

THIS I BELIEVE

INTRODUCTION

As we welcome each other back into our DGroup, we are excited to start off this new season with the new sermon and study series, **THIS I BELIEVE**. We will journey through the basic teachings of Christianity based on the ancient document, *Apostle's Creed*. The Apostles' Creed is worth knowing today perhaps more than ever. In a time when our relentless individualism suggests that each person should arrive at his or her own conclusions about Scripture, the creed gives us a historically proven way to study scripture. The creed is, in many ways, a distillation of scripture; each of the statements within the creed may not represent a particular chapter and verse, but each statement is rooted in a recurring truth within Scripture as a whole. Further, the creed helps us to identify the core beliefs of the Christian faith, giving all Christian denominations a common reference point. In a world that so desperately needs the Gospel, churches of every kind need to find ways to rally together, finding unity in what is essential, and offering charity in all else; the creed helps us to identify what is essential.

The Apostle's 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 and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come 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.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Opening: Why is he called "Christ," meaning "anointed"?

- Based on Colossians 1:15-20 & Sermon, discuss the following questions:
- How does Jesus as the eternal, divine, Son of God help us to understand God's character and nature?
- Why is it so important for Jesus Christ to be both fully divine and fully man? Why does this matter for our lives today?
- What areas of your life need to be reoriented under the Lordship of Christ? How does Jesus' reconciling, gracious work on the cross invite you to faith and repentance in this way?

PRAYER GUIDE

- Pray that our church would experience a greater worship of Jesus, who is worthy of our worship as he rules and reigns as Lord of all.
- Pray that more people in our community and our world would have the eyes to see Jesus as Lord, and would be saved by his grace.
- Pray for the Lord to protect those around the world from the effects of this virus, to sustain healthcare workers and others on the frontlines of care, and for wisdom for decision makers and communities in the days and months ahead.