

Sermon Discussion Guide

I Believe: Week 1

Prayer

Take a few moments at the beginning and end of your group time to pray for each other and for your discussion in God's Word.

Main Ideas

This week, we began a new sermon series focused on the Apostles' Creed. We talked about the history of creeds in the Christian faith and the reasons why they are good and helpful in our faith.

While not holding the weight or inspiration of Scripture, creeds ground us, as a community, in the values, beliefs, and narrative that we live by, providing unity and clarity to what we are all about.

Icebreaker Question

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your holidays this past year?

Discussion Questions

1. What is your background with Christian creeds? Did you grow up in a church that recited creeds? Is it a brand-new concept?
2. As you think about our culture today, can you think of any examples of modern-day creeds? (*Yard signs, campaign slogans, proverbs, etc.*)
 - a. What do these teach us about the values of our society?
 - b. What about these creeds are true, and what are not?
3. What would you say to someone who describes Christians as "too dogmatic"- in other words, more focused on being right rather than doing good?
4. As a group, take some time to slowly read the Apostles' Creed, included below. (*You might have each person in your group read one line at a time*).
 - a. What do you notice about this creed? What is emphasized as most important?
 - b. Does anything about the creed not make sense to you?
5. What would you describe as the essential beliefs of the Christian faith?

Apostles' Creed

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.

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

He 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