

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 the dead.

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 FOR DGROUPS.

Does the idea of Christ's return dread you? Why?

How should I live in light of end times?

A. Follow God, not culture.

- Jesus said he will return. How should that truth affect the way I live?
- Would you say you have a heart on fire for God? Has your love grown cold...or lukewarm? Or would you say you are just getting to know God?
- What burden, fear, guilt or sin might be keeping you more culture-focused?

B. Be ready for Christ's return.

- If you knew the world would end tomorrow, what would you do differently right now?
- What is stopping you from making these changes?

C. Make the most of this life.

- Are you making the most of your life for the sake of Christ and His kingdom?
- What gifts are you honestly not able to maximize at this season of your life?
- Are you actively looking for opportunities to be used by God? Would you say you've found your purpose?

Spend time praying:

- Pray for yourself and one another, and ask the Spirit to set you on fire for God so you will have a constant desire to live for God, share His gospel, invite people to church and know Jesus.
- Pray for your group, that you will not be satisfied with just yourselves in the group but bring people in. Make adjustments to your group to accommodate the people you want to invite.
- Pray for our church, that we will continue to be faithful to our calling and to pray for revival and harvest in preparation for the return of Jesus.