

## Creed Discussion Questions 04.22.18

### 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. Share a story of a time when you had the opportunity to tell people about your first encounter with Jesus.
2. If you could interview an eye witness to the resurrection of Jesus, what would you ask?

### Background

Paul wrote at least two letters to the church he founded in the city of Corinth. Corinth was one of the major cities of Greece at the time of Paul's visit with an estimated population of 400,000. As with most major cities of the time (and still often true today) there was significant disparity between rich and poor. Paul wrote this first letter to the church at Corinth to address some issues that had arisen after his departure. This letter is considered by many to be one of Paul's finest regarding pastoral theology. The letter was timely in the first century and no less so today.

The Apostle's Creed was written early in the ancient church's history. The first mention we have of the "Apostles' Creed" is from a letter written in Milan in 390AD. It was widely accepted in the 4th century that each of the 12 Apostles contributed to its writing. The version of the creed mentioned in the letter from the Council at Milan to the Pope was likely a shorter statement of faith that evolved into what we have today. The earliest version of what we have today appears in the St. Pirminius work, "Excerpt from Individual Canonical Books" written between 710 and 714 AD.

The Apostle's Creed was written to create a clear statement (or rule) of faith that could be used to guide teaching and the further development of theology. It also served as a bulwark against false teachings that were common in the early church.

Read 1Corinthians 15:1-8 and the Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 catholic 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. In verses 1 and 2 what does Paul give as the reason for holding firmly to the gospel he preached?
2. Who and how many does Paul list as those who Jesus appeared to after his resurrection?
3. Why do you think Paul pointed out that most of the witnesses were still alive?
4. What elements did the authors of the Apostle's Creed include to describe Jesus's mission?

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

1. What does holding firmly to the gospel mean for you today? How does it help you stand strong in your faith?
2. Why do you think that Paul calls out that the fact Jesus died for our sins is of prime importance?
3. What experiences do you have that can serve as eye witness accounts of the risen Jesus?
4. How do you describe the mission of Jesus?

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

1. How can we follow the example set by Paul and share gospel so that others can believe?
2. What are the key elements that you share when you tell people about Jesus's death and resurrection?
3. How can we use our own first hand account of our interactions with Jesus to join in his mission?
4. What roles have each of us been called to play in the ongoing mission of Jesus? What are we doing about it?

#### Closing

Finish your time together by praying. Take time to pray for wisdom to recognize the part Jesus is calling you to play in his mission.

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.