

Basics of Faith Session 1 – What do we believe about God?

Although this series is called Basics of the Faith, some of the questions for discussion might not be easy. Some might be tough to answer. Treat this as a good chance to be stretched and grow. The idea is that you consider, what do I really believe?

Questions for discussion (use whatever questions are helpful or discuss whatever issues come up for you as a group).

- Is it important to you to believe in one God? Does it matter what you believe about God? How would you respond to someone who said that sincerity of belief was the only thing which mattered?
- How important is it to you to believe in a creator God?
- From Genesis 1 we've seen that God is one who is personal, is eternal who precedes us, is powerful and purposeful. God communicates, is appreciative, is other than us and finally is in relationship - described as a trinity. Share together which concepts of God you are most drawn to, from this list, or in general knowledge about the nature of God.
- How would you answer the question: what do I have to believe to be classed as a card carrying Christian?
- If you were to tell someone what you believed about who God was, what would you say – have a go – write it down in 200 words and then speak it to the group you are with when you next meet.
- I believe... What things about Christian Faith do you struggle to believe?

Bonus material -

Early Creeds sought to instruct on core beliefs. Both the Apostles and Nicene Creeds were in circulation inside the first 500 years of the church. What issues do you think the church was facing which led to these being written?

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Further scriptures to read which relate to creation and our concept of who God is.

Psalm 8, 19, 139:1-18

Recommended book: Tom Wright – Simply Christian: Chapters 1-5