

# Apostles Creed

## “He Ascended to Heaven”

Week 7 | July 30rd, 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 Acts 1:9-11 and Hebrews 1:8-13:**

*9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.*

**Acts 1:9-11**

*8 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."*

*10 And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; 11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, 12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."*

*13 And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?"*

**Hebrews 1:8-13**

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

**Close with this short prayer:** “Jesus, we thank you that you use your power and position to serve us and save us. You reign in power, give us your sinless record, and go before us preparing a place in heaven for us. Spirit, help us to see, believe, and be confident in the work of Jesus as His people. Amen.

**As you reflect on Acts 1:9-11 and Hebrews 1:8-13 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 IS RULING**

*The first hopeful truth of the ascension is this – Because King Jesus is ruling, we can be confident that His plans are being accomplished. Jesus plans to have victory over every pain of sin and death we face in this life. He is working in us and through us to see that happen according to His will today, pointing towards His victory in all things that is to come.*

**How does the reign and rule of King Jesus give you hope as you face circumstances in your life today?**

### **JESUS IS INTERCEDING**

*The second hopeful truth of the ascension is this – Because Jesus is interceding, we can approach the throne of God with confidence. Though God lives in unapproachable light, through the work of Jesus, we can now approach that same throne with confidence as Jesus goes before us and God, pleading His righteousness.*

**How does Jesus' intercession grow your desire to approach God in prayer?**

### **JESUS IS PREPARING**

*The third hopeful truth of the ascension is this – Because Jesus has gone before us to prepare a place, we can be confident we will be with Him forever. Hebrews tells us Jesus is the forerunner, the one who goes to heaven before us, guaranteeing that those who trust in Him will also be with the Lord for eternity.*

**How does Jesus preparing the new heavens and the new earth give you faith as you live your everyday life?**

## **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.