



## ***“ in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord”***

Week 3 | July 2nd, 2023

Community Group Discussion Guide

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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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

**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 Colossians 1:15-20**

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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

**Close with this short prayer:** “Father, thank you for your Son, who reconciles us with you. Spirit, help us to see where we do not let Jesus be Lord over our life, and bring us to right belief and right practice out of the Truth that Jesus died for us so that we may be brought into His Kingdom.” Amen.

**As you reflect on Colossians 1:15-20, 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 BIG QUESTION**

Jesus asked His disciples what was said to be the most important question we could answer in our life: Who do you say Jesus is? Whether you are a Christian or not, you have to make a decision about who He was and is.

**Who do you say Jesus is and why does that matter for your life?**

### **JESUS' PERSONHOOD, POSITION, AND PURPOSE**

During the sermon, we talked about:

- Jesus' Personhood - He is both God and man.
- Jesus' Position – Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler
- Jesus' Purpose – To be the head of the Church who reconciles us to God

**Which of these truths do you find as a comfort or challenge right now?**

### **SUBMIT TO JESUS**

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

If Jesus is Lord over all, we must learn to live in His Kingdom and trust that His ways are better than our ways. In the sermon, we heard that we should:

1. Trust Jesus with the World
2. Submit to Jesus your desires
3. Give Jesus our worship

**How can you move towards giving Jesus what is His in these categories, your trust, desires, and worship?**

## **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.