

Apostles Creed

“I Believe in the Resurrection of the Dead”

Week 12 | September 3rd, 2023
Community Group Discussion Guide

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership Class

Sunday, September 17th | 4pm-6:30pm

We believe the church is central to all God is doing in the world. When you read the New Testament, wherever the gospel is proclaimed, people believe, disciples are made, and then churches are formed. When you put your faith in Jesus, you don't just get God as your Father, but you are now put in relationship with other Christians who are your brothers and sisters in Christ. You are now a part of the larger global Church, lived out in small local expressions, such as Citizens Church Charlotte.

This is why membership is so important. It's you committing to play your role in the larger family of God through a particular local congregation.

Our Membership Class is the first step towards membership at Citizens Church. If you're interested in becoming a member at Citizens, or just interested in finding out more about who we are, join us Sunday, September 17th from 4pm-6:30pm.

[MORE INFO + REGISTRATION](#)

Family Vacation

November 10-12, Black Mountain, NC

Registration for this year's Family Vacation is now open! We value the chance to get away, retreat, rest, and spend time together as a church family, and we'd love for you to join us this year! On November 10-12, we are heading to the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, NC. We will be staying in two cabins on the property, and will have a main meeting area for family style meals and sessions.

Family vacation is open to all Citizens Church members, members-in-progress (have taken membership class), and children of current members. The cost of the trip is \$100/adult and \$25/child. Scholarships are available if needed, but please talk to Dan about that sooner rather than later.

If you're planning to attend, please register ASAP. The earlier you register, the easier it is for us to plan for the weekend. You can register and get more details by clicking the graphic below.

[MORE INFO + REGISTRATION](#)

The Citizens Institute

Applications due October 1

Discipleship happens within the local church. We believe that no one should have to go outside of the local church to receive a theological education. In fact, for most people, going back to school or seminary just simply isn't an option.

The Citizens Institute exists to train and equip members in theology, doctrine, and practice to follow Jesus and lead in the local church.

The Citizens Institute offers three Core Modules to help our people internalize their faith and connect it practically to everyday life. Our Core Modules are for everyone, and we hope all Citizens members will go through them at some point.

This Spring we are kicking off the Institute with our first Core Module - Christian Practice. Spend 11 weeks from January - April, 2024 learning the ins and outs of how to follow Jesus in your everyday life.

[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

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 Corinthians 15:35-49

35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" 36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. 39 For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. 40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. 42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

1-2 minutes of silent reflection.

Close with this short prayer: ". Jesus, we look to you for everlasting life. You lived here among us, died the death we deserved, then was raised to eternal life with the Father. Spirit, help us grow to live our lives knowing that in Jesus, we too can expect everlasting life with the Father when Jesus returns. Amen."

As you reflect on 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 what is the Holy Spirit showing or teaching you?

SERMON DISCUSSION

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

BECAUSE JESUS ROSE, SO WILL WE

In the sermon, we heard that the resurrection is not an 'if', it's just a 'when'. Such a supernatural thing can be expected because Jesus was resurrected into life everlasting. And because Jesus was resurrected from the dead, we can expect the same if we trust in Him. If we believe Jesus rose, we can trust that we will rise with Him.

How does Jesus' resurrection grow your confidence that you too will live after death?

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

Paul addresses the question "But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" by drawing our attention to Christ. In His resurrection, we see four things:

- *Jesus had a body (He showed His wounds, John 20:20)*
- *Jesus' body was recognizable. (He was called by name, John 20:16)*
- *Jesus ate food. (Luke 24:42)*
- *Jesus' body was physical, but beyond-physical (He entered a locked room, John 20:26)*

How is the resurrection of Jesus' body an encouragement to you for the next life?

LIFE EVERLASTING

When we are raised from the dead we will be raised in bodies that cannot die. This is what the Bible calls Glorification. At the coming of Christ sin and death our bodies will be resurrected and perfected. Redemption will be complete! And this is our ultimate hope, that one day, all things will be made perfect, and we will be with God forever.

How does belief in the resurrection and life everlasting bring you ultimate hope in the things to come?

SERIES PRACTICE

One of our key discipleship values as a church is that of practice. Moving forward, we are going to begin emphasizing one of our key spiritual practices during each sermon series. This practice is meant to coincide with the theme of the series, and something we invite our church to practice as a part of their spiritual formation.

During the Apostles Creed series, we are emphasizing the practice of Scripture. Getting into God's Word and getting God's Word into us is vital for helping form our doctrine and fuel our discipleship.

Spend some time before you close talking about what group members are reading, and how you can press into Scripture as a group this summer.

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.