

# 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**. 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.

- Opening Question: Let two or three share highlights they learned from last Sunday's sermon.
- Read Romans 3:23-31.
- Answer the following study questions:
  1. What does Romans 3:23 say about humanity? What do you think does "God's glorious standard" mean?
  2. What did God do to forgive us according to verses 24-26?
  3. Why is Jesus' death on the cross necessary for our forgiveness? Read and highlight the truths found in Hebrews 9:19-28.
  4. How do we receive forgiveness according to Romans 3:27-28?
    - If God has forgiven our sins completely, is it necessary for us to confess the sins we commit daily?
    - Read James 5:15-16, 1 John 1:9 and 2 Corinthians 7:10. What do you think is the difference between confess and repent?
  5. How do we live out our forgiveness daily (proceed to application questions)?
- Application Questions:
  1. Is there someone in your life whom you need to forgive? What is keeping you from forgiving that person?
  2. Is there someone in your life that you need to ask for forgiveness? What is keeping you from seeking that person out and confessing to them?
  3. How is a lack of forgiveness concerning someone else's sin or failing to confess your own sin affecting your relationships with others? How is it affecting your relationship with God?
- Read Colossians 3:12-17.

### **Spend time praying:**

- Pray that God will reveal to you unconfessed sins in your life, or even pet sins (perhaps things, habits we do that don't please God, but we're unaware because they seem normal and alright).
- Pray that God will reveal to you individuals that you need forgiveness from? Pray that you will have the boldness to speak it out or even reach out to those people.
- Pray that God will teach you by the power of the Spirit to make forgiveness a way of life for you.