

# Do You Believe?

Based on the Ancient Creeds

by Davis Carman  
Illustrated by Anderson Carman

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**An Illustrated Children's Book Based on  
the Ancient Creeds**

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## INTRODUCTION

This short, illustrated book titled *Do You Believe?* is based on the ancient creeds. It's meant to be a beautiful way for you and your children to remember the basic outline of what many consider the most essential statements of Christian faith.

A creed is a distinctive mark, sign, token, or symbol to identify Christians. It's a carefully curated collection of statements of what Christians believe. A Christian can say with confidence that they believe the words of the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds. Most Christian traditions (including Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, and some Congregational churches) recite and affirm the words of the ancient creeds each week in their liturgical services.

You've probably heard of the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed. What about the Athanasian Creed? Are these the same? If not, how do they differ? One simple distinction between the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds is that the former starts each main section with "I believe" while the latter begins with "We believe." This makes the Nicene Creed well suited to profession in unison by a community of believers. In other words, by reciting the Nicene Creed together, the body of believers is agreeing with each other that "We believe" the following things about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

One key similarity of the ancient creeds is that they are strictly, wholly, and completely Trinitarian. As you will see in the following pages, the four main sections are each identified by a question. The first three are all about the Triune God. I included the fourth question to cover the last miscellaneous items in the creed.

- Do you believe in God the Father?
- Do you believe in God the Son—Jesus Christ?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- What else do you believe?

The Nicene Creed was first adopted in AD 325 to resolve the Arian controversy and was later amended in AD 381. The Apostles' Creed was a baptismal confession that came much earlier, though not from the Apostles themselves. It contained much less detail and went through many versions before reaching the final form around AD 750. Most of the Nicene Creed's additional statements were included to refute specific errors by others. For example, the phrase "for us and for our salvation" was added to refute an error by Origen. The words "incarnate by the Holy Spirit" were included to counter a doctrine taught by the Manicheans. "He came down from heaven" was added to correct the teaching of Photius. And finally, "He was made man" was inserted to true-up an error by Nestorius.

The lengthy Athanasian Creed surfaced in the fifth century, but not from a specific church council. It describes in much greater detail the relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All three persons are one God and "consubstantial" with each other. That is, they are all of the same essence, of the same substance.

Let me make one final point about the creeds. The mention of two people is noteworthy: Mary and Pontius Pilate. Why are they included? Their mention serves to point out that the creed isn't a theoretical document. Jesus Christ was a real person in real time whose birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection are historical fact.

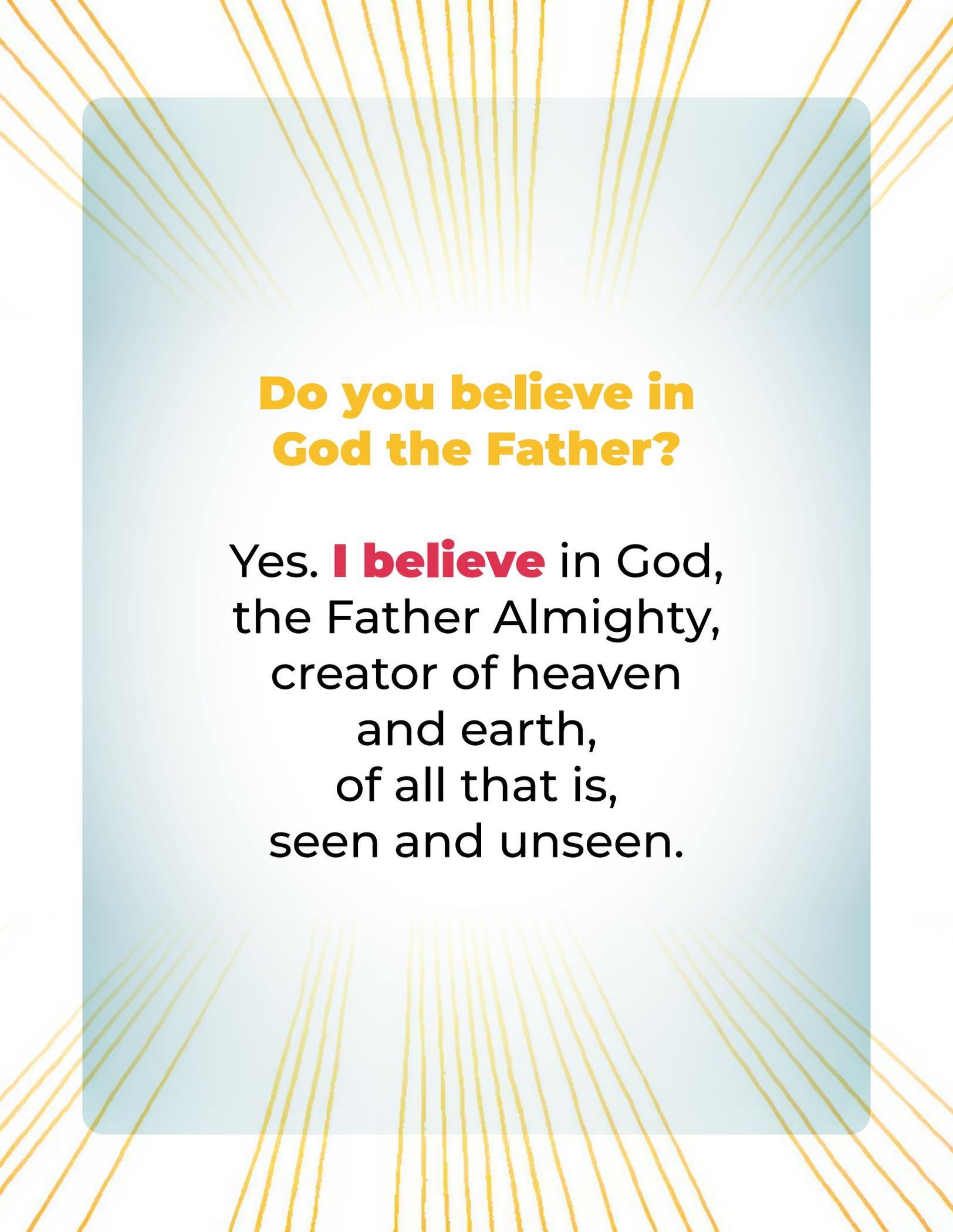
Do you believe?

Walking by faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Davis" followed by a horizontal line.

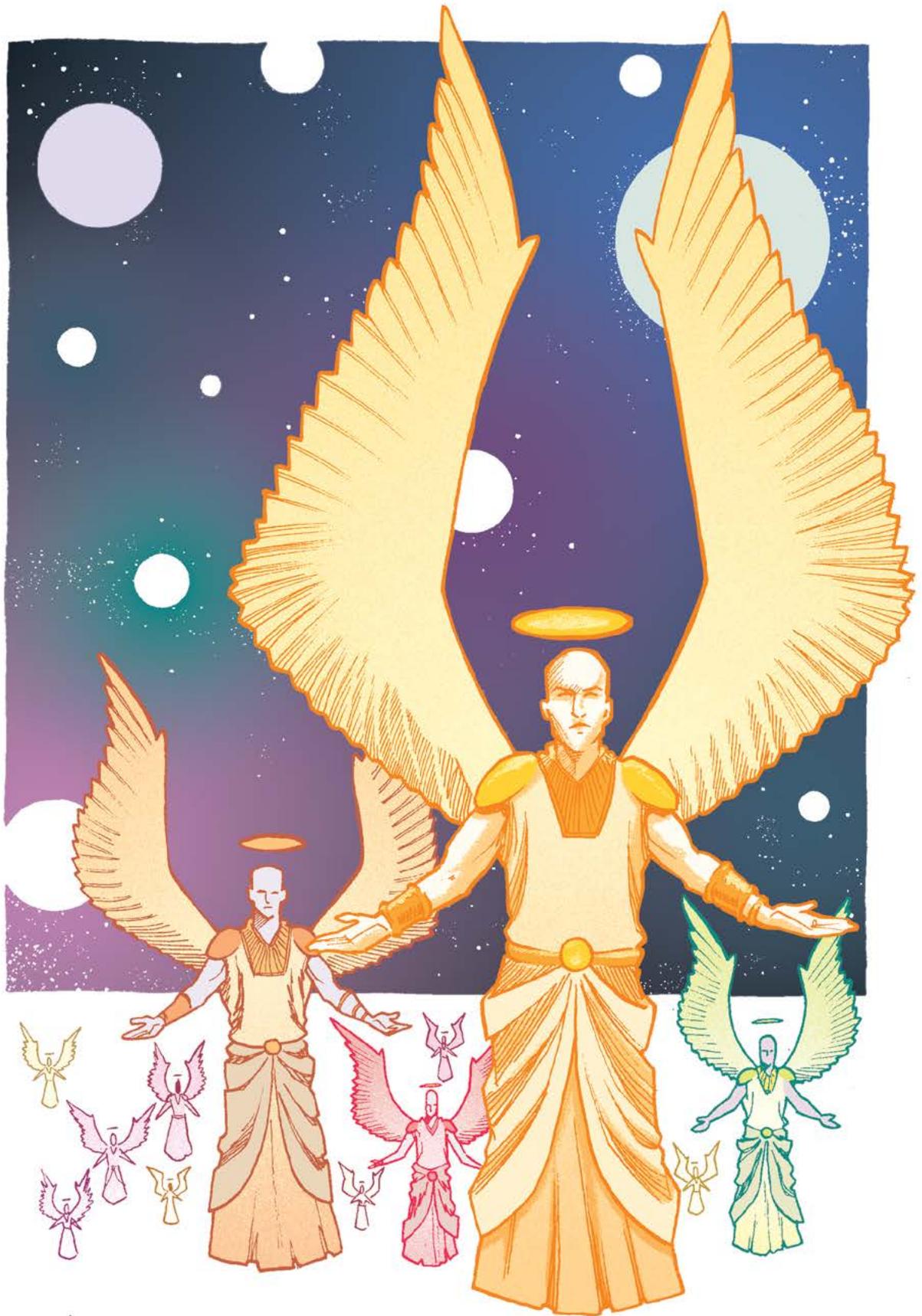
Davis Carman  
President | Apologia Educational Ministries

Note for parents: The first half of this book contains the main text and colorful artwork. In the second half, you will find black-and-white line drawings of the illustrations. These line drawings can be used as coloring book pages for your children, with the goal of reinforcing what Christians believe.



## **Do you believe in God the Father?**

Yes. **I believe** in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven  
and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.



## **Do you believe in God the Son: Jesus Christ?**

Yes. **I believe** in  
Jesus Christ, God's  
only Son, our Lord,  
eternally begotten  
of the Father,  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true  
God, begotten, not  
made, of one Being  
with the Father.

Through him all  
things were made.



For us and for our  
salvation He came  
down from heaven

**I believe**

He was conceived  
by the power of the  
Holy Spirit,  
was incarnate and  
born of the Virgin  
Mary.

**I believe**

He took on human  
flesh and was fully  
God and fully man.

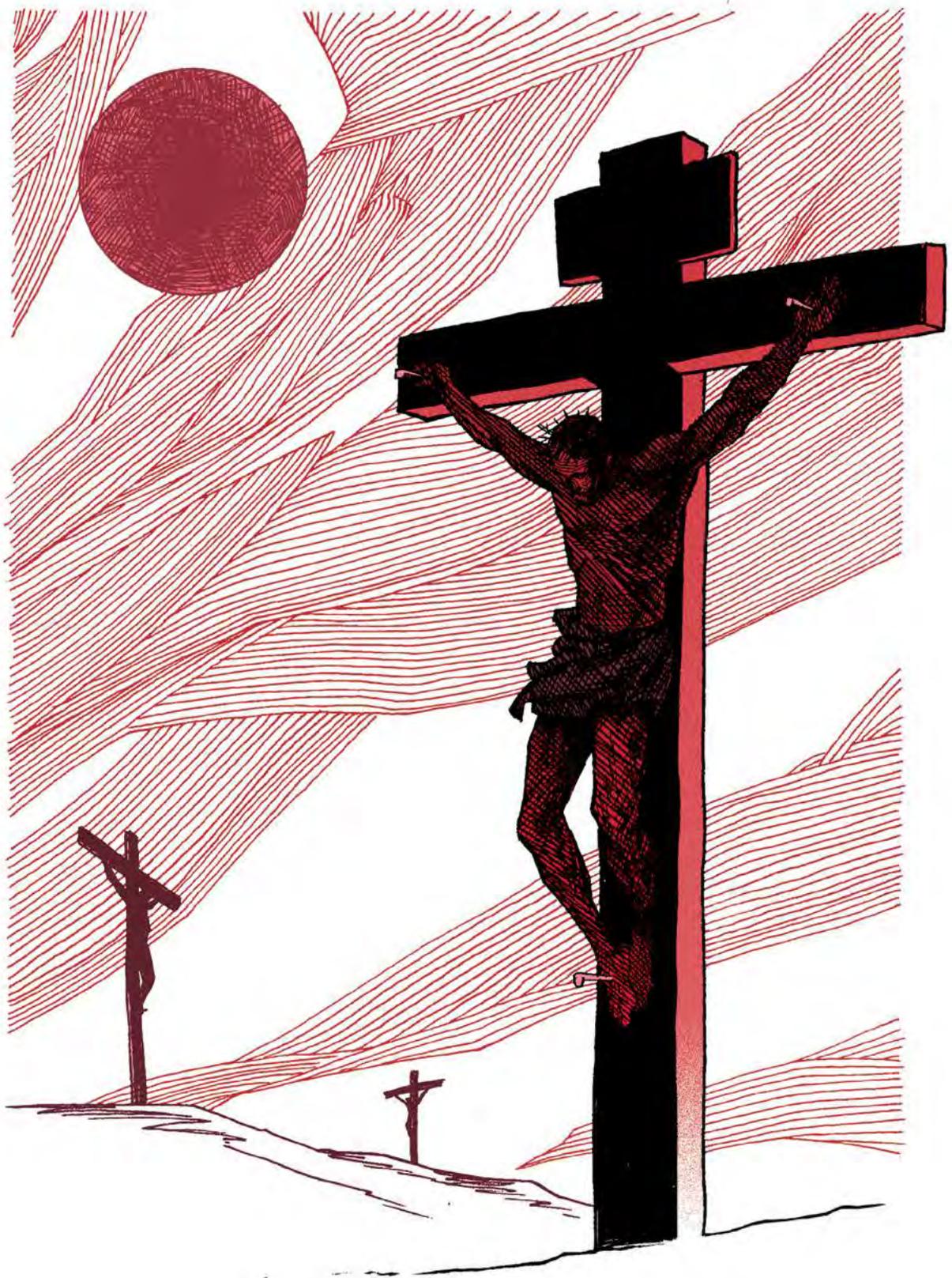


**I believe**

He suffered under  
Pontius Pilate, and  
was crucified,

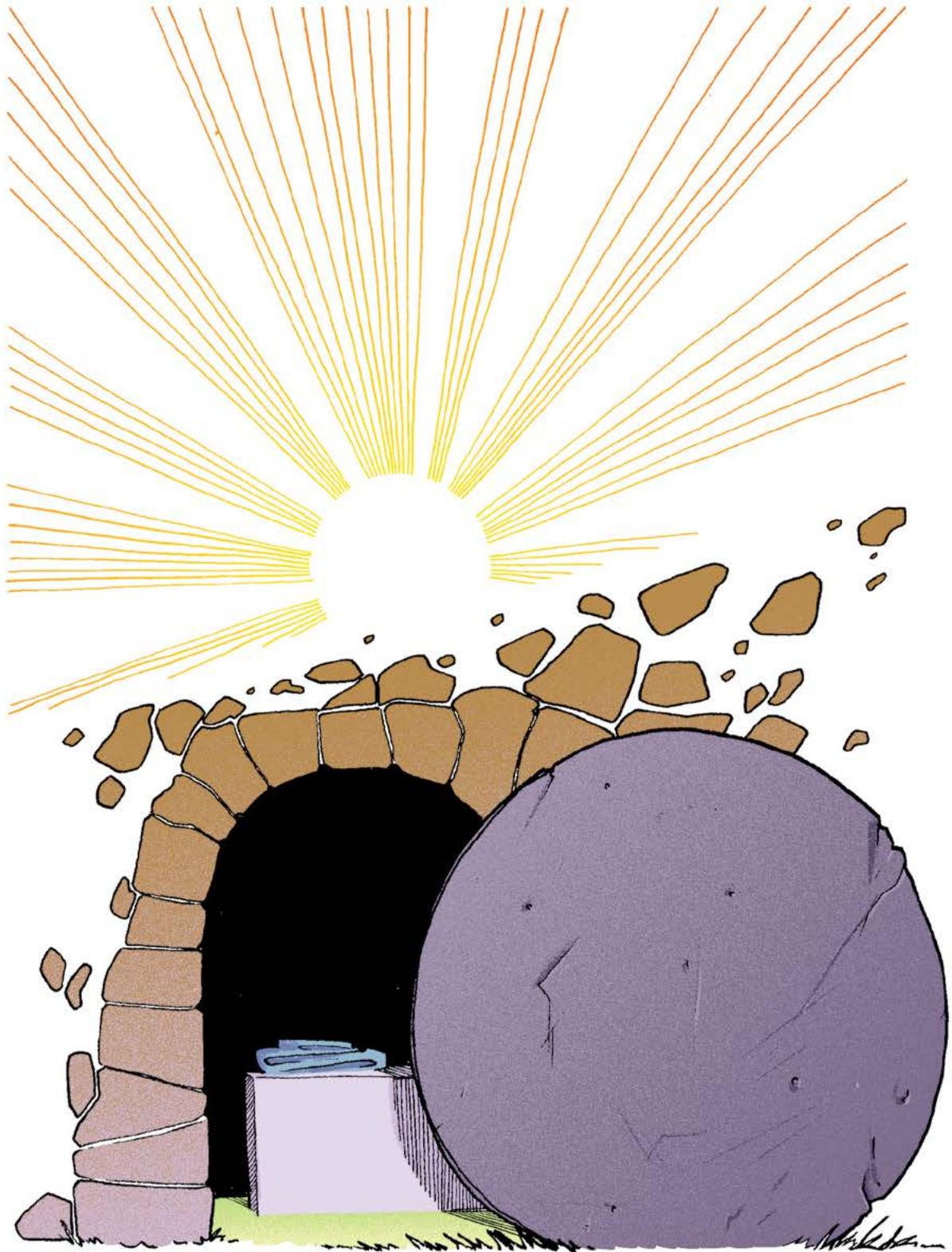
**I believe**

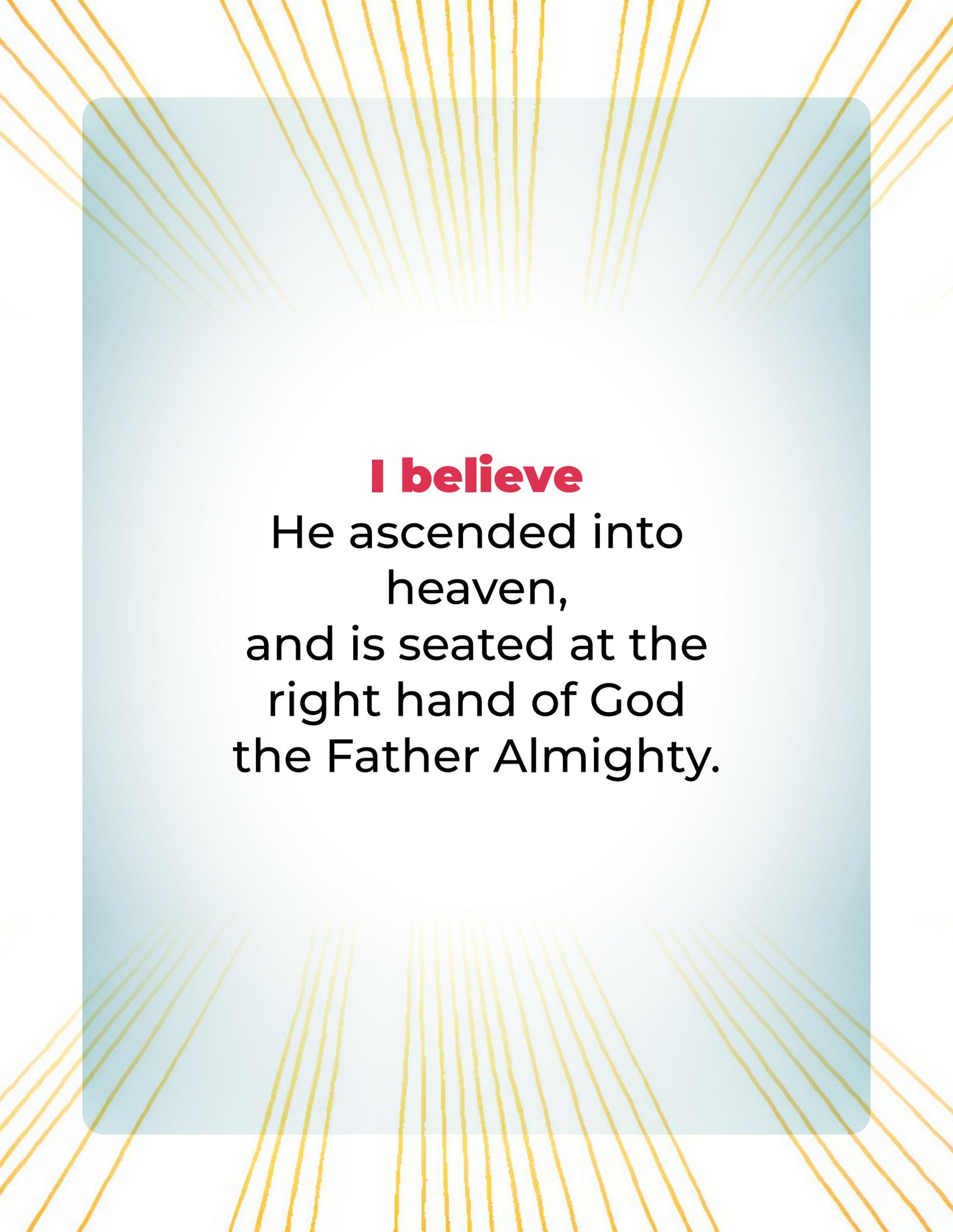
He willingly gave up  
His life for our sake,  
died on a cross, and  
was buried.



**I believe**

He rose on the third  
day, according to the  
Scriptures.





**I believe**

He ascended into  
heaven,  
and is seated at the  
right hand of God  
the Father Almighty.



**I believe**

He will come again  
in glory to judge the  
living and the dead.

And His Kingdom  
will have no end.



**Do you believe  
in God the Holy  
Spirit?**

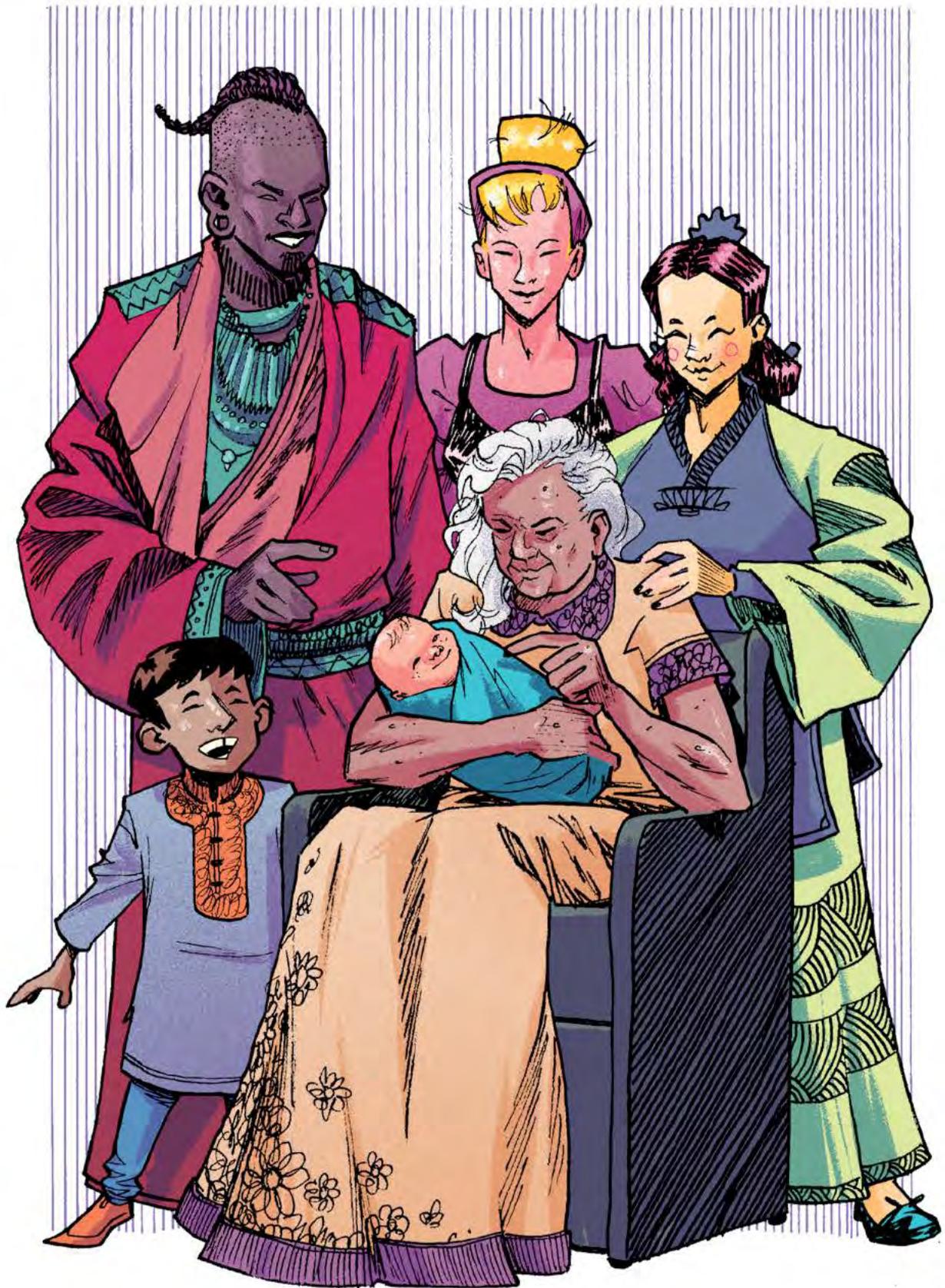
Yes. **I believe** in the  
Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver  
of life,  
who proceeds from  
the Father and the  
Son.

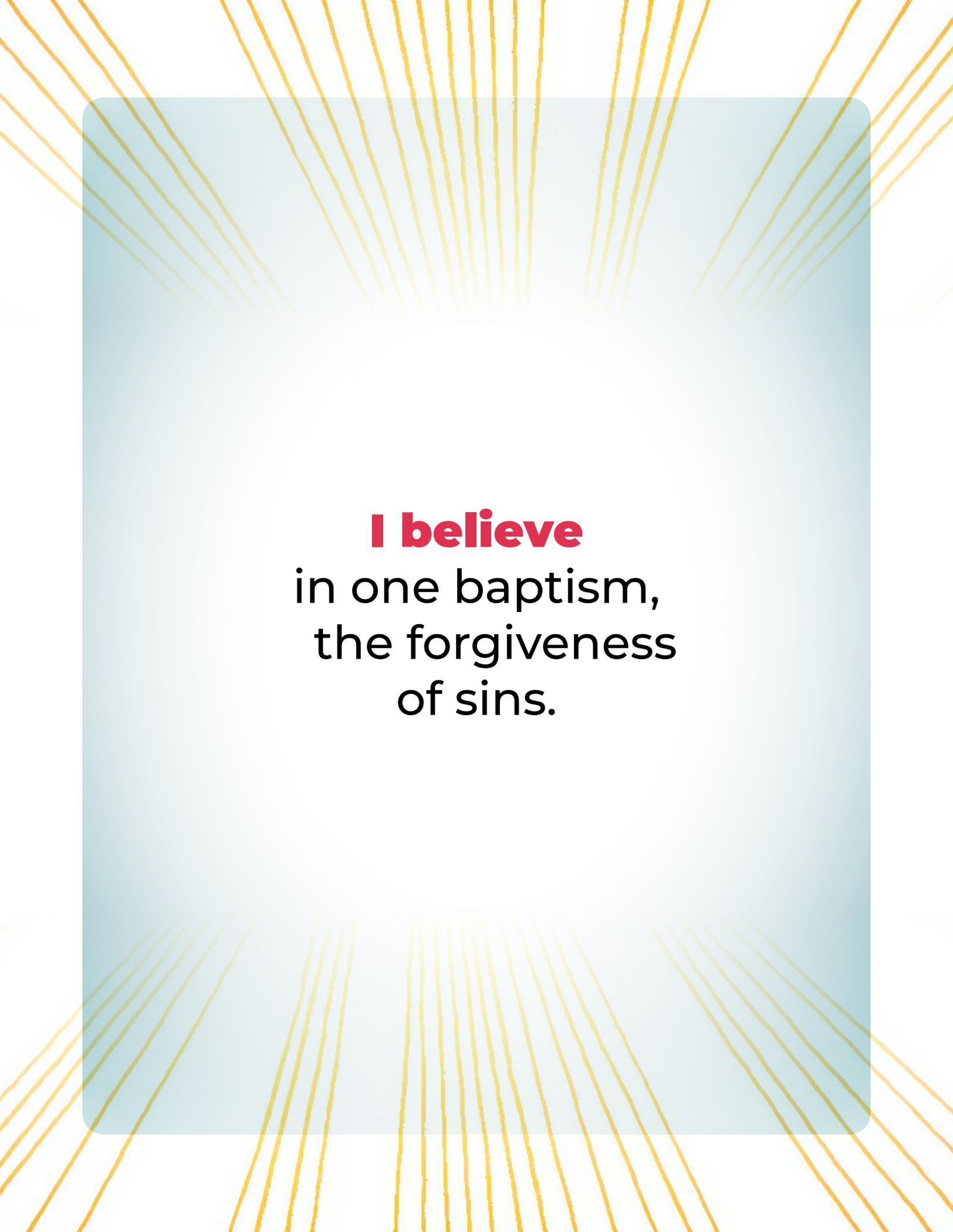
Who with the  
Father and the Son  
is worshiped and  
glorified.  
He has spoken  
through the  
Prophets.



**What else do  
you believe?**

**I also believe**  
in one, holy, catholic,  
apostolic Church,  
the communion  
of saints,



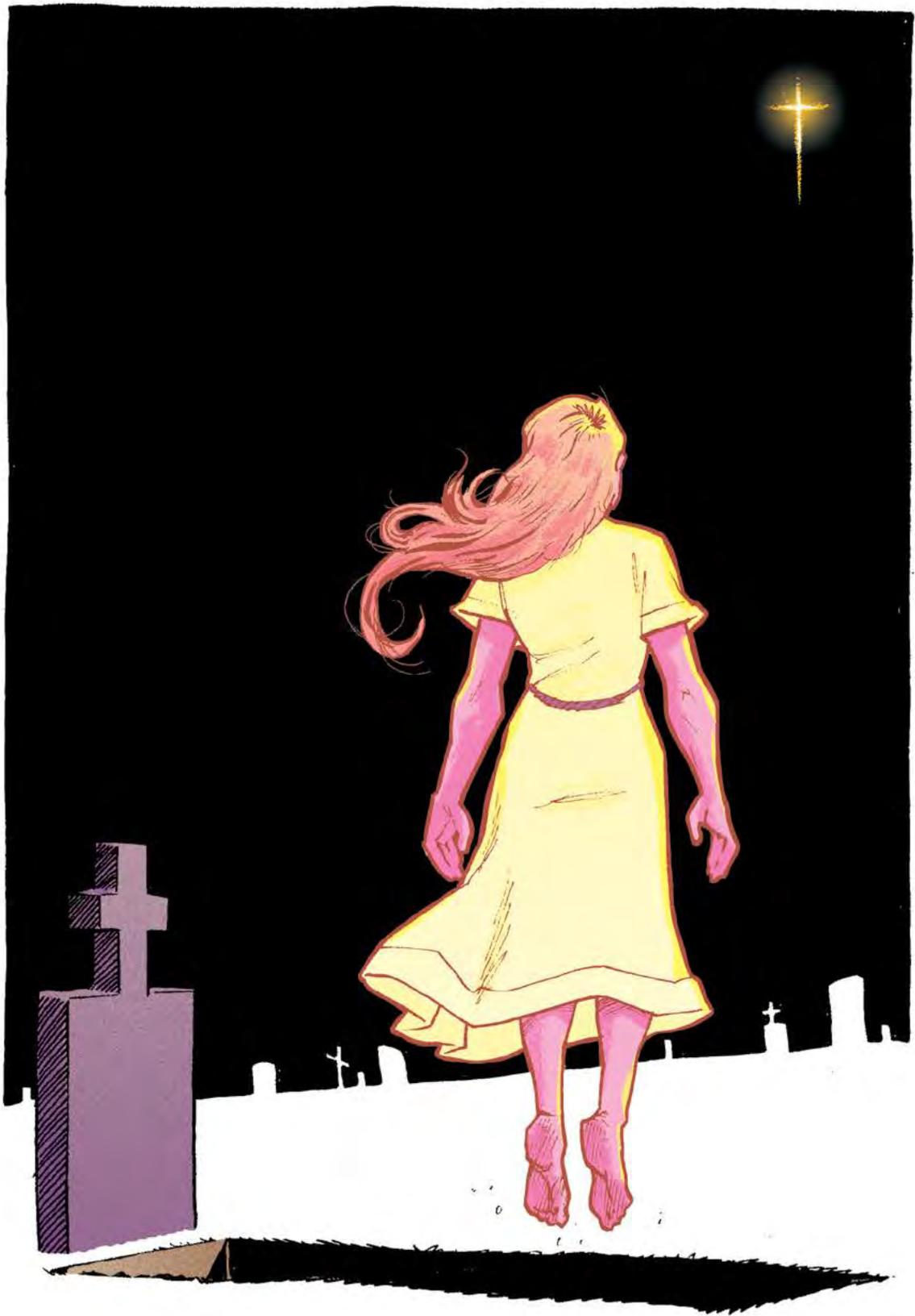


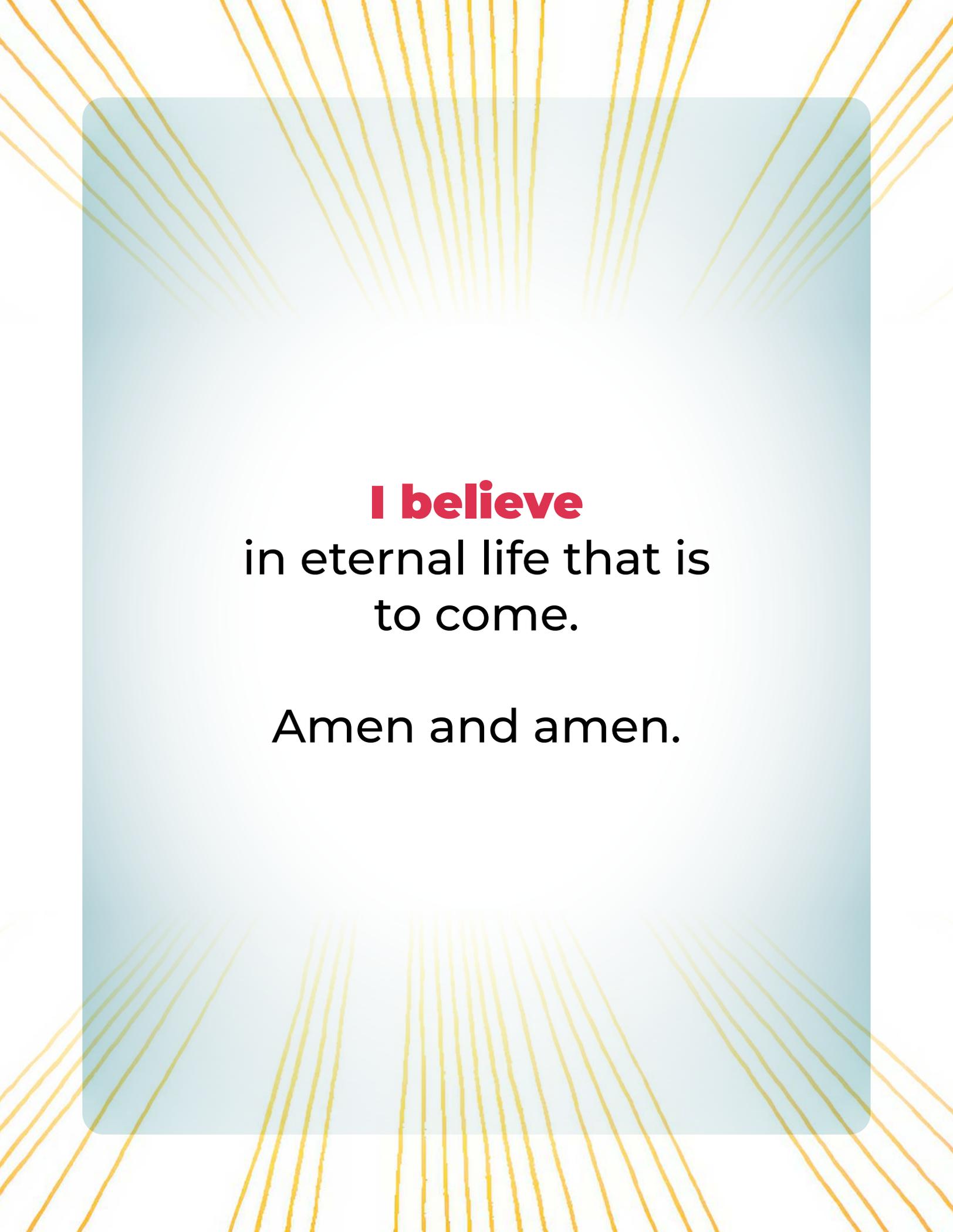
**I believe**  
in one baptism,  
the forgiveness  
of sins.



**I believe**  
in the resurrection of  
the body.

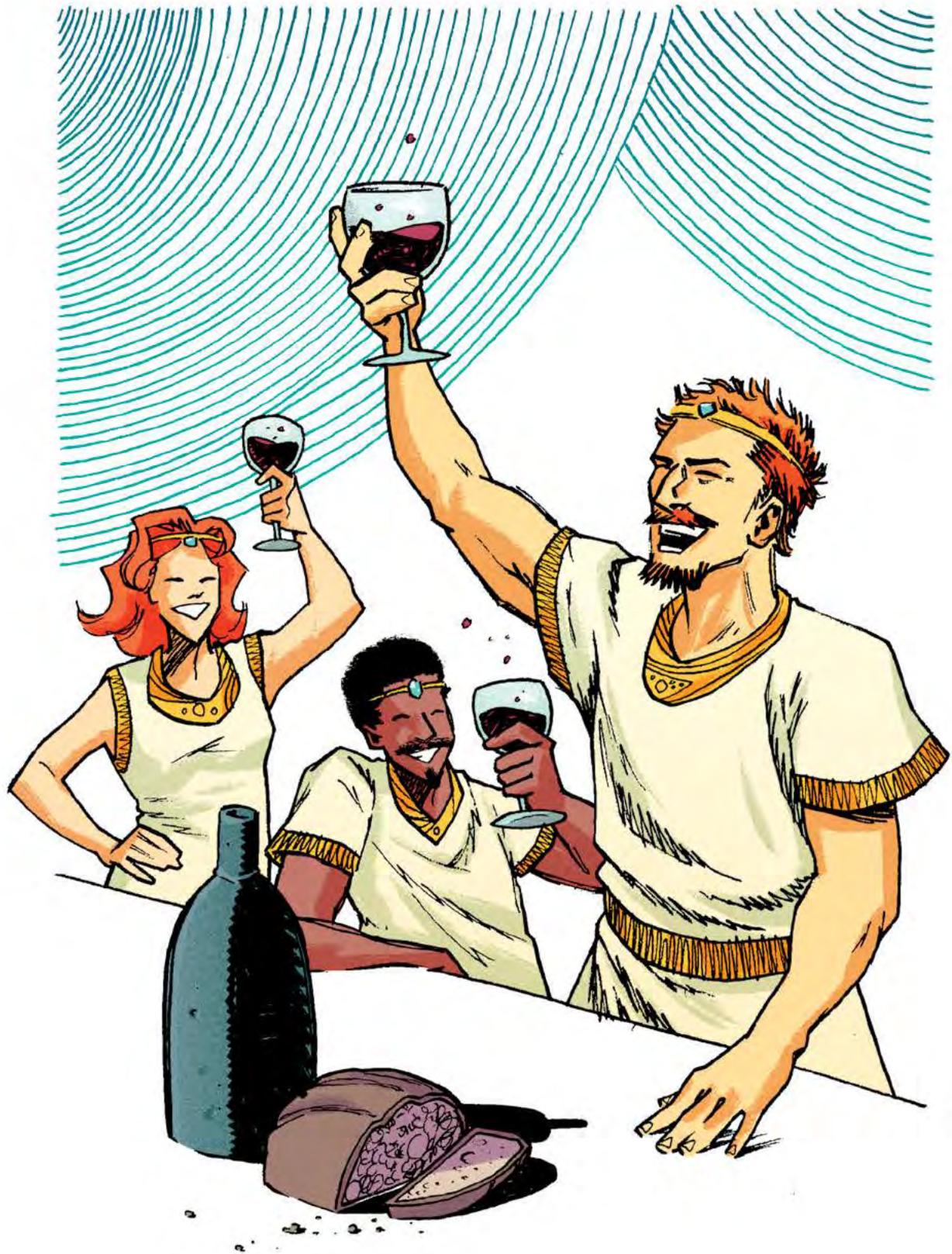
**I believe**  
the dead in Christ  
will rise first,  
then those who  
remain will meet  
Him in the air.

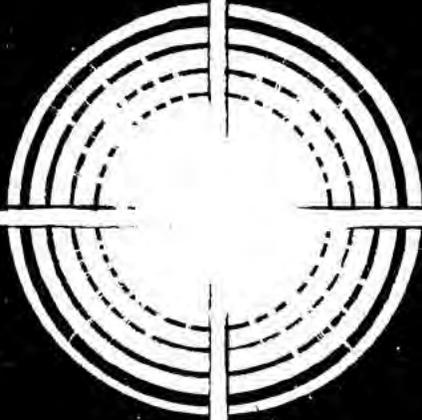
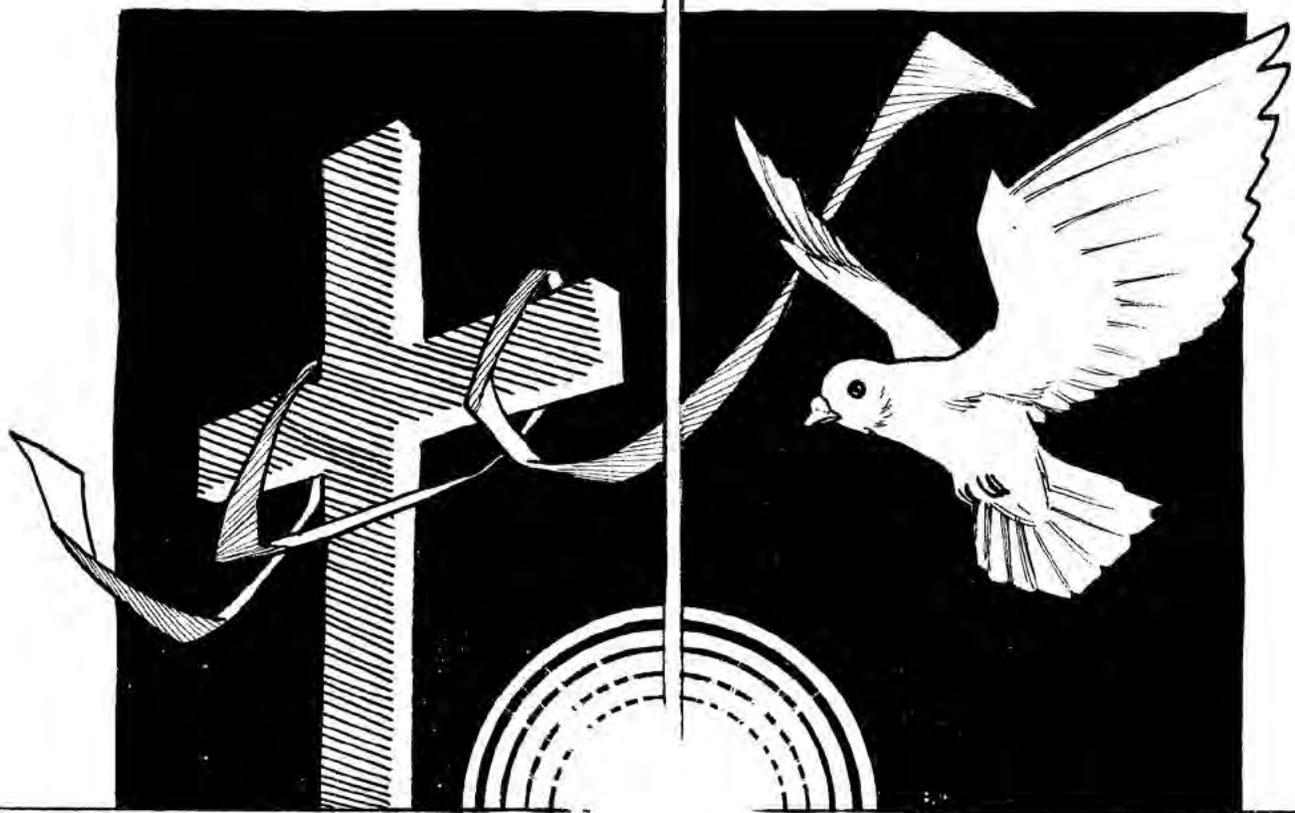




**I believe**  
in eternal life that is  
to come.

Amen and amen.





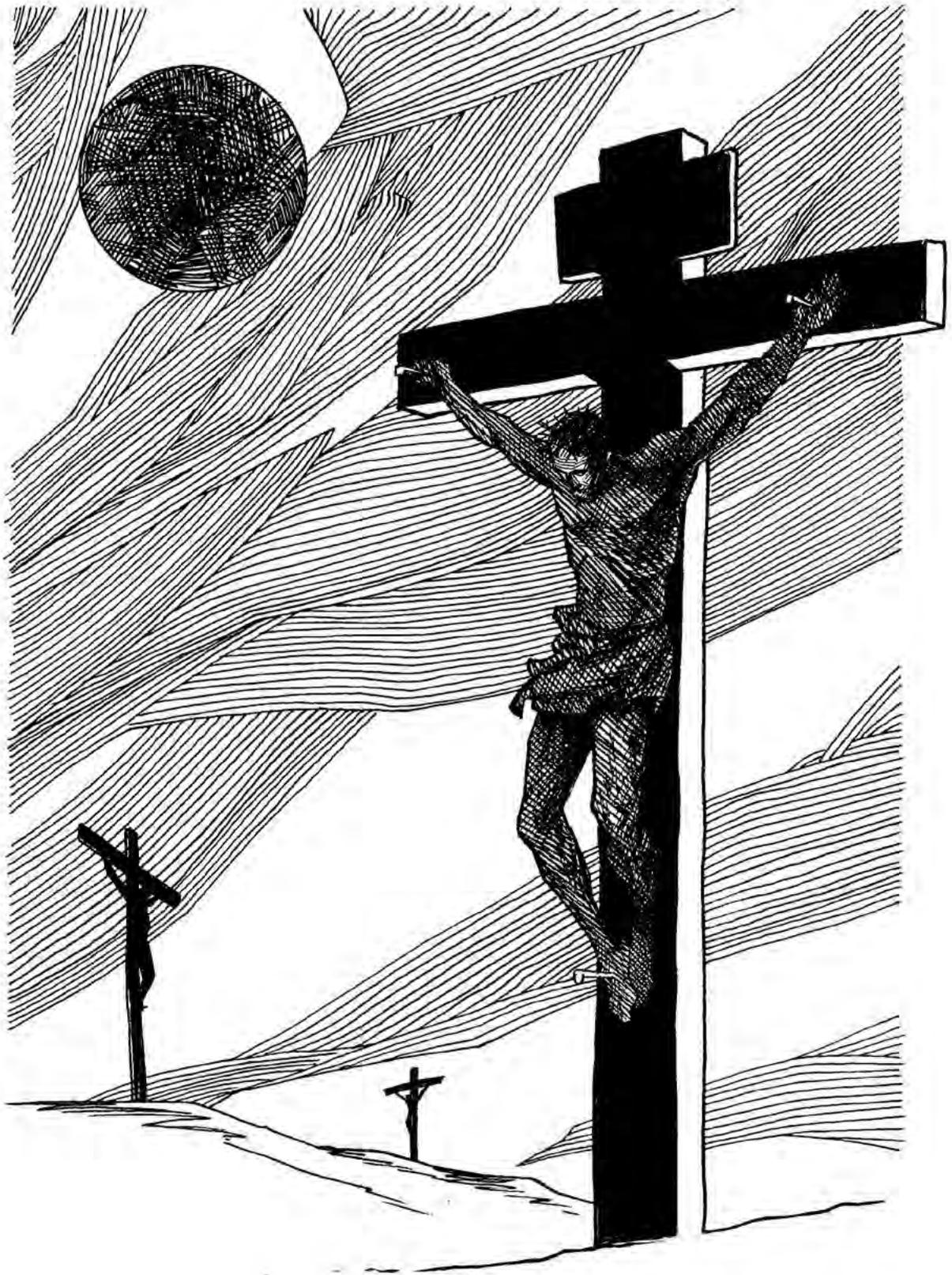
At the  
Apostle's  
Creed

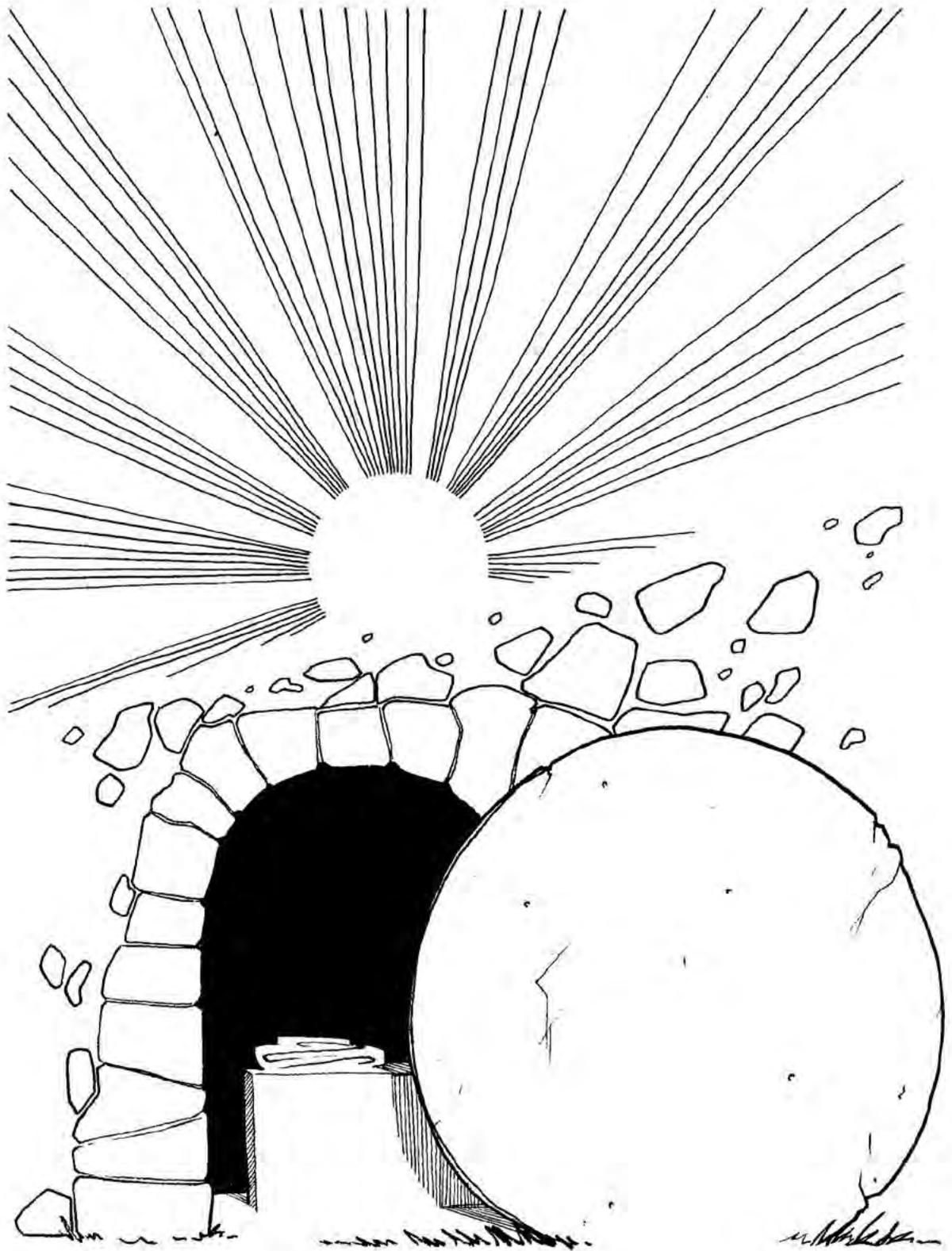














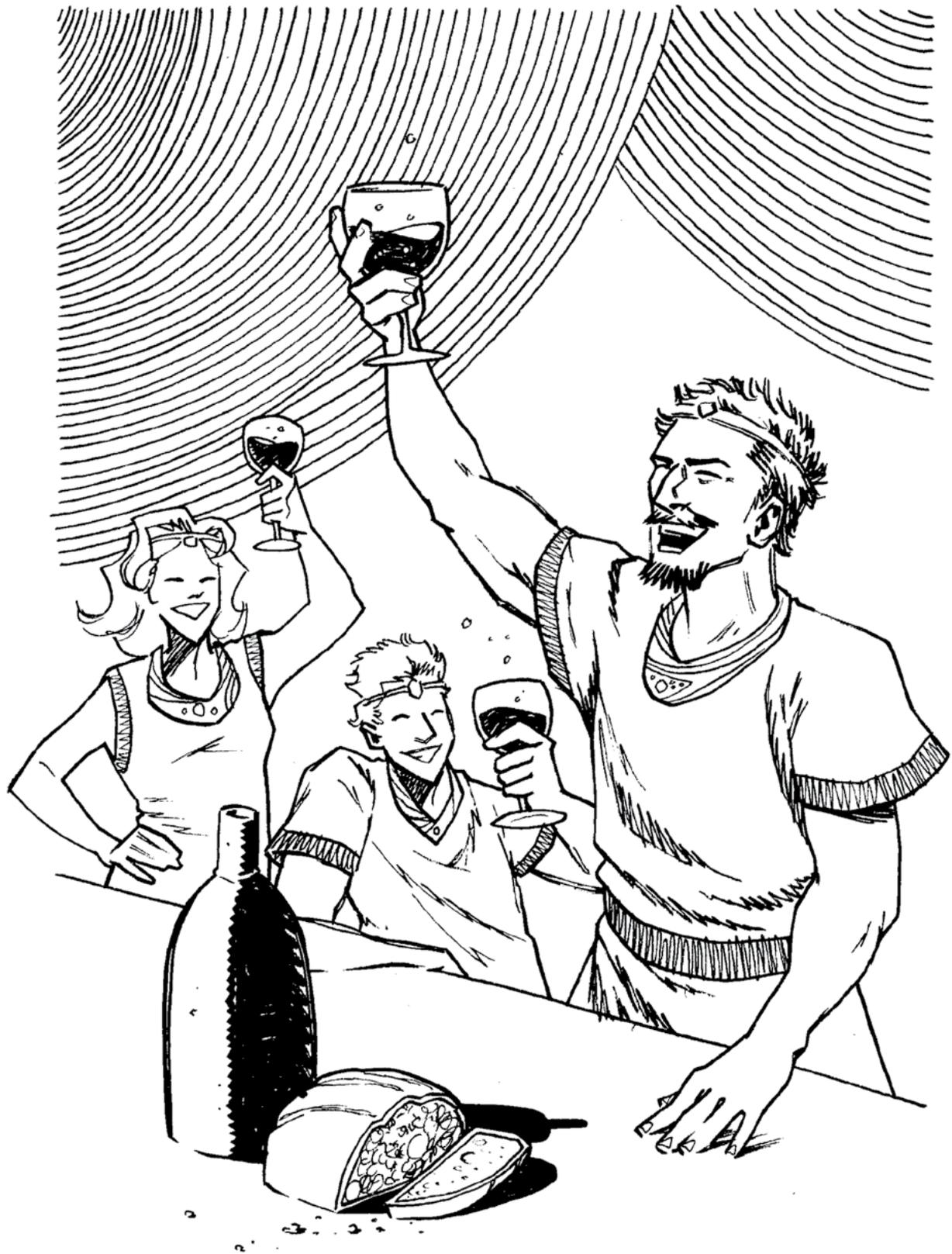












# Discover the Wonder of **Creation**

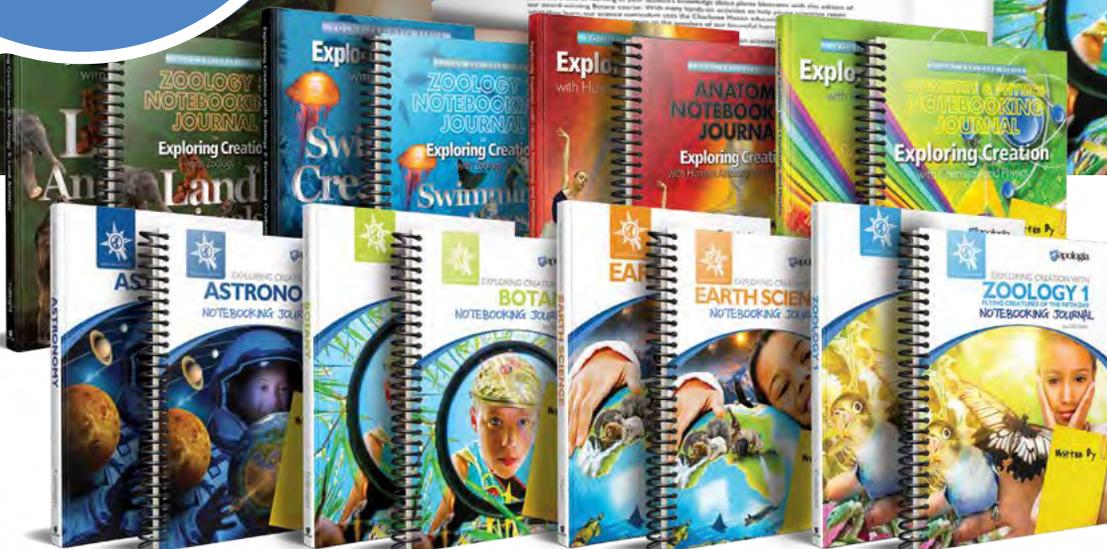
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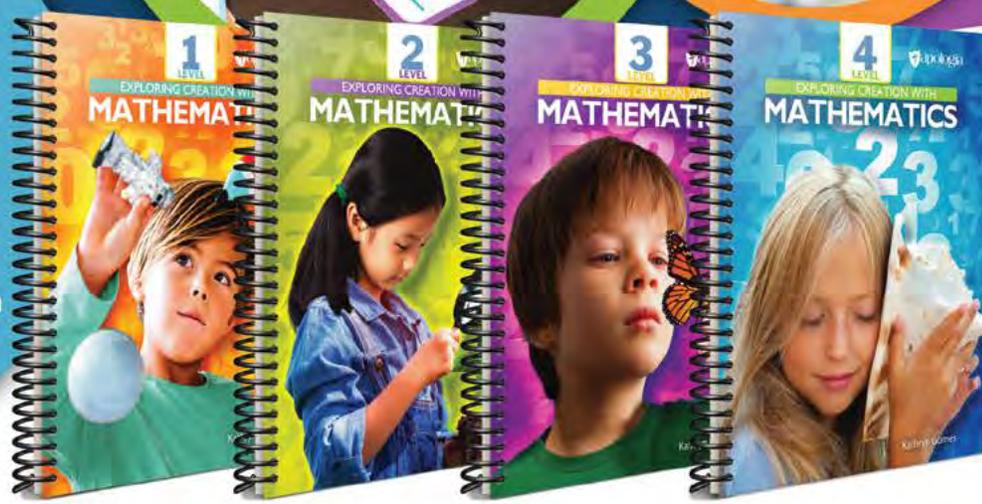


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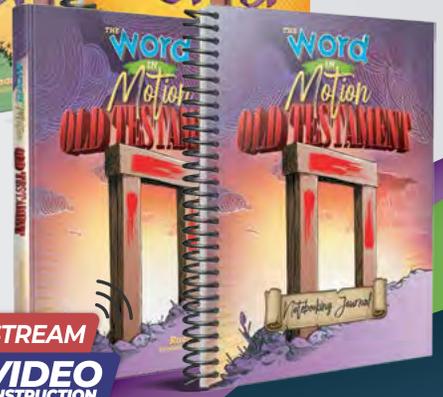
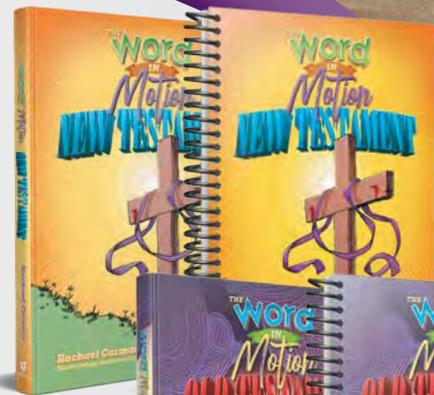


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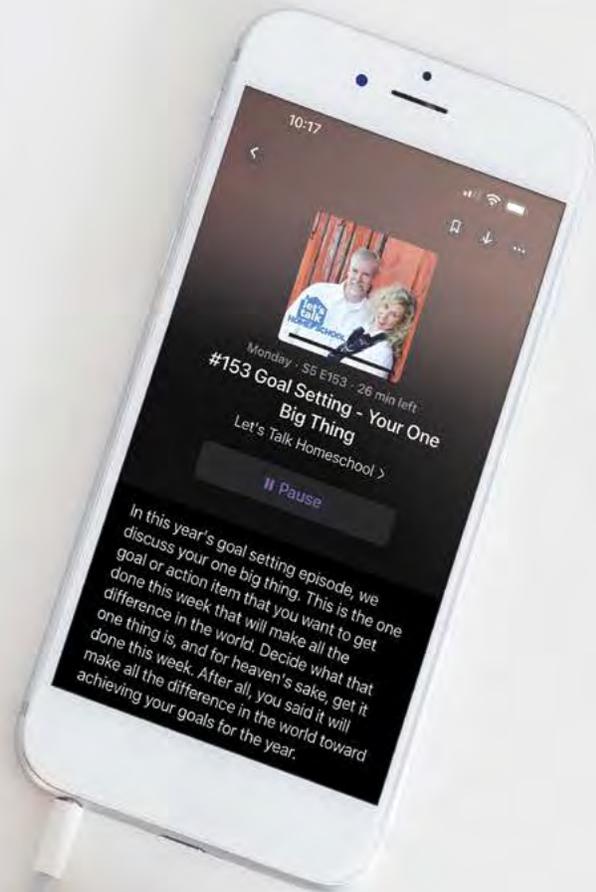


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## **Do You Believe?**

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*This book is dedicated  
to my three grandchildren born in 2022:  
Jenny, Theo, and Charis*