

# Apostles Creed

## “I Believe in the Holy Spirit”

Week 9 | August 13th, 2023  
Community Group Discussion Guide

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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#### **South CLT Neighborhood Cookout**

*Saturday, August 25 | 5pm-7pm*

One of our values as a church is that of presence, the ability to show up and engage with one another who live, work, and play close to us. To that end, we are hosting a South Charlotte Neighborhood Cookout on August 25th to connect people within our broader church family who live in that area.

If you live in Ballantyne, Pineville, Steel Creek, Fort Mill, LoSo or any of the surrounding area, come join us and meet others who call Citizens home!

Please RSVP for location and further details!

### [MORE INFO + REGISTRATION](#)

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#### **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](#)

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## **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 *John 14:15-18, 25-27*:**

*15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

*25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

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

**Close with this short prayer:** "Jesus, we believe that your death, resurrection, and ascension led to the Holy Spirit being able to dwell within us. Spirit, help us see and believe that you dwelling in us means God is with us always. Help us praise and worship God because of this good news. Amen."

**As you reflect on *John 14:15-18, 25-27* what is the Holy Spirit showing or teaching you?**

## **SERMON DISCUSSION**

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

### **GOD IS WITH US IN SUFFERING**

*When God sent the Spirit to be with us, He sent a Helper, Concoiler, and Comforter. In our suffering, we can feel alone and isolated, especially distant from God. However the reality is that God is both with us in suffering and in us in suffering.*

**How are you encouraged by the Spirit's presence and peace in your suffering?**

### **GOD IS WITH US IN TEMPTATION**

*The Holy Spirit being the Spirit of truth is meant to be placed in contrast to the enemy of God and His people, what the Scriptures call the devil, who works through lies and deceit. We heard that every sin starts with a lie about God. But the Spirit convicts us of sin, showing us where we are believing lies and deceit, while also pointing us to the truth in the glory of Jesus.*

**How does it/should it strengthen your battle with sin to know the Holy Spirit is in you as you fight temptation?**

### **GOD IS WITH US IN THE CHURCH**

*On one hand, our church Gatherings are normal and ordinary. However, because the Spirit is with us, God is also present in a unique way when we Gather. When we gather, the Spirit works in us to mold us, change us, encourage us and convict us in unique and miraculous ways.*

**How should/does this belief in the Holy Spirit change your view of participation in the Citizens Worship Gathering?**

## **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.