

Sermon Discussion Guide

I Believe: Week 4

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 continued our study of Jesus in the Apostles' Creed, looking at this line: "Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary". In Jesus, we find someone both human and divine, capable of saving us from our sins and also able to understand our pain.

Jesus entering our world is proof that God is involved in the lives of His people, taking the first step towards restoration and reconciliation with Him.

Icebreaker Question

- In your opinion, when is the right time to take down Christmas decorations?

Discussion Questions

1. As a group, read Luke 1:26-38.
 - a. What does this story, the inspiration for this line from the Apostles' Creed, teach us about God?
 - b. What do you notice about Mary's response to Gabriel's message?
 - c. Have you ever heard someone claim that this story isn't possible? What should our response be to those types of claims?
 - d. Is there anything in your life where you are tempted to believe that God couldn't make a difference?
2. What does this line of the creed teach us about God's willingness to enter into the messiness of our lives?
3. Where have you experienced God's closeness, even in the midst of brokenness or uncertainty or pain?
4. As a group, read Phil. 2:3-8.
 - a. As you think about His life and ministry, what about Jesus' humility stands out to you?
 - b. How can we have the same mindset of Christ, as we're told in v. 5? What opportunities do you have to humbly serve?

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and earth;
and 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.

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 holy catholic* Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.