOTES:**

# LESSON 5

## Who is God?

God has revealed who He is through His Word. As we understand more about God, our faith will be strengthened and we will grow closer to Him. Remember, we cannot fully comprehend God so it can be difficult to study His nature and attributes, especially since some of our questions about Him may not be answered. However, we trust that what He has revealed to us in His Word is sufficient for our faith and can provide comfort and we rest in Him and His promises.

### **Recommended Resources for Lesson 5 (pp. 61-62):**

5, 8, 11, 16, 20, 24, 27, 29, 30, 39, 40, 44, 45

### **Preparing for your next discipleship meeting...**

- Set aside a specific time and place each day to pray, making use of things you have learned and/or resources suggested from lesson 4. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- Continue using the reading plan from Lesson 3. (When you complete the 40-Day Reading Plan, begin a new plan to continue reading/listening to God's Word daily. Check out the suggested resources and talk with your discipleship group leader for ideas.) (Feel free to continue providing accountability and suggestions)
- Complete Lesson 6—The Holy Spirit: His Work and Gifts.
- Memorize John 15:26. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)

### **NOTES:**



# LESSON 6

## The Holy Spirit: His Work and Gifts

The Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Trinity. His primary role is to point us to Jesus Christ and to create in us faith in Christ's death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and assurance of eternal life. Through the Word of God, the Holy Spirit transforms our lives after the image of God and empowers us to love and serve the people around us with the gifts He give us.

### **Recommended Resources for Lesson 6 (pp. 61-62):**

1, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 20, 24, 27, 29, 39, 40, 44, 45

### **Preparing for your next discipleship meeting...**

- Continue setting aside time(s) to pray and read/listen to God's Word each day. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- Complete Lesson 7—Fellowship.
- Memorize 1 John 1:6-7. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- Spend more time with people from your church, either in new church activities like Bible study, small group, Sunday school, etc. or in formal/informal activities outside of church. (Feel free to ask about this at your next meeting)

### **NOTES:**

# LESSON 7

## Fellowship

It is good for Christians to spend time with God and with other Christians as it strengthens our faith and gives us opportunities to love and serve others. This is a shorter lesson so feel free to spend extra time with the texts presented during your meeting. This might also be a good time to ask if anyone has questions about anything they've been learning or about things from outside of your meetings. You could also add something to your meeting—food, an activity, etc.—this is a time of fellowship for you all!

### **Recommended Resources for Lesson 7 (pp. 61-62):c**

5, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16, 19, 20, 22, 24, 27, 29, 31, 36, 39, 40, 44, 45

### **Preparing for your next discipleship meeting...**

- Continue setting aside time(s) to pray and read/listen to God's Word each day. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- Continue building relationships with people from your church. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- Complete Lesson 8—Suffering and Sacrifice.
- Memorize Galatians 5:13-14. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- Consider this phrase from Lesson 8: "...we are free to live our lives in a sacrificial way that helps others and brings glory to God..." Think of the people you spend time with regularly—family, friends, co-workers, etc. How can/does God use you to help (love and serve) them in a sacrificial way? (This question is a reflection question after Lesson 8 is finished; Feel free to discuss answers at your Lesson 8 meeting)

### **NOTES:**

# LESSON 8

## Suffering and Sacrifice

Suffering and sacrifice are realities in life. When we go through suffering, it does not mean we have lost our salvation. God has promised to be with us as we go through suffering and His Word gives us comfort, strength, and hope as we go through times of suffering. We can sacrifice for the benefit of others and for the sake of Christ because all of our needs, including eternal life, are provided for in Christ Jesus.

### Recommended Resources for Lesson 8 (pp. 61-62):

1, 5, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 27, 29, 31, 39, 40, 43, 44, 45

### Preparing for your next discipleship meeting...

- Continue setting aside time(s) to pray and read/listen to God's Word each day. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- Continue building relationships with people from your church. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- Complete Lesson 9—Sharing Your Faith.
- Memorize Romans 10:13-15. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- Make a list of two or three people you personally know who are not trusting in Jesus as their Savior. Pray for those people every day and pray that God might give you an opportunity to talk with them about Jesus. (Discuss this at your Lesson 9 meeting)
- As a discipleship group, talk about your faith in Jesus Christ. What are the important truths you know from God's Word? How have these truths impacted your life? What is one Bible verse or short passage that is comforting and/or encouraging to you? (Take time to do this at your Lesson 9 meeting)

### NOTES:

# LESSON 9

## Sharing Your Faith

Faith in Jesus Christ is personal (applied to us as individuals) and corporate (the basic content of our faith is shared by all Christians). It is God's desire that every person would have faith in Him and be saved from the curse of sin and death. God is the one who does the work of salvation, but He uses us to tell others about the salvation found only in Jesus Christ. The best way to do this is through conversations with people we know, but we can also share our faith with strangers, if we have that opportunity. Understanding what we believe and why we believe it and remembering that God is always with us will give us confidence as we share our faith.

### Recommended Resources for Lesson 9 (pp. 61-62):

1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 16, 17, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 33, 39, 40, 42, 44, 45

### Preparing for your next discipleship meeting...

- Continue setting aside time(s) to pray and read/listen to God's Word each day. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- Continue building relationships with people from your church. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- Talk about your faith in Jesus Christ with other Christians you know and trust. (Discuss this at your Lesson 10 meeting)
- Complete Lesson 10—The Local Congregation: God's Gift to Us.
- Memorize Hebrews 10:24-25. (Feel free to continue providing accountability)
- If you are not a member of the congregation you have been regularly attending, ask your pastor about church membership. If you are a member of the congregation you have been regularly attending, do you know if the congregation has a statement of faith, constitution, by-laws, etc.? Ask your pastor about those things so you can read them to learn more about your congregation. (Discuss this at your Lesson 10 meeting)

### NOTES:

# LESSON 10

## The Local Congregation: God's Gift to Us

It is important to be a part of a church. The local congregation is a place where our faith is strengthened, we receive blessings from God and others in the congregation, and we can bless God and others in the congregation through the gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit. If members from your group are not a part of a local congregation, help them get connected to one!

### Recommended Resources for Lesson 10 (pp. 61-62):

5, 8, 16, 19, 20, 22, 24, 27, 29, 35, 39, 40, 44, 45

### After Lesson 10...

- How has being part of a congregation helped you? (Discuss during your Lesson 10 meeting)
- Write down steps you can take this week to be more engaged in the life of your congregation. (Discuss during your Lesson 10 meeting)
- If you're interested in learning about The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, you can find a brief introduction on pages 88-92. (Feel free to discuss this as a group)
- Continue setting aside time(s) to pray and read/listen to God's Word each day.
- Continue to memorize Scripture.
- Continue building relationships with people from your church.
- Continue to talk about your faith in Jesus Christ with others.
- Discuss with your discipleship group (at the end of your Lesson 10 meeting):
  - What is one statement, Scripture verse/passage, definition, etc. from each lesson that has been significant in helping you understand what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ?
  - What questions do you still have?
  - What are some ideas of how you can continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Hopefully you will be able to stay in contact with the members of your discipleship group, to provide accountability, answer questions, give assistance during difficult situations, etc. It is best if they are a part of a local congregation, participating in worship and Sunday school/Bible study, but additionally, if you have opportunity, you could continue meeting for Bible study and/or prayer, or to go through a book from the recommended resource list.

### NOTES:



# Appendix

## **Free and Living Congregations: The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)**

This discipleship manual has been created by AFLC Evangelism and Discipleship, a ministry of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. It is a tool to encourage, equip, and assist our AFLC congregations in making and equipping disciples who make and equip disciples. We believe that this is best accomplished through the local congregation being rooted in God's Word and empowered by His Spirit as an evangelizing force that equips and empowers its members to use their unique spiritual gifts and talents for the building up of the body and to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of their community. Here is a brief introduction to the AFLC.

**The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)**, headquartered in Plymouth, Minnesota, is a fellowship of independent Lutheran congregations united by a shared commitment to the inerrant Word of God, the salvation of souls, and the significance of the local congregation. Established in 1962, the AFLC continues to uphold the principles of the Lutheran Free Church (LFC), emphasizing congregational freedom, evangelism, and pietist practices rooted in the Norwegian revivals of the 19th century.

### **Historical Foundations**

The AFLC's origins trace back to the spiritual revival movements in Norway during the early 1800s, led by lay preacher Hans Nielsen Hauge. Hauge's emphasis on personal faith, lay involvement, and a return to Scripture significantly influenced Norwegian immigrants to the United States. These immigrants brought with them a fervent desire for congregational autonomy and a deep commitment to evangelism.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, this movement found expression in the Lutheran Free Church (LFC), which prioritized the independence of local congregations and the authority of Scripture. However, in 1963, the LFC merged with The American Lutheran Church. Concerned about preserving their foundational principles, a group of congregations chose not to participate in the merger. Instead, they formed the AFLC in 1962 to continue the legacy of the LFC, maintaining its emphasis on free congregationalism and the inerrancy of Scripture.

### **Georg Sverdrup and the Free and Living Congregation**

Central to the theological foundation of the LFC and, by extension, the AFLC, is the work of Georg Sverdrup (1848–1907). A Norwegian-American theologian and educator, Sverdrup was instrumental in articulating a vision of the local congregation as the primary expression of the Kingdom of God on earth. He emphasized that the congregation should be "free and living," governed not by hierarchical structures but by the Word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In his writings, Sverdrup argued that the New Testament presents the local congregation as the only form of the church, devoid of external ecclesiastical authority. He believed that each congregation, as a fellowship of believers, possesses the full rights and responsibilities of the church, including the administration of sacraments, the preaching of the Word, and the exercise of church discipline. He also believed that the vitality of the church depends on the spiritual health and autonomy of its congregations, insisting that true church

life arises from the active participation of all members, empowered by the Holy Spirit, rather than from top-down directives.

## Core Beliefs and Principles

The AFLC is grounded in several key theological convictions:

- **Inerrancy of Scripture:** The AFLC holds that the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God, authoritative in all matters of faith and life. This belief underpins all its teachings and practices, ensuring that Scripture remains central to its mission and ministry.
- **Salvation by Grace through Faith:** Emphasizing the Lutheran doctrine of justification, the AFLC teaches that salvation is a gift of God's grace, received through faith in Jesus Christ alone. God delivers His grace and creates faith in Jesus Christ through physical means: primarily His Word, which He also unites to the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- **Connection to the Historic Church:** The AFLC affirms the ancient ecumenical creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian), Luther's Small Catechism, and the unaltered Augsburg Confession as faithful explanations of what Scripture teaches.
- **Congregational Autonomy:** Each congregation within the AFLC is self-governing, responsible for its own affairs under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This autonomy is balanced by voluntary cooperation among congregations for mutual edification and mission work.
- **Pietist Emphasis:** Reflecting its Haugean roots, the AFLC encourages personal devotion, spiritual renewal, and active lay participation in ministry.

These beliefs are encapsulated in the AFLC's "Fundamental Principles," which outline the theological and organizational framework of the association. The "Rules for Work" provide practical guidelines for the cooperative efforts of congregations, ensuring that joint endeavors align with the AFLC's core convictions.

## Organizational Structure and Ministries

While valuing congregational independence, the AFLC recognizes the benefits of collaboration in areas where joint efforts can enhance ministry effectiveness. To this end, the AFLC operates through five independent corporations:

- **Coordinating Committee:** This body facilitates communication and cooperation among congregations, promoting the AFLC's principles and overseeing joint initiatives.  
[alfc.org](http://alfc.org)
- **Schools Corporation:** The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary (FLBCS), located in Plymouth, Minnesota, have a mission of "establishing students in the eternal and inerrant Word of God for a life of faith in Jesus Christ and faithful service in His Kingdom."  
[flbc.edu](http://flbc.edu)
- **World Missions Corporation:** Committed to the Great Commission, the AFLC supports missionary work around the globe, sharing the gospel and establishing congregations in various cultural contexts.  
[aflcworldmissions.org](http://aflcworldmissions.org)



- **Home Missions Corporation:** The Home Missions Department serves as the church planting ministry of the AFLC. The Home Missions Corporation also oversees special ministry work in Alaska and the Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters (FLAPS).

[aflchomemissions.org](http://aflchomemissions.org)

- **Association Retreat Center (ARC):** Located near Osceola, Wisconsin, the ARC offers facilities for retreats, conferences, and spiritual renewal events, serving both youth and adults.

[arc-aflc.org](http://arc-aflc.org)

Additional ministries include:

- **Ambassador Publications:** Producing Christian literature and educational materials for congregational use.

[ambassadorpublications.org](http://ambassadorpublications.org)

- **Youth Ministries:** Organizing events and programs to support congregations in nurturing the faith of young people and equipping youth leaders.

[aflc.org/youth](http://aflc.org/youth)

- **Evangelism and Discipleship:** Providing resources and training to equip believers for sharing their faith and growing in Christ.

[aflc.org/evangelism](http://aflc.org/evangelism)

- **Women's Missionary Federation (WMF):** Encouraging women's involvement in missions and the life of the congregation.

[aflc.org/women](http://aflc.org/women)

## Annual Conference

The AFLC's Annual Conference serves as a central gathering for representatives from member congregations. While it does not exercise authority over individual congregations, the conference facilitates fellowship, spiritual growth, and collective decision-making. Key functions of the Annual Conference include:

- Electing members to the various corporations and committees.
- Reviewing reports from ministries and setting strategic directions.
- Encouraging unity and shared vision among congregations.

Participation in the Annual Conference is open to congregations that affirm the AFLC's Fundamental Principles and Rules for Work, fostering a sense of shared purpose without compromising congregational autonomy.

**The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations** stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of the Norwegian revival movements and the Lutheran Free Church. By upholding the inerrancy of Scripture, emphasizing the autonomy of the local congregation, and committing to evangelism and discipleship, the AFLC continues to impact lives for Christ. Its unique structure balances independence with cooperation, enabling congregations to work together effectively while maintaining their distinct identities. Through its

various ministries and the Annual Conference, the AFLC remains dedicated to proclaiming the gospel and nurturing the spiritual life of its members.

*"Our congregations need to be set free, which is essentially the same as saying that they need to be awakened or revived... When God's Spirit comes upon a congregation, the first and most pronounced effect will be a living zeal for the salvation of souls... When those who have themselves been set free from the bonds of death, arise in the power through which Christ arose from the dead, and begin to labor for the awakening of others, then freedom has dawned in truth. Then bonds are broken, other considerations are brushed aside, and only one thing matters: How can we get those who sleep awakened, how can we get those who are dying saved, how can we get those who are bound set free, how can we get someone along with us on the way to eternal life?" —Georg Sverdrup<sup>1</sup>*



*A list of resources produced by the AFLC can be found on page 63.*

<sup>1</sup>*Standing Fast in Freedom* (p. 6), Larry J. Walker, Editor, The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 1996

### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

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, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church, The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

### **The Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made: Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

### **The Athanasian Creed**

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold the true Christian faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish for eternity.

This is the true Christian faith, that we worship one God in three Persons and three Persons in one God without confusing the Persons or dividing the divine substance.

For the Father is one Person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is still another, but there is one Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, equal in glory and coequal in majesty.

What the Father is, that is the Son and that is the Holy Spirit: the Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated, the Holy Spirit is uncreated; the Father is unlimited, the Son is unlimited, the Holy Spirit is unlimited; the Father is eternal, the Son is eternal, the Holy Spirit is eternal; and yet They are not three Eternals but one Eternal, just as there are not Three Who are uncreated and Who are unlimited, but there is One who is uncreated and unlimited.

Likewise the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty, and yet there are not three Almightyies but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God, and yet there are not three Gods but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord, and yet they are not three Lords but one Lord.

For just as we are compelled by Christian truth to acknowledge each Person by Himself to be God and Lord, so we are forbidden by the Christian religion to say that there are three Gods or three Lords.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten by anybody. The Son was not made or created, but was begotten by the Father. The Holy Spirit was not made or created or begotten, but proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Accordingly, there is one Father and not three Fathers, one Son and not three Sons, one Holy Spirit and not three Holy Spirits. And among these three Persons none is before or after another, none is greater or less than another, but all three Persons are coequal and coeternal, and accordingly, as has been stated above, three Persons are to be worshiped in one Godhead and one God is to be worshiped in three Persons.

Whoever wishes to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

It is also necessary for eternal salvation that one faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus Christ became man, for this is the right faith, that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at once God and man:

He is God, begotten before the ages of the substance of the Father, and He is man, born in the world of the substance of His mother, perfect God and perfect man, with reasonable soul and human flesh, equal to the Father with respect to his Godhead and inferior to the Father with respect to His manhood.

Although he is God and man, He is not two Christs but one Christ: one, that is to say, not by changing the Godhead into flesh, but by taking on the humanity into God, one, indeed, not by confusion of substance but by unity in one Person.

For just as the reasonable soul and the flesh are one man, so God and man are one Christ, Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, is seated on the right hand of the Father, whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

At His coming all men shall rise with their bodies and give an account of their own deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life, and those who have done evil will go into everlasting fire.

This is the true Christian faith. Unless a man believe this firmly and faithfully, he cannot be saved.

The Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds are used by permission from *Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation* (Minneapolis, MN: Ambassador Publications, 2007), pp. 138-144, which also includes a historical introduction to the ecumenical creeds of the Christian Faith.

# Recommended Resources

## Books

1. ***God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life*** by Gene Edward Veith Jr., Crossway, 2002 (reprint 2011)
2. ***Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality for Today*** by John W. Kleinig, Concordia Publishing House, 2008
3. ***Handling the Word of Truth: Law and Gospel in the Church Today*** by John T. Pless, Concordia Publishing House, 2015 revised edition
4. ***How to Enjoy Reading Your Bible*** by Keith Ferrin, Bethany House, 2015 (also audio interview with him at [flbc.edu/keithferrin](http://flbc.edu/keithferrin))
5. ***Large Catechism*** by Martin Luther (can also be found online at [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)), varying editions by various publishers, we suggest the 2010 edition from Concordia Publishing House
6. ***Law and Gospel: How to Read and Apply the Bible*** by C. F. W. Walther, Concordia Publishing House, 2010 (there may be other editions earlier than 2010)
7. ***Life Together*** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Harperone, 1978 (other versions available from other publishers)
8. ***Luther's Small Catechism: A Manual for Discipleship*** by John T. Pless, Concordia Publishing House, 2019
9. ***Luther For the Busy Man: Daily Devotions from Luther's Sermons on the Standard Gospels***, Ambassador Publications and The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary, 2021(also available at [lutherforthebusyman.org](http://lutherforthebusyman.org) and as a podcast)
10. ***On Christian Liberty*** by Martin Luther, varying editions by various publishers, may be included in anthologies of Luther's works, may also be titled Christian Liberty or The Freedom of a Christian, we suggest the 2003 edition from Augsburg Fortress
11. ***On the Nature of God and on the Trinity*** by Johann Gerhard, Concordia Publishing House, 2007
12. ***Prayer*** by O. Hallesby, Augsburg Fortress, 1994 (earlier editions in 1959 and 1931)
13. ***Praying Luther's Small Catechism*** by John T. Pless, Concordia Publishing House, 2016
14. ***Ragged: Spiritual Disciplines for the Spiritually Exhausted*** by Gretchen Ronnevik, 1517 Publishing, 2021
15. ***Sanctification, Christ in Action*** by Harold L. Senkbeil, Northwestern Publishing House, 1997
16. ***Small Catechism*** by Martin Luther (can also be found online at [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)), varying editions by various publishers, we suggest the 2007 edition from Ambassador Publications
17. ***Surprised by Faith*** by Dr. Don Bierle, Life Sentence Publishing, 2017 (additional editions)
18. ***The Bondage of the Will*** by Martin Luther, varying editions by various publishers, may be included in anthologies of Luther's works, we suggest the 2012 edition from Baker Books
19. ***The Hammer of God*** by Bo Giertz, Augsburg Fortress, 2004 revised edition
20. ***The Lutheran Study Bible***, published by Concordia Publishing House, 2009
21. ***The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*** by C.F.W. Walther, Concordia Publishing House, 1986
22. ***The Spirituality of the Cross: The Way of the First Evangelicals*** by Gene Edward Veith Jr., Concordia Publishing House, 2021 third edition
23. ***This Is My Body: Luther's Contention for the Real Presence in the Sacrament of the Altar*** by Hermann Sasse, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2001 (original copyright 1959 by Augsburg Fortress)
24. ***We Confess (Anthology)*** by Hermann Sasse, Concordia Publishing House, 1999
25. ***Why I Am a Lutheran: Jesus at the Center*** by Daniel Preus, Concordia Publishing House, 2004

## **PDF**

- 26. ***Baptism Is Not Magic*** by AFLC Evangelism & Discipleship, [aflc.org/evangelism](http://aflc.org/evangelism)
- 27. ***Foundations of the Faith: This Is Most Certainly True***, curriculum from Ambassador Publications, [ambassadorpublications.org/confirmation-2](http://ambassadorpublications.org/confirmation-2)
- 28. ***Preparing to Share Your Faith*** by AFLC Evangelism & Discipleship, [aflc.org/evangelism](http://aflc.org/evangelism)

## **Podcasts**

*(can be found on major podcast platforms, some on YouTube)*

- 29. ***Being Lutheran Podcast***, Pastor Jason Gudim, also [beinglutheran.com](http://beinglutheran.com)
- 30. ***Concordia Bible Institute*** (Christ in every word), Brian German
- 31. ***Freely Given***, 1517 Podcasts
- 32. ***Issues, Etc.***, Lutheran Public Radio
- 33. ***Living As A Disciple***, AFLC Evangelism & Discipleship, also [aflc.org/evangelism/podcast](http://aflc.org/evangelism/podcast)
- 34. ***Table Talk Radio***, Rev. Evan Goeglein, also [tabletalkradio.org](http://tabletalkradio.org)
- 35. ***The Lutheran Church Planter***, AFLC Home Missions
- 36. ***The Lutheran Witness Podcast***, KFUO Radio
- 37. ***The Word of the Lord Endures Forever***, Lutheran Public Radio
- 38. ***Thinking Fellows***, 1517 Podcasts
- 39. ***Just and Sinner Podcast***, Rev. Jordan B. Cooper, also [justandsinner.org](http://justandsinner.org)

## **Websites**

- 40. ***bookofconcord.com*** *(the entire Book of Concord free, online)*
- 41. ***dailyoffice2019.com*** *(daily prayers and Scripture readings)*
- 42. ***Lutheran Hour Ministry Resources*** [lhm.org/resources/all-resources](http://lhm.org/resources/all-resources)
- 43. ***persecution.com*** *(The Voice of the Martyrs)*

## **Miscellaneous**

- 44. ***KFUO Radio app*** (Developer: The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)
- 45. ***YouVersion Bible app*** (a.k.a. Bible; Developer: Life.Church; includes many Bible translations, audio versions, and Bible reading/study resources)
- 46. ***EveryPsalm*** (Spotify Playlist from Poor Bishop Hooper)
- 47. ***You Must, You Cannot, You Do*** (video lecture by Dr. Phil Haugen, [flbc.edu/lutheran-doctrine-of-election-with-pr-phil-haugen-you-must-you-cannot-you-do](http://flbc.edu/lutheran-doctrine-of-election-with-pr-phil-haugen-you-must-you-cannot-you-do))

## **Resources Produced by the AFLC**

**Available for free download:** [aflc.org/resources](http://aflc.org/resources)

### ***Roots of Freedom***

Booklet with information regarding the organization of the Lutheran Free Church, including history, principles, and ministries, with discussion questions. Physical copies available by contacting the AFLC.

### ***Standing Fast in Freedom***

Booklet that includes sections regarding the history, structure & organization, doctrinal beliefs, Fundamental Principles & Rules for Work, etc. of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Physical copies available by contacting the AFLC.

### ***What is the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations?***

Pamphlet summarizing the purpose, form, and function of the AFLC. Physical copies available by contacting the AFLC.

### ***Welcome to Biblical Lutheranism***

Pamphlet that highlights the beliefs of the AFLC. Physical copies available by contacting the AFLC.

### ***Marriage, Family, and the Sanctity of Life***

Pamphlet containing AFLC Conference-Approved statements for marriage and the sanctity of life. Physical copies available by contacting the AFLC.

### ***A Study on the Ordination of Women***

Pamphlet that is a Biblical response to the question of the ordination of women. Physical copies available by contacting the AFLC.

### ***Homosexuality: God's Word and Our Witness***

Booklet including essays, on the topic of homosexuality, written by faculty from the AFLC's Bible College and Seminary. Prepared in 1989. Physical copies available by contacting the AFLC.

**Available for purchase:** [ambassadorpublications.org/store](http://ambassadorpublications.org/store)

### ***From Freedom to Life: A History of the AFLC***

Part of the AFLC Heritage Series

### ***The Gospel in the Congregation: A Study of the AFLC Fundamental Principles***

Study videos available: [aflc.org/resources/fundamentalprinciples](http://aflc.org/resources/fundamentalprinciples)

### ***Do You Really Want the Congregation?***

Presents Georg Sverdrup's view of free and living congregations as the only true expression of the New Testament Church today.

### ***Principles and Practices of Evangelism***

How does the AFLC engage the vital mission of evangelism?

### ***Do the Work of an Evangelist: The Theology of Lutheran Evangelism***

Biblical meaning of evangelism as understood and applied in Lutheranism.