

Apostles' * Creed

JENKS CHURCH

Small Group Guide: The Apostles' Creed - Part 1

"God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth"

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What nicknames have you had throughout your life, and what do they reveal about who you were at that time?

Discussion Questions

Understanding God's Nature

1. Which aspect of God is easier for you to believe in or relate to: His infinite power or His personal nature? Why?
2. Dave mentioned that many people throughout history have believed in powerful gods, but Christianity is unique in presenting a personal God. How does viewing God as both powerful AND personal change your perspective on prayer?
3. Read Matthew 6:9-13 (The Lord's Prayer). How does Jesus balance God's majesty ("hallowed be Your name," "Your kingdom come") with His personal nature ("Our Father")?

Becoming Children of God

4. Read 1 John 3:1 together: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"
 - What does it mean that God's love is "lavished" on us?
 - What "names" or labels have you carried that God wants to replace with "child of God"?

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5. Dave talked about John's transformation from "Son of Thunder" to "Apostle of Love." What do you think caused such a dramatic change in John's identity?
6. The sermon mentioned three responses to God's love:
 - Rest in the Father's love
 - Receive the Father's grace
 - Take the Father's name

Which of these is most challenging for you personally?

God's Discipline

7. Read Hebrews 12:5-11 together. Why is discipline often hard to accept, even when we know it comes from love?
8. Dave said, "Discipline equals love" and "The discipline of God is proof of the Father's love." Can you share an example (without oversharing) of when God's discipline redirected your life for the better?
9. The sermon stated: "The cross removed the penalty of sin for our life, but discipline removes the power of sin in our life." What's the difference between these two things?
10. Do you tend to view your salvation as a moment or a journey? How does seeing it as a journey change how you view God's ongoing work in your life?

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Rest in the Father's Love

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- Set aside 10 minutes each day to simply sit in God's presence, reminding yourself "I am a child of God, and He loves me"
- Journal about what comes up during these times

Option 2: Receive the Father's Grace

- Identify one area of shame or guilt you've been carrying
- Each day this week, speak God's grace over that area: "God's grace is greater than my [sin/mistake/shame]"

Option 3: Submit to the Father's Discipline

- Identify one area where you sense God is trying to redirect you
 - Take one concrete step of obedience this week
 - Share your commitment with one trusted person for accountability
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