

A Savior—The Savior

Pope Francis visited the United States this week, arriving in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday afternoon and leaving from Philadelphia on Sunday night. It was an historic visit—an “apostolic journey” according to the Catholic Church. Pope Francis met with President Obama, spoke to a joint session of Congress (a first ever for a pope), addressed the United Nations, led masses and prayers, even canonized a saint.

He was welcomed by masses of Americans. Many view the soft-spoken Hispanic pontiff as the “People’s Pope,” a reconciler, a savior. *Is he a savior?* Pope Francis declared next year “The Year of Mercy,” among other things encouraging priests to grant forgiveness in the confessional to women who have had an abortion.

How does all this line up with what the Bible teaches?

- **Jesus is the one and only mediator between us and God.**

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. 1 Timothy 2:5-6

- **Forgiveness and salvation are found only in Jesus.**

Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.” 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. Acts 4:11-12

- **Jesus is the only Savior.**

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 1 John 4:14

The head of the Catholic Church, yes. A sincere force for good in the world, likely. But not a savior, and certainly not *the* savior. That place is reserved for Jesus alone.

Jodi Quinn, our new Kid City Director, said recently that our children really grow in their personal relationship with Jesus when they start praying and reading the Bible on their own. Parents, encourage your kids to use the *God Time* resource they get every Sunday in Kid City. If you have preschoolers, connect with your children on what they’re learning using the parent resources provided by Tot Town. Commit yourself to helping each of your kids know Jesus personally!

KNOW JESUS
Mission series

True North

We are a community of grace and truth inviting people to know and follow Jesus.
Our mission statement

1. Divide into teams of 3-4. When someone says “Go!”, each team will work together for 1 minute to list everything they know *about* Jesus. Share your answers.
2. Think about a good friend or close family member in your life: What’s the difference between knowing about that person and really knowing them? In what ways is knowing Jesus similar? Different?
3. Can a person be close to God without really knowing Jesus Christ? What do these verses teach?
 - John 10:14-15—
 - John 14:6-9—
 - Matthew 11:27-29—
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10—
4. How would you explain “eternal life” to a middle-schooler? These Scriptures will help you:
 - John 3:35-36—
 - John 5:22-24—
 - John 6:38-40—
 - 1 John 5:11-13—
5. Pastor Dan said,

“There still has to be that point—that decision of the heart, that commitment of the will, that confession of exclusive loyalty—where you eventually say “I do” and it all becomes personal.”

If you have come to that point in your life, share how it came about and how your life is different now.
6. What “resources” (time, talents, treasures) has God given your group? How can you prioritize these resources this year in a way that pleases God and helps other people know Jesus?

Jesus said: *Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.* John 17:3