

“I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth”

LIVING THE CREED: CONNECTING LIFE AND FAITH IN THE APOSTLES' CREED · JUNE 5, 2022 · PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...’ (Matthew 6:9)

Introducing this series

Why a series on the Apostles' Creed?
What is the Apostles' Creed?

“I Believe in”: Belief and Faith as:

An expression of trust: The creed is a cry of dependent trust in the Triune God.
A description of truth: The creed is a doctrinal summary of our shared faith.
A story to live: The creed is a family story that we prayerfully live within.

God the Father

The relationship within the Triune Godhead (Matthew 28:19)
The relationship between God and His people (Isaiah 63:16; Matthew 6:9)

God the Almighty

The universal power of God (Ephesians 4:6)
The personal power of God (Ephesians 1:19-20)

God the Creator of Heaven and Earth

The creative work of God in the seen (Genesis 1-2)
The creative work of God in the unseen (Jeremiah 51:15; Acts 14:15)

Living this part of the Apostles' Creed

Living by believing
Knowing God as Father
Letting go because God is Almighty
Praising and thanking God through His Creation

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When did you first hear the message about Jesus? When did you first believe in the message about Jesus?
2. This week we begin a new series, “Living the Creed: Connecting Life and Faith in the

- Apostles' Creed.” Begin your study in prayer by asking God to speak to you through His Word, and then continue with the study.
3. When God called the Jewish people out from slavery in Egypt and into the Promised Land, he did so with mighty power in the plagues upon Egypt, but also with a decisive new identity. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5. How does this basic statement of belief in the One God speak about who God is and how they should live?
 4. The writer of the brief New Testament letter, Jude, begins his epistle: “Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people” (Jude 1:3). Why do you think Jude felt it was important to “contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s people”? Why might that be important now?
 5. In Ephesians 4:4-6, the Apostle Paul writes a basic statement of belief. Read that passage aloud. What are some of the essential markers of our belief?
 6. Why do you think what we believe is important for the way we live our lives?
 7. The first clause of the Apostles' Creed is “I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.” Explore some of the following Bible passages related to this first clause of the creed:
 - Genesis 1:1, 8
 - Job 4:17
 - Psalm 104:5
 - Isaiah 17:7; 54:5
 - Isaiah 44:6, 45:5; 63:16
 - Jeremiah 51:15
 - Matthew 5:45; 6:9
 - John 1:1-3
 - Acts 14:15
 - Romans 1:20
 - Galatians 4:6
 - 2 Peter 1:17
 8. What is one thing you learned or sense God is speaking to you through this study? If you’re in a small group, share that with one another. If you are on your own, write it down and share it with someone this week. Conclude your study in prayer.

DIG DEEPER:

This week dig deeper in one or more of the following ways:

- Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-5 or Ephesians 4:4-6
- Read and/or pray through the entire Apostles' Creed. Consider memorizing it.
- For further background on The Apostles' Creed, consider reading:
 - o Joe Carter’s “9 Things You Should Know About the Apostles' Creed”: thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-know-apostles-creed/
 - o Ben Myers’ *The Apostles Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism*: exhampress.com/product/147146/the-apostles-creed-a-guide-to-the-ancient-catechism