

# **START RIGHT**

## **Part 1 of START 2026**

The Cornerstone Youth Group. January 7, 2026.

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED: WE BELIEVE**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,

his only Son, our Lord.

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

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty.

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The one, holy, catholic Church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting.

Amen.

# AM I A DISCIPLE?

If someone observed your life for one week, would they guess that I am a disciple of Jesus? Why or why not?

Reasons they might guess I am a disciple:

Reasons they would guess I am not a disciple:

## WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

The basic definition of a disciple is:

***A disciple follows Jesus Christ by embracing his will and ways.***

**His will:** A disciple obeys Jesus' command to repent or turn from oneself and sin to trust in him as our God and Savior. A disciple surrenders his life to Christ: "Wherever you lead, I will follow."

**His ways:** A disciple studies Jesus' teachings (the Bible) and obeys them by faith and the Holy Spirit's power.

What does that look like in real life?

# HOW DOES A DISCIPLE LIVE?

The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, his ministry partner and a leader in the church in Ephesus. He gave him lots of wise advice about his life and ministry.

In one passage, Paul provided a profile of a faithful disciple of Jesus. He listed six marks of a Jesus-follower. This is how we should strive to live even when we're young:

***1 Timothy 4:12 (CSB) Don't let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.***

1. **Example:** People should be able to watch our lives and guess that we are disciples of Jesus.
2. **In word:** Our speech should always be godly, wise, honest, positive, encouraging, and loving (see Ephesians 4:15, 29).
3. **In conduct:** We faithfully follow Jesus' teachings so our lives are marked by obedience to him. We must not be hypocrites: *Titus 1:16 (CSB) They claim to know God, but they deny him by their works.*
4. **In love:** We love God and people from the heart.
5. **In faith:** We trust God and are faithful to Him. Genuine faith always leads to faithfulness.
6. **In purity:** We reject the godless ways of the world, especially in relationships. We follow the Bible's teachings on sexual conduct.

# START 2026 RIGHT

A new year is a fresh opportunity to recharge our commitment to follow Jesus. Review the following areas of your life, and prayerfully decide how to bring them into line with Jesus' will and ways.

What is one old unhelpful habit and one new Christ-centered habit I can choose in each area of my life?

1. Trusting in God's promises, faithfulness, and will for my life:

2. Engaging in the daily habit of Bible reading and prayer:

3. How I talk and act around my friends:

4. How I relate to my family:

5. How I talk and act at school:

6. How I use my phone and social media:

7. I will take this bold step to build a strong, Christ-centered faith: