

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.

- How familiar are you with the topic of the Holy Spirit?
- Is the Holy Spirit a confusing or encouraging topic of study for you? Why or why not?
- Read John 14:15-27 and Acts 1:1-11.
- In John we read the promise, in Acts we saw the fulfillment. What do the verses tell say about Jesus' identity and mission, as well as the Holy Spirit's identity and mission?
- Notice what the disciples' immediate response was in Acts 1:12-14. What did they do? What didn't they do? Why is this important?
- What do you think it would have been like to gather with those disciples in the house in Jerusalem? What do you think it means to wait for God? How was the disciples' waiting different from ours today?
- The Holy Spirit is the main actor in Acts. Read through Acts 2 and underline or circle the references to the "Holy Spirit" or "Spirit." What do you see here about who the Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit does?
- The Holy Spirit is described like three different elements. Read and discuss these other Scriptures for further background on the significance of these ideas:
 1. The Holy Spirit like wind (Acts 2:3-4): Genesis 1:1-2; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 20:22-23
 2. The Holy Spirit like fire (Acts 2:1-2): Luke 3:15-18; Psalm 104:4; Isaiah 6:1-7
 3. The Holy Spirit like water (Acts 1:5; 2:17): John 4:13-14; 7:37-39; 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Identify three practical ways you will live in the Holy Spirit more fully as a response to this week's study and sermon.

Spend time praying:

- Pray that you will walk in step with the Spirit daily. One practical suggestion is: ask the Holy Spirit to fill you at the start of your day; in the middle of the day, and just before you come home from work or school.
- Pray for your group, that you will experience more of the Holy Spirit's work in your community: in evangelism, in building one another up, in generosity and in serving in the church.
- Pray for our church to experience more of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of our ministry life.