

Apostles Creed

“The Virgin Birth”

Week 4 | July 9th, 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

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 Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed[b] to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”[c] 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” 35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

1-2 minutes of silent reflection.

Close with this short prayer: “Father, thank you for your Son, who is our promised Savior. Spirit, help us to see the miraculous work of God in our lives, for us through the life and death of Jesus.

As you reflect on Luke 1:26-38, 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 MIRACULOUS BIRTH

Jesus' birth was a miraculous and foretold event, bringing to the world, God the Son as our Messiah and Savior.

How have you viewed the virgin birth of Jesus in the past (ignored it, denied it, exalted it)?

WHY IT MATTERS

During the sermon, we talked about how the virgin birth shows that:

- God can perform miracles
- God keeps His promises
- Jesus is fully man
- Jesus is fully God
- Jesus is the perfect, spotless, sacrifice for sins

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

TRUST IN GOD

Ultimately, the virgin birth shows us that Jesus can in fact die for our sins, through His perfection, righteousness, and holiness, and is a culmination of God being faithful to His promises.

How can you move towards trusting God as the provider of salvation and keeper of His promises this week?

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.