



## "I Believe"

Week 1 | June 18th, 2023

Community Group Discussion Guide

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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#### **Whitewater Center River Jam Hangout**

*Saturday, June 24 | 5pm*

Join us for a church-wide hangout at the Whitewater Center! We will grab a big spot together starting around 5pm. Live music starts at 7pm. Bring a chair or blanket and come have some fun!

Note - Parking at the Whitewater Center is \$6 per vehicle, but entrance into the center and the concert is free!

### [MORE INFO](#)

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#### **Formation Class: Singleness & Dating**

*Sundays - July 16+23, 11am-1:00pm*

What does it mean to live a flourishing life as a single person? Why is dating in the modern world so confusing? How do I navigate through all of these questions, decisions, and frustrations?

On July 16 & 23, we'll offer a class on how to live and date well as a single follower of Jesus. If you are single, in the dating world, or have friends who are single or dating to whom you want to be helpful, this is the class for you.

This is a two-part class, taking place over two consecutive Sundays, from 11:00am-1:00pm.

### [MORE INFO + REGISTRATION](#)

## SERIES RECAP

For the past 1,800 years, millions upon millions of Christians worldwide have recited the Apostle's Creed as part of their corporate worship. Written shortly after the death of Christ, the Apostles' Creed summarizes foundational Christian beliefs. It is a helpful statement which unites the church, instructs the believer, protects against false doctrine, and points to a glorious God and what He desires for His people. Over the course of this series, we will explore the ancient creed together seeking to deepen ourselves in our ancient historic faith and, more importantly, in the God of our faith.

**Let us read the Apostles Creed together to start the evening.**

***“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 hell. 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.”***

## PRAYER + SCRIPTURE

The most vital component of our time together tonight is the Spirit of God making alive to us the Word of God. So we will start with prayer. We will open with a short prayer, take a minute or two of silent reflection, read the Scripture from Sunday, take one more minute of silent reflection, then close in prayer.”

**Open with a brief word of prayer:** “God, we thank you for this time together. We open our hearts to how you might want to meet with us. Allow us to hear your voice and experience your work among us. Come Holy Spirit.”

**1-2 minutes of silent reflection.**

**Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16.**

11 Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. 16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

**1-2 minutes of silent reflection.**

**Close with this short prayer:** “God, it glorifies you to have right beliefs on who you are. Thank you for Scripture which gives us a constant source to seek you and grow to know you. May the Spirit help us tonight in our discussion of Scripture and the Apostle's Creed to know right beliefs about you, and turn those into right practice, out of our identity and love earned for us by Jesus. Amen.”

**As you reflect on Colossians 1 Timothy 4-16, what is the Holy Spirit showing or teaching you?**

## SERMON DISCUSSION

*Let's have a discussion around these main points from Sunday's teaching:*

### THE APOSTLES CREED

The Apostles Creed is a helpful guide and tool that summarizes the most important beliefs about God that is to be found in the Bible. We are going to be spending 12 weeks reading and discussing these truths using the Apostles Creed as a guide for the preaching of the Bible.

***What experiences and thoughts about the Apostles Creed or Christian Doctrine are you coming into this sermon series with?***

### DISTRACTIONS

We can easily get distracted by the wrong things when hearing Scripture taught and consequently focus on the wrong thing. In doing this, we can believe that the Church needs to be:

**Pragmatic** - The teaching of the Word has to show me what to do right now.

**Romanticized** - Church, worship, and God have to make me feel good.

**Entertaining** - Church *has to be* fun.

**New and Progressive** - The Church has to develop new ideas and invent new theology.

***Which of these distractions do you tend to fall into at the Gathering?***

### THE CREED

Take some time now to go back up and look at the Creed. We want to let the Creed form our doctrine and fuel our discipleship.

***What phrase, statement, or sentence from the Creed are you eager to learn more about this summer?***

***What phrase, statement, or sentence do you think has the potential to help fuel your discipleship the most?***

## CLOSING PRAYER

Pray over what was shared in the discussion, for your group to be united in the gospel, and for help from the Holy Spirit to be shaped to be more like Jesus as we put God's ways into practice.