

CREED

STUDY GUIDE

“But for us, there is one God, the Father by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live.” -- 1 Corinthians 8:6

THE POINT: How great will the Church be if we all have an accurate concept of God?

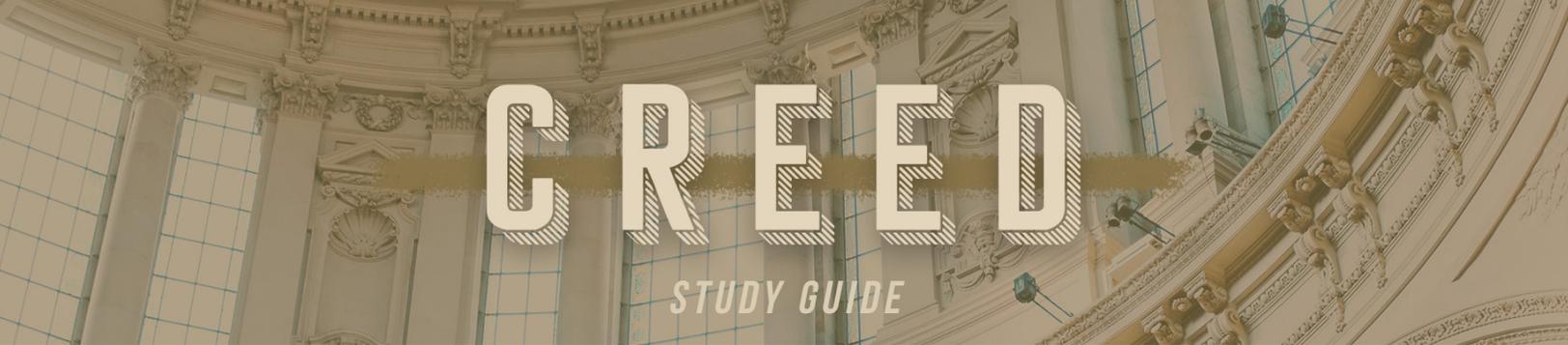
The early Christians developed the Apostles' Creed as a short, clear statement of what they believed in a world of diverse beliefs and truths. We find ourselves in a similar world where the Creed can again be used as an anchor to keep us from drifting from the truth. It does not take the place of scripture, but points us to scripture, to a clear understanding of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Church.

We're kicking off this series by walking through the Creed in order to develop a clear concept of who God is. It is not enough to just believe in God; we must choose to know and be known by God for ourselves. Building this relationship with God is just like building any other friendship--it takes time and consistency. Creating room in your daily life for reading Scripture and spending time with Him is the only way to learn about who He is and what His desires are for your life. Only from this place of active relationship can we as believers begin to be FOR the people around us in the same way that God is FOR us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Answer the questions below as a group:

1. Did you learn the Apostles' Creed as a child? If so, what was your understanding of the Creed? If not, what did you know about the Apostles Creed, if anything at all?
2. What is your current concept of God? How have the factors and relationships in your life (family, friends, etc.) affected your view of God?
3. The Apostles' Creed gives three concepts of God- God the Father (Theos Pater), God Almighty (El Shaddai), God Creator (Elohiym Bara). Which of these concepts of God most resonates with you and why?
4. When you feel stressed, anxious, or depressed, how do you cope with these feelings? Do you feel like growing in your relationship with God would be an effective way of destressing?
5. To be in a relationship we have to know and be known by another person. How are you creating room in your daily life to know God for yourself and, similarly, are you creating room for God to know you?



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NEXT STEPS

1. Train your Soul – Find two or more times in your day to pause and be in relationship with God. Maybe this looks like reading scripture, praying throughout your day, or finding another way to get away. You can use the One Minute Pause App (www.pauseapp.com) or another reminder to accomplish this. Take note of whether this practice begins to make a difference in your day or shifts your concept of God.
2. Know our Why – Read or recite the Apostles' Creed daily and reflect on what each portion means to you. Take note of whether this daily practice gives you confidence in sharing your beliefs with someone.
3. Know what you're FOR – Look for ways this week to be FOR God by being FOR our city and those you come in contact with. Radical generosity is contagious and always noticed, even if it doesn't feel like it. Keep a list of your FOR opportunities.