

the Apostles' Creed

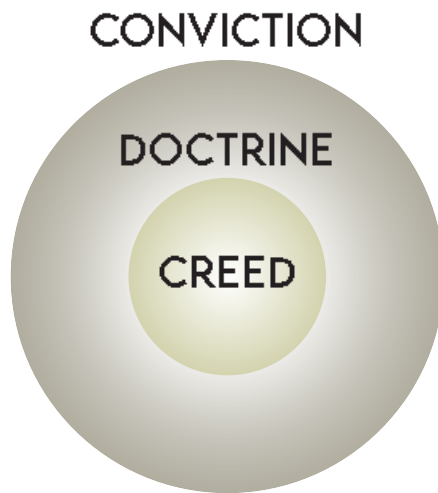
Discipleship Pathway
April 19, 2023

Big Picture of the Apostles' Creed

Acts 10

Note Creed-like language

Creed, Doctrine, Conviction



God the Father

What word or phrase from this section catches your attention?

Why does this word or phrase matter? What does this word or phrase tell you about who God is?

NOTES:

God the Son

What word or phrase from this section catches your attention?

Why does this word or phrase matter? What does this word or phrase tell you about who God is?

NOTES:

God the Holy Spirit

What word or phrase from this section catches your attention?

Why does this word or phrase matter? What does this word or phrase tell you about who God is?

How do you know you are filled with the Holy Spirit?

John 14:15-27

Acts 2:1-21

1 Corinthians 14:1-25 Galatians 5:22-25

NOTES:

NOTES:

Digging Deeper Questions to consider or discuss at home

I believe in God the Father...

- Consider the traits of God mentioned in this part of the Creed: 'Father', 'Almighty', 'Creator'. Which of these traits do you find most comforting and why? Are there characteristics of God you find hard to understand or accept?
- What are the most common things in which people place their trust, hope and loyalty over God? What allegiances do you personally struggle with as you consider keeping God as the most important thing in your life?
- What difference does it make in daily life to know that: there is a God; this God is the ruler of all things; this God's stance towards you is as a loving Father.

I believe in Jesus Christ...

- Why do you think the bulk of the creed is about Jesus?
- Think about the people who interacted with Jesus in the gospels. What were some of their interpretations of Jesus' identity? What are some examples from scripture.
- Read John 7:40-51. What were some of the views about Jesus in this passage? Nicodemus challenged the religious leaders to give Jesus a fair hearing. What would it look like for us to give Jesus a fair hearing? Have you given him a fair hearing in your life?
- In the four gospels, the virgin birth is only mentioned explicitly in Matthew and Luke. How important do you think the concept of the virgin birth is? Is belief in this doctrine essential for one to be a Christian? Why or why not?
- What did Jesus' death accomplish? Look at Hebrews 2:14-18. This passage outlines Jesus as...
 - The Victor (who conquers sin, death and the devil) – 2:14
 - The Rescuer (who pays the ransom with His own blood and rescues those who have been trapped and imprisoned) – 2:15
 - The Sacrifice (who suffers the penalty for our sins before a Holy God) – 2:17
 - The Role Model (who sets an example for us to follow) – 2:18
 - Which of the four roles described from Hebrews 2:14-18 do you most naturally think of when you think of Jesus' death on the cross? Which of these seems least familiar to you and why?
- Consider the suffering of Jesus. Describe the emotional, physical and spiritual pain Jesus endured. How can Jesus' experience of very real and very intense pain become a source of strength and comfort for you as you go through your own trials?
- The resurrection of Christ is often one of the hardest things for people to accept about Christianity. Why do you think it's so difficult to accept?
- In what way(s) is the resurrection of Christ the cornerstone of Christianity?
- How do you think belief, or lack of belief, in the resurrection affects the way a person lives his or her life?
- As the disciples walked with Jesus their understanding gradually developed. Look up John 20:27-29 for Thomas' famous confession of faith in Jesus. How has your view of Jesus deepened as you've gotten to know him over time?
- Following Jesus is much different than knowing Jesus. How can we work at following Him? How would you identify a modern day 'disciple of Jesus'?

I believe in the Holy Spirit...

- What are some of the images that are commonly associated with the Holy Spirit? Why do you think it's important to describe the Holy Spirit as a person, rather than a thing, or a force?
- What has been your experience with the Holy Spirit in day-to-day life? Have you ever sensed the Spirit nudging you in a given direction? How can Christians be sure it is the Holy Spirit they are sensing, and not their own whims and desires?
- How do you understand the idea of being filled with the Spirit? What does Scripture say about being filled with the Spirit?

On the Holy Church...

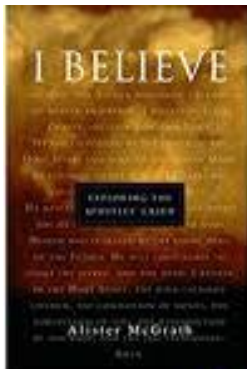
- What is the nature of the church? Who established the church and what is the church's primary purpose?
- What is your level of commitment to a local church or body of believers? How does your involvement in this local church provide meaningful connection to the 'Holy Catholic Church' (the worldwide church)?

On the Holy Person...

- What is justification as it relates to followers of Jesus?
- What is sanctification as it relates to followers of Jesus?
- Can a Christian truly declare belief in the forgiveness of sins, yet refuse to forgive themselves of past sins? Is there shame or guilt that you are holding onto that God has already forgiven?
- Part of our journey of becoming more like Christ includes our willingness to forgive others? Why is it important for us to forgive others? Is there anyone you need to forgive?

Book Resource

"I Believe" – Alister McGrath



Video Resource

"Experiencing the Apostles' Creed" – The Christian History Institute

Full series - <https://youtu.be/5v1WDi7DIXw>

Abridged version - <https://youtu.be/QvLMXIKPbkY>

