

## PCJH STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

### Apostle's Creed

#### *I Believe in Jesus Christ: His Present Activity and Future Role*

Week of October 11

Text: John 14:15-27

#### **Background**

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.

- This creed is called the Apostles' Creed not because it was produced by the apostles themselves but because it contains a brief summary of their teachings.
- It sets forth their doctrine "in sublime simplicity, in unsurpassable brevity, in beautiful order, and with liturgical solemnity." In its present form it is dated no later than the fourth century.
- More than any other Christian creed, it may justly be called an ecumenical symbol of faith. This creed had its origin as a profession or confession of faith by converts at their baptism.
- This is not how someone becomes a Christian but rather is a summary of the main points of faith.
- The creed emphasizes that to believe is to belong. To become a Christian means we belong to the body of Christ, which is the church.

## Opening Questions

- ❖ When you hear the term “Holy Spirit,” what immediately comes to mind?
- ❖ Who and when did someone walk alongside you in a difficult situation? What did that mean to you?
- ❖ What’s something you’ve heard about the Holy Spirit that confuses you or helps you?

## Discussion Questions:

- The Spirit is characterized by the word “Holy”. What is meant by holy? Why is the Spirit described as the “Holy Spirit”? (Leaders: Derived from the Hebrew “Kadosh”, meaning “separated,” “set apart” • God’s holiness is seen in God’s set apartness or “total otherness” • Worthy of praise and high esteem • Biblical sense of “holy” – things/people/events that are set apart by God for God’s purposes; associated with divine power)
- Whom or what would you classify as “holy”? Persons living or in the past? What is there about this person that makes her or him holy? What is the relationship between this person and God’s holiness?
- What events or things would you consider “holy”? (consider, for example, the Holy Sacraments)
- How is the Holy Spirit making YOU “holy”? Setting you apart for God’s purposes?
- In what ways has the Holy Spirit surprised you?
- In what variety of “languages” does the Holy Spirit communicate the Good News of Jesus in today’s world? (think beyond literal ‘languages’ to all forms of communicating/expressing/sharing God’s love)
- How has the Holy Spirit given you help and comfort?
- What barriers in your life have been broken down by the Holy Spirit?
- How are you open to the breath of the Spirit within yourself?
- How would you describe the Holy Spirit (is it a feeling, your conscience, a voice, unexplainable, etc.)?
- How can you be attentive to the Spirit’s work and presence in your life?
- Do signs and miracles of the Spirit still happen today?
- The Holy Spirit produces fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Why are these characteristics important and how do they show the Holy Spirit at work?
- How do you see the Holy Spirit active in our church fellowship? In your personal life?
- Why did Jesus, in John’s Gospel, speak of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit among us in terms of love?