

THE CREED

Pt 1: GOD THE FATHER

INTRO

What are some things you do to relax when you have a day off?

For vacations, do you like to go to the same place or explore somewhere new?

If you could instantly become an expert in something, what would it be?

READ

Luke 6:46-49

Read the Apostles' Creed

REFLECT

What do you do when you get overwhelmed? No matter who you are, life is full of challenges. From the expenses of raising a family, to challenges in our education, to finding a good job, to personal issues such as depression, loneliness and anxiety. Jesus affirmed that the storms of life come to everyone, but then made an amazing promise that if we would build our lives on his words, we would withstand every storm life threw at us.

The words of Christ are not just what Jesus said in his earthly ministry. Look at what the early church father Origen wrote,

All who believe... derive the knowledge which incites men to a good and happy life from no other source than from the words of Christ. And by the words of Christ, we do not mean those only which He spoke when he became a man... for before that time, Christ, the Word of God, was in Moses and the prophets... Moreover ... after His ascension into heaven He spoke in His apostles. **Origen (185-254) On First Principles**

There are many summaries of the words of Christ but the Apostles' Creed is the most widely accepted throughout church history. The first article of the Creed reads, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

Paul in Romans 10:9 said we need to "believe in our hearts", not "know in our heads."

Qu: What do you think it means "to believe?"

The Creed describes God with three key words:
Father – God's parental tenderness, personal and loving
Almighty – Powerful, sovereign, all knowing
Creator – a master artist

There is a symmetry that is required for us to truly walk with God. We need to know that He is loving, powerful and even masterfully/artfully working a beautiful plan in our lives.

Qu: What can happen if we get out of balance in our knowledge of God?

RESPOND

Qu: Of the three, which do you feel you need work on?

PRAY

Qu: Are you facing any storms of life right now?

- Pray for one another that the words of Christ will strengthen our lives to stand firm in the middle of our challenges.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. **Romans 8:28 NLT**