

We believe...

THE CREED OF THE NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 2020

Session 1: The Holy Spirit

Session 2: The church is...

Session 3: The beyond

Facilitators: Please remember to report your small group attendance to the appropriate person in your congregation. **If you're interested in being able to text in your attendance, talk to your rector about the Text2Voucher option.** For any additional questions, please email communications@nac-usa.org.

If you have participants in your small group that do not attend the New Apostolic Church, please encourage them to bring their Catechism or statement of beliefs to add to the discussion.

2020 March MIDWEEK GUIDE

Session 1: The Creed: The Holy Spirit

1. How would you describe God, the Holy Spirit, to someone? Why is it appropriate that we refer to the Holy Spirit as “He” and not “it”?

2. Why is it appropriate to call all three Persons of the Trinity “Creator” (Genesis 1:1-2, 26)?

3. How is the Holy Spirit active in your life? What is the evidence of His activity?

4. Read Acts 9:1-22 (Paul’s conversion) and Acts 16:13-15 (Lydia’s conversion). What role did Paul and Lydia play in their coming to faith? Reflect on the moment when you felt God called you to believe in Him. How did God use an experience or person to influence your decision?

5. *The phrases of the third article reveal the ways that the Holy Spirit makes us holy. Was this a new thought for you? Have you ever thought about the third article in that way? How could this explanation open the door to a different perspective about the Holy Spirit for you?*

6. *Being part of the community of saints is a call to godliness, to a different way of living. The Israelites in the Old Testament had a set of rules that laid out how they were to live in relationship with God and each other. How can you tell if you are living a godly, holy life?*

7. What gifts has the Holy Spirit equipped you with so that you can contribute to the church?

8. What is your response to the belief stated in the third Article of Faith?

References

Genesis 1:1-2, 26
John 3:5-6
Ephesians 2:8, 10

1 Timothy 2:4
Romans 10:14-17
Leviticus 11:44

Creed of Nicaea-
Constantinople

Third Article of Faith

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one, holy, universal, and apostolic church, the community of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting.

Session 2: The Creed: The church is...

Be sure to keep in mind throughout this discussion that we are talking about the church of Christ – not the New Apostolic Church.

1. What is the church of Christ? Who belongs to it? (CNAC 2.4.3 / 6.3 / 6.4)

2. Why do we believe that we need the church?

3. Read Acts 2:42-47 together. How is the early church described?

4. We believe the church is universal. How does this belief relate to our call to share the gospel?

5. What brings the church of Christ together, even though there are different denominations?
Refer to Ephesians 4:4-6.

6. How could differences between denominations promote and fulfill the mission of the church?
On the other hand, how could differences hinder Jesus' gospel from reaching all people?

7. How does the sinfulness of humanity affect the holiness of the church? How does that sinfulness affect the church's message to the world?

8. Session 1 mentioned that *we were never meant to walk this journey alone*. How do the different aspects of the church help you in your walk as a Christian?

9. PERSONAL TAKE-HOME: Research the creed of another Christian denomination. What similarities do you see?

References

Hebrews 10:25

Ephesians 4:4-6

John 13:34-35

John 17:20-23

1 Peter 2:9

Matthew 28:19

Mark 16:15

Ephesians 2:19-22

Acts 2:42-47

CNAC 2.4.3 / 6.3 / 6.4

Third Article of Faith

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Session 3: The Creed: The beyond

1. Perhaps some of the teaching in this session is new to you. Share your new insight.

2. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

a. Discuss the different phrases. Which stick out to you? What do they mean?

b. What do these verses tell you about what we believe about the return of Christ?

c. How do these verses offer you comfort and hope for the future?

3. How do our beliefs about the departed confirm God's love and universal will to save?

4. Even as believers, death still causes great grief. Why is grieving important? Describe how your belief in Jesus Christ guides your grieving process.

5. Do you think that bringing our hope in eternal life to the forefront helps us make better decisions today? How? If so, what are some practical ways to remind ourselves of this hope every day?

6. Our Chief Apostle has stressed that there are many things that we do not know about eternity. That is the reason we call it “the beyond” – it is beyond our understanding. Why do you think it’s important for us to grasp this? What is the danger in getting lost in or extrapolating the details, rather than having faith and trust in God?

7. The celebration of Holy Communion for the departed in an Apostle or District Apostle service is for those souls who are Christians and desire to be in fellowship with Christ. Alternatively, services for the departed are focused on souls who are just coming to belief in Christ to receive the sacraments. With this understanding, share who you might pray for in preparation for the next service for the departed.

References

1 Corinthians 15:19, 29
Genesis 1:27
Romans 6:23

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Revelation 1:18
1 Peter 3:19

1 Peter 4:6
CNAC 9.5

Small Group Theme for April: The Creed

Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople (325, 381 AD):

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds (æons), Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the virgin Mary, and was made man; He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; from thence He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. In one holy universal [catholic] and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.