

Creed Discussion Questions 04.08.18

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Have you ever heard of the Apostle's Creed before? Did you grow up saying it? Is this the first you've heard of it?

Background

The origins of the Apostle's Creed can be traced back to the middle of the second century A.D where a formula very similar to the Creed itself was used in Rome. Other second century Christian writers as far away as Gaul and North Africa when seeking to summarize the "Rule of Faith" use similar language. Its earliest use seems to be in the form of questions asked of people at baptism. The first mention of the title "Apostle's Creed" tied to this formulation of faith is in the year 390 A.D. Throughout church history the Apostle's Creed has been affirmed by Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox Christians.

Read Romans 10:9 – 10 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,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Questions

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. The creed wasn't developed as abstract theology but rather as a discipleship tool. What does that tell us about how to think about the creed?
2. What are all the places that the Creed affirms the importance physical stuff over against those gnostics who say physical stuff is evil?
3. Romans talks about believing in one's heart. Scripture seems to say there is a difference between mere intellectual assent and living in committed trust. What are other examples of Scripture that point to faith as choosing to live in committed trust? Are there any Scriptures that come to mind that say 'on the other hand...'?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. Why is it important to continue to affirm the goodness of this physical stuff? What is at stake?
2. Have you ever come across versions of Christianity that seem to implicitly claim this physical world is bad?
3. Why is it important to practice Christianity in a way connected with the history of the church and with a vision for those who will come after us?
4. What does it look like when someone chooses to live in committed trust in God?
5. What is the difference between confidence commitment in faith and certainty in faith?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. Are there places God wants to remind you of the goodness of physical creation? Where do you need that reminder?
2. What does it look like for you to practice a faith rooted with those who have come before us?
3. What does it look like for you to practice a faith with an eye to those who will come after us?
4. What is an area or your life this week where you need to not merely believe ideas about God in your head but to live out committed trust in God?

Closing

As you finish you prepare to head back out into your world that may at times be stressful and chaotic pray for one another. Pray that you would find great hope in the fact that others have gone before us and that our God is Father, Almighty, and Creator in equal measures.

Reminder: We are part of the united body of Christ that has worshipped the same unchanging God for millennia. Our history is rich with evidence of God's involvement with and love for each of us.