



## Belong

Start the group with an opportunity for community. We want this to be a place where the body of Christ can belong.

- What's one big thing that you need God to do in your life right now?
- Did you grow up in a tradition where the Apostle's Creed was emphasized regularly or was this past Sunday your first experience with it?

Start the group with prayer.

## Believe

### Acts 17:22-31

22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for " 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, " 'For we are indeed his offspring.' 29 Being

then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The Apostle's Creed starts with a phrase that is foundational to one's worldview.

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth"

How you believe the world came into being and why, what you believe about a Creator, how you think you relate to God will determine how you live your life.

If you believe that the world is just here by a random chance, then you are unlikely to believe that your life has a lot of purpose. The earth is here by chance. So, are you! Live. Laugh. Love. It will all be over soon.

If you believe that there is a Creator who made everything, but isn't interested in you then you are likely to feel insignificant and unnoticed.

The Creed, and more importantly the Bible, will not allow Christians to walk with a deficient worldview or a wrong view of God.

**So, who is God?**

**The Father!**

As Christians, we relate to God differently than other people in the world.

Yes, in one sense, God is indeed the Father of all people. God the Father created all people. He gives them life. He gives them substance. He cares for everyone alive. However, Christians relate to God as Father in a different way. God the Father is not only our creative Father. He is our adoptive, redemptive Father.

Ephesians 1:4-5

Don't miss the scriptures point: YOU ARE LOVED. You have a Father who cares for you. How do we know his love? He proves it to us by what he was willing to give to save us?

John 3:16

### **The Father ALMIGHTY**

We do have a God who is our Father, but we cannot reduce him so much that we are comfortable and casual with him. We must remember that our Father is the Almighty God of the universe.

He is powerful. In fact, in calling God the Almighty, we are saying that He is the most powerful being in the universe. There is none other like Him.

Where do we see his power most clearly? We see it in creation. He is the creator of heaven and earth.

Paul says it this way: God who made the world and everything in it.

We are dealing with a God who is so powerful that He created everything.

So, we have a God who is our Father, but is more powerful than we can possibly imagine.

The creed wants us to remember exactly who God is, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

## **BECOME**

The fact that God is our Father Almighty, changes the way that we live in relationship to God!

That he is our Father means we have to begin to relate to God as if we matter to God. So often in the Christian life we move through life as if God were not interested in us. Nothing could be farther from the truth! Notice. Paul's words. He says that God created human beings that we might know Him! The God of the universe wants to know you! You matter to him.

Would you ignore your biological father? Would you act as if your biological father didn't care to take your phone call or hear your voice?

Any child knows, their father cares!

Our Heavenly Father cares for us far more than our biological fathers! So go to him! Pray! Spend time with him! Ask him to take care of your needs! Your Father cares.

That God is Almighty means we have to begin to relate to God as if we need him, not the other way around.

All too often, Christians act as if God is in need of something we have to offer. The Almighty God is not in need of what we have to offer. Instead he is here to offer us abundant life.

Paul says that God is not served by humans, instead he gives to mankind life, and breath, and everything.

Do you believe that God wants to help you in life? It's time to live like the Almighty God of the universe is on your side?