

## ‘THE END’

*How do the practices and tenets of Christian faith help us see God’s purpose in our daily lives?*

*A Duke Youth Academy and Faith & Leadership curriculum*

We invite you to practice what you are studying and discussing through experience. These practices are designed for you to do throughout the week between group gatherings.

### **PRACTICE 1: ELLA**

Make a list of people who have impacted or supported your baptismal journey. Choose one of those people and write him or her a note celebrating your friendship and companionship. Send the note or share it in person. Consider adding a cookie, a candle or a small pitcher as a gesture to Ella’s and our baptismal stories.

### **PRACTICE 2: JOSHUA**

Make plans to have a meal with friends or family with whom relationships may be distant or difficult. Get to the table a few minutes early and reflect on the holiness of your meal and the community your table will create. Ponder:

- How can this meal be a time of healing?
- How can you offer yourself as Christ does for the healing of relationships?

Call a friend from your small group and reflect on the experience.

### **PRACTICE 3: JILLIAN**

Do an internet search for a safe and dependable local program/project that is against what you are “against” and for the eternal purposes God is leading you to discover. How can you get involved in their work? Can you volunteer with them? Organize a support drive among your church, friends or community?

If you feel resistant, spend some time journaling or talking to a trusted friend. Use these questions to prompt your reflections:

- Why do I feel hesitant to live out my ideological commitments?
- How is my identity in Christ challenging me to do uncomfortable things?
- What can I do to break down the barriers to my involvement?

# LIVING LIKE THEY BELIEVE

## PRACTICE 4: ANTHONY

Take a walk around the block surrounding your home, church or office. Collect three to five materials that catch your attention for being messy, discarded or broken. Reflect:

- How might these materials be redeemed to testify to the light and the eternal things of God?
- How can you use these materials to testify to the light?

Consider taking a photo of the materials and posting about it to your favorite social media site or sending a text to a friend.

# LIVING LIKE THEY BELIEVE

## A baptismal remembrance

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

This candle symbolizes the light of Christ that came into our lives at our baptism.

### SONG

Suggestions: "[Wade in the Water](#)," "[Come Down, O Love Divine](#)," "[I've Got Peace Like a River](#)" or "[Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing](#)."

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\*\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

As the water is poured into the bowl, this prayer may be read.

*Eternal and gracious God, we give you thanks. In countless ways you have revealed yourself in ages past, and have blessed us with signs of your grace. We praise you that through the waters of the sea you led your people Israel out of bondage, into freedom in the land of your promise.*

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*We praise you for sending Jesus your Son, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit. Through the baptism of his death and resurrection you set us free from the bondage of sin and death and give us cleansing and rebirth.*

*We praise you for your Holy Spirit, who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with a variety of gifts, that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood.*

*We rejoice that you claimed us in our baptism, and that by your grace we are born anew. By your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to do your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.*

*Amen.*

Using the water, mark each other with the cross, saying, “Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.”

# LIVING LIKE THEY BELIEVE

## Resources

If you're interested in exploring the topic of "the end" more deeply, we invite you to engage these resources.

### BOOKS

["Book, Bath, Table and Time: Christian Worship as Source and Resource for Youth Ministry,"](#) by Fred Edie

["Take this Bread: A Radical Conversion,"](#) by Sara Miles

["Gilead: A Novel,"](#) by Marilynne Robinson

### FILMS AND VIDEOS

["Dead Man Walking"](#)

["Simon Sinek: Start With Why"](#)

### FAITH & LEADERSHIP

#### **Baptism**

[Allan Hugh Cole Jr.: A spiritual life](#)

[Ed Moore: Advent, baptism and blow-dryers](#)

[Laura Everett: When heaven tastes like Jell-O salad](#)

[Seeing, believing and the new birth from above](#)

#### **Communion**

[Jacob Paul Breeze: Pray, believe, live -- a rural congregation discovers the gift of liturgy](#)

[Noelle York-Simmons: No hands but ours](#)

[Playing church](#)

# LIVING LIKE THEY BELIEVE

## **Identity**

[Catherine A. Caimano: Signs and wonders](#)

[Dinner -- and the gospel -- is served, at St. Lydia's](#)

[Jason Byassee: Straining toward holiness. Together.](#)

[Jena Lee Nardella: What do you do when your idealism crumbles?](#)

[Michael B. Curry: We need some crazy Christians](#)

## **Incarnation**

[Edgar Moore: Taking Jesus out of the stained glass](#)

[Learning to speak](#)

[Living in community](#)

[Rhonda Mawhood Lee: El Caganer's message](#)

['The end'](#)



# LIVING LIKE THEY BELIEVE

*'The end': How do the practices and tenets of the Christian faith help us see God's purpose in our daily lives?*

## Incarnation as 'the end'

### JOHN 1:1-14 (NRSV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

