

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:

- Do you ever skip ahead to the end of a novel or film to find out what happens? Why would do you do this?
- How does it feel to know the end? In what way does it influence the story?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

- What did you learn from the sermon about the resurrection of the body?
- Why is the resurrection of Christ such a big deal? (See Matthew 28:1-10 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.)
- What do we hope in as Christians? In your own words work out a simple 3 or 4 sentence statement of your hope in Jesus including the resurrection and why it matters. (If you struggle with this, look ahead at 1 Corinthians 15:20-25 for some inspiration) Share these thoughts with the group.
- What do you eagerly anticipate at a personal level about the ultimate victory over death at Jesus' final return?

Pray

- Pray for each other, give thanks for the impact of the Risen Jesus in the lives of the group.
- Give thanks for the hope that we have in Jesus through the resurrection.
- Pray for opportunity to share your simple statements of hope and experience with people who are seeking and open.
- Pray for a chance to spread hope in Jesus to people in your sphere of influence.