



## Creed

### *Small Group Discussion Resource*

Message 3 – I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s son, our Lord

As usual, begin your discussion in prayer asking God to open your eyes to deeper spiritual truths from His word.

1. Watch this video clip that we showed in the service

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erK28tenDnA>

Think about people in your life. How would people at your work, school, neighbourhood, sports teams etc. answer this question – who is Jesus?

2. The Apostles creed gives us a concise and powerful answer to this question. As the moon reflects the light of the sun, so this creed reflects the light of scripture. If you are able, read this together out loud.

**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.**

3. The section pertaining to Jesus is the largest section of the creed. Of the 115 words in the creed, 75% of them pertain to Jesus Christ. Why is most of this creed about Jesus?
4. The word “Christ” is the Greek word for the Hebrew word “Messiah”. The word messiah basically means “anointed one”. When did you first understand this concept of Jesus being the messiah?
5. In the message we talked about how some people in the day of Jesus were looking for a military messiah – one who would lead Israel in rebellion against Rome. Others were looking for a monastic messiah – one who would take them away to a private place of safety where they could read and pray without the distractions of the world. Others still were looking for a materialist messiah – one who would enhance their wealth and make them successful. Because they were looking in the wrong direction they missed who Jesus really was. We see this same response today. Some people want a political Jesus who will help them advance their agenda. Others want a private Jesus who they can retreat from the world with. Others still was a prosperity Jesus, one who will help them financially. Can you think of current examples of this kind of misconception?

6. React to this statement: *As we read the Bible we see that Jesus wasn't concerned about any of those things (a military agenda, a monastic agenda nor a materialistic agenda). He was first and foremost concerned about the spiritual saving of humanity and as a result he came as a suffering servant who would save the people from the consequences of their sin and wrongdoing. Humanity needed to be spiritually rescued, and that was the mission of Jesus.*
7. Jesus is God's only son. What does this mean? What does this imply? When did you first understand this concept and reality?
8. Carefully examine this passage from Hebrews and share your impressions and insights

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1:1-3*

9. True or False - If you sincerely believe that Jesus is the Christ, and the son of God, you are on a collision course with much of our society. To declare Jesus is God is in direct opposition to how most in our culture feel.
10. Carefully examine this passage from Colossians 1 and share your impressions. How does this totally change the way in which we relate to God?

*<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. <sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of<sup>21</sup> your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup> But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. Colossians 1*

11. In the message two implications were given.
  - You cannot know God without knowing Jesus.
  - You can't receive real life here and now and life eternal without receiving Jesus

Reflect on these scriptures below to examine the truth of these claims.

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father

except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” John 14:5-7

<sup>22</sup> Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 1 John 2:22-23

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:12

12. Can any of you recall when you first heard and understood the truth of John 3?

*<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son... <sup>36</sup> Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them. John 3:16-18, 36*

13. When you hear the phrase – “The Lordship of Christ”, what comes into your mind?

14. Reflect again on Romans 10 as it relates to our discussion today. <sup>9</sup> *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:9-13*

15. Quietly read through this passage from Philippians 2 on your own. Then, share the phrases that catch your attention with the group. What ideas and concepts would you like to explore more thoroughly?

*<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:6-11*

16. If you are in a small group, or as a family, what would it be like if you greeted one another with the phrase – *Jesus is Lord* - would that be weird or would it be helpful?

17. As you close, spend time praying that God would help you deeply understand these profound truths.