

I BELIEVE

A Study of the Nicene Creed

LEADER GUIDE

This leader guide is meant to support you as you lead and provide additional questions for your small group to discuss as you walk through this study together. We simply want to make your role a bit easier and provide a starting point to get the conversation going.

LEADER EXPECTATIONS

GATHER AND FACILITATE CONVERSATION

We recommend that each person read the study daily. Then, once a week, gather as a small group to dialogue about the daily questions and/or discuss the questions provided in this guide.

BUILD A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR PEOPLE TO GO DEEP

There are many ways to study together. However you go about it, we ask that you create a simple and pure environment to come, pray, and learn about God's heart for justice.

PRAY:

In preparation for your time together, spend time in prayer. Beg for the Holy Spirit to fall afresh and use your time together for God's glory. Pray for those participating in the study, that they would gain a deeper understanding of the Nicene Creed.

LEAN ON GOD:

God will have a unique agenda for your group each time you meet. Rely on Him instead of trying to control the conversation. Lean into your own weakness and into His strength and direction.

BE TRANSPARENT:

You have the opportunity to set the tone for those around you. If you choose not to be vulnerable, other women may not feel the freedom to be honest. We encourage you to be honest and transparent, creating an environment for others to open up.

LISTEN, BUT ALSO LEAD:

When we are vulnerable, it is a tremendous risk that needs to be honored. Protect the women in your group by not interrupting and instead listening and empathizing. In love, point women back to what the truth of God's Word says in their situation.

MODEL TRUST:

Be open with your group about how you are processing this study. Throughout the study, we must

continue to seek God and ask for His help in understanding His Word. These women look to you for an example. We encourage you to be intentional in your relationship with God as we walk through the next six weeks.

KEEP UNITY A CENTRAL VALUE

Your group likely has different experiences and backgrounds. As a leader, you have the responsibility to keep a spirit of unity within your group. We ask for sensitivity, openness, and a safe environment for everyone to learn together. We encourage you to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in demonstrating love to everyone as you learn and process this study together.

SUPPLIES

- IF:Equip study book for each participant, or access to the study on IFEquip.com or the IF:Gathering app
- Leader Guide
- Bible
- Daily videos. If the daily videos on IFEquip.com or in the IF:Gathering app are important to your discussion, use your computer or phone to play the video for the group.



Week One

I BELIEVE IN GOD

Do you believe God exists? How have you seen proof of God's existence in creation?

Why is it so important for us to acknowledge God as the one and only God?

Have you heard of the Trinity before? How would you explain this idea of God fully existing as three persons, yet one God, to someone else?

How have you experienced the distinct roles of the Trinity in your own life (the love of God, the intercession of the Spirit, the mercy of Jesus)?

Do you view God as your Father? How does your relationship with your earthly father affect your view of God?

How is your worship of God different as a result of understanding His character?

How should we live each day if we truly believe that God exists?



Week Two

I BELIEVE IN GOD, PT. 2

What does it mean to you that God is Almighty? How have you seen Him be all-powerful, all-present, or all-knowing in your life?

How can the truth that God is both able to do all things and available to you at all times change the way you come to Him in prayer?

When you think about God's character, what attribute resonates with you most?

Do you believe that God is always good and that you are always loved? Why or why not?

What part of creation makes you stand in awe of God and His glory?

Do you believe you are God's masterpiece, just as creation is? How can you reflect God's glory with your life?

Do you believe there is a spiritual realm? What do you picture when you think of the "hosts of Heaven" worshiping God?

Read Ephesians 6:12. How does the knowledge that Satan exists make you think differently about the trials and temptations in your life? How can you lean on God and remember that He has already overcome the world when you are enduring difficult times?



Week Three

I BELIEVE IN JESUS

What do you think of when you think of Jesus? Do you take his words as truth?

Jesus is both fully God and fully man. How does that truth bring you comfort or hope?

Why is it important that Jesus is eternal? How does his eternity affect your future for eternity?

Do you recognize Jesus as Lord over your life? Do you believe you are in need of Him as your Savior? Why or why not?

If Jesus covered all of your sins so that you might become His righteousness, what do you think God sees when He looks at you?

Colossians 1:17 says, "He is before all things and in Him all things hold together." Is Jesus before all things and holding all things together in your life? What do you need to surrender to Him today?

Jesus is one with God, but he came to earth out of obedience and humility to fulfill His Father's will for His life - that He might save us all from our sins. How can you be obedient to what God is calling you to do this week?



Week Four

I BELIEVE IN JESUS, PT. 2

God brought Jesus into the world through the teenage virgin, Mary. How would you feel if the angel Gabriel had appeared to you 2,000 years ago? Would you have a willing heart to complete God's plans for your life, like Mary did?

If Jesus became fully man, yet lived a perfect life, how can you look to Him for comfort or strength when you feel tempted or tried in your life?

Why is it important to believe in Christ's death and burial? How does this truth affect your daily life?

What would it mean for our lives if Jesus had never risen from the dead?

What does it mean that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God? Why is it good that Jesus ascended into heaven?

If you believe in Jesus' resurrection and ascension, how can you live with hope in this broken world?

How can you display the sacrificial love of Jesus to the people around you this week?



Week Five

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

What comes to mind as you think about the Holy Spirit?
Have you ever thought of the Spirit as your Helper and Advocate?

What does it take to receive the Holy Spirit in your life?
What happens inside of you when you receive the Spirit?

If God's Spirit lives inside of you, what does that mean for your daily life? How can you choose to walk by the Spirit?

What is the Holy Spirit's purpose in our lives? What is one way you want the Spirit to change you?

Why is the Spirit worthy of our worship? How can we bring glory to the Spirit, just like we do to God?

How can you lean on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to do those things you know you can't do on your own?
Remember that the same power that resurrected Jesus from the dead is living inside of you!

How can you submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in your life this week?



Week Six

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

If you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you, then what is true of you?

Where has God called you to serve and love others? How can you rely on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to fulfill this calling?

What does it mean for our daily lives that we have been united as one body with other believers through the Holy Spirit? How can you seek to view others as your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Do you pray for the Holy Spirit to illuminate God's Word to you? How have you seen the Word be living and active in your life?

Where do you need to seek direction from the Holy Spirit right now? How can you create space in your heart and mind to listen for this direction?

How does the presence of the Holy Spirit in you give you hope on the days when you experience the reality of your sin?

How can you ask the Holy Spirit to make you look more like Christ this week?



Week Seven

I BELIEVE IN THE SCRIPTURES

Why do you want to read the Bible?

If we believe that the Scriptures are the inerrant Word of God, alive, active, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, how should we read and view them? What does 1 Thessalonians 2:13 say about how we should receive the Scriptures as believers?

Have you had a hard time understanding the Bible? How can you seek to better comprehend the Scriptures?

What do the Scriptures reveal to us? What can we expect to find in them?

Do you believe you have a need for God's Word? How have you tried to fill your life with things other than the Scriptures?

Are the Scriptures the first place you go when seeking wisdom and discernment? Why or why not?

How can you meditate on the Scriptures this week? Who can you share the truth you learn with?

A woman is holding a copper vase filled with white flowers and greenery. The vase is made of a textured copper material and has a flared top. The flowers are white and appear to be peonies or similar large-bloomed flowers. The greenery consists of small, rounded leaves on thin stems. The woman's face is partially visible in the background, smiling.

Week Eight

I BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH

What do you think of when you think of the church? How have your past experiences with the church affected your view, both negatively and positively?

How would you define the church? How does God define it?

What is God's purpose for the church? How have you seen other believers be the church for you throughout your life?

How have you specifically been called to love the church as Christ loves the church?

How can you help bring unity to the church, both locally and universally?

If you have been baptized and sealed with the Holy Spirit, what is your standing before God and with other believers in the church?

How can the Holy Spirit help you live in unity and holiness with other believers, as we have been called to do?



Week Nine

I BELIEVE IN HEAVEN

What does it mean that this world is not our home? How are we called to live in this world as believers?

If we have accepted Christ, what does that mean for us for “the life in the world to come”?

What can we look forward to in Christ’s return to earth? How does that give you hope today?

What does it mean that Christ has the final judgment? How does it change the way you interact with other people (both believers and non-believers) on a daily basis?

Does the truth that hell is real affect the way you live? How? Does it motivate you to share Jesus with non-believers?

What are you most looking forward to when you read about heaven and the everlasting kingdom?

Who can you share the hope of Christ’s return with this week?