



“ in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.”

Week 2 | June 25th, 2023

Community Group Discussion Guide

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 Genesis 1:1-2

[1] In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. [2] The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. [3] And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Read Psalm 19:1

[1] The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

1-2 minutes of silent reflection.

Close with this short prayer: "God, we pray to you as the creator of heaven and earth, Father, Son, and Spirit. Help us to know you and we ask that you would lift our view of who you actually are. Amen "

As you reflect on Genesis 1:1-3 and Psalm 19:1, what is the Holy Spirit showing or teaching you?

SERMON DISCUSSION

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

WHO > HOW

In the Sermon, we heard that “Who (created everything) is much more important than how, because who you think is behind all of this will dictate why you think it's all here, and why you think it's all here will then dictate how you live.”

In what ways are you tempted to act as if your purpose in life is something other than God?

ALMIGHTY GOD

In just the first four words of Genesis, “In the beginning God...” we can see 4 major attributes of who He is:

God is not bound by time (eternal).

He is not bound by space (infinite).

He is not bound by inability (all-powerful).

He is not bound by neediness (independent).

Yet, we tend to view Him as smaller than He actually is.

How do you tend to functionally have a small view of God, as if He is not eternal, infinite, omnipotent, or independent?

RIGHT RESPONSE

James 1:22 challenges followers of Jesus to “be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

When we shrink our view of God, we replace Him with ourselves. We become our own functional gods who then God is supposed to serve. But, because God is God, we are invited back to repentant humility before Him and deeper trust of his ways.

In what ways in your day to day life can you start to practice more humility towards and trust with God?

(Follow up: Are there any other practices you feel led to respond with this week from the Sermon?)

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.