

Apostles Creed

“He suffered, died, and was buried”

Week 5 | July 16th, 2023
Community Group Discussion Guide

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Citizens Basics

Sunday, August 13 | 11am-12pm

We offer Citizens Basics a few times a year for anyone who is new to our church.

Led by various pastors and staff, this class consists of 30 minutes of teaching and 15 minutes of Q&A, with the goal of giving an overview of our vision as a church and how you can be a part of that vision.

Lunch and childcare is provided, but please register in advance.

[MORE INFO + REGISTRATION](#)

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.

Coffee + light refreshments are provided. Childcare is also provided, but please register in advance.

[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](#)

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 Mark 10:42-45

42 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Read Romans 2:23-25

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

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 Mark 10:42-45, what is the Holy Spirit showing or teaching you?

SERMON DISCUSSION

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

JESUS CAME TO SERVE

In Mark 10, we see a shocking message from Jesus about what He is like as the Son of God. Although we would expect someone who rules and reigns over all creation to be served, Jesus says first and foremost his life is one where he has come to serve. Though He deserves all glory and honor, Jesus lowers Himself by coming to earth to serve humanity.

How have you seen or experienced Jesus as a servant in the Scriptures or in your own life?

WE NEED A SERVANT

Jesus' posture of servanthood goes to an extreme length – to the giving up of his own life on the cross. But why did Jesus have to die? Why does Jesus serve to the point of suffering and death? Mark 10 tells us – a life must be given as a ransom. Romans 3 tells us that all of us are born slaves to sin and under a debt to a perfect God that we cannot pay. So what does Jesus do? He serves us to the point of paying that debt through his death.

How is Jesus serving you and paying your debt through his death good news for you right now?

WE ARE FREE

In the sermon, we said that Jesus serving us to the point of death for our debt leads to two appropriate responses:

- **We let God serve us.** Meaning, we receive Jesus' work on the cross on our behalf, and we receive the fact that we cannot save ourselves, but need someone to set us free from slavery to sin.
- **We let the cross lift our hearts to joy.** Meaning, we worship God and celebrate the fact that regardless of our present circumstances, we have been welcomed by God through the sacrifice of Jesus.

How can you take a step towards one of these two responses 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.