

AUGUST

2026

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Dig Deeper Study Tools

Author's Purpose
Context
Structure
Linking Words
Parallels
Narrator's Comment
Vocabulary
Translations
Tone and Feel
Repetition
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Genre
Copycat
Bible Timeline
"Who am I"
"So What"

Apostles' Creed – Anchored in the Gospel

Sermon Series

09, 16, 23 August 2026

30 August 2026

August Study 1

August Study 2

We Believe in Jesus the Son

We Believe in God the Holy Spirit

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the grave. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. He will come again 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.

WHO WROTE THE APOSTLES' CREED?

We don't know. However, there is historical record of these statements asked in question form to baptismal candidates going back perhaps as far back as 40-50 years after Christ. By 200 AD, Tertullius refers to what is called the Old Roman Creed which is almost identical to the Apostles' Creed and he refers to it in terms of those baptismal questions, "Do you believe...?" "Do you believe...?" ... The first reference to the Apostles' Creed, per se, is by a man named Rufinus in 390 AD.

Regardless of its precise origins, what is beyond question is that the Apostles' Creed eventually came into widespread use, especially in Western churches. In the early centuries, its precise wording varied somewhat from church to church. But in the eighth century the wording was generally standardized into the form that we recognize and use today.

With this understanding of the historical development of the creed in mind, we should look at the purpose behind the creation and use of the Apostles' Creed.

WHAT IS THE APOSTLES' CREED

The Apostles' Creed is a short, straightforward statement of beliefs that could and should be understood by all professing Christians. It is actually a narrative summary of the Christian's faith. And it points out the fact that even though we believe that every single word of the Bible is the inerrant and infallible word of God, we are in need of a summary to help people understand what the essence of the gospel is. And the Apostles' Creed is just that kind of summary, emerging from so early in the Christian tradition, encapsulating what the apostles taught on the basis of Christ's revelation to them concerning the essence of the faith. "I believe." Everything flows from that. And so, what's so important here is that the Apostles' Creed helps us to say everything we have to say in order to say enough to communicate the gospel.

[excerpted from thirdmill.org]

Outline of Apostles' Creed – Anchored in the Gospel (with preaching schedule)

<i>BFA</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Text</i>
Jul Study 2	19 Jul	We Believe (Faith) Romans 10:8-13
	26 Jul	We Believe in God (The Trinity) Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 17:16-34
	02 Aug	We Believe in the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth Psalm 136
Aug Study 1	09 Aug	We Believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord John 1:14-18
	16 Aug	We Believe in the Suffering Saviour Isaiah 53
	23 Aug	We Believe that Jesus Rose, Reigns, and Will Return Philippians 2:5-11
Aug Study 2	30 Aug	We Believe in the Holy Spirit John 14:16-17, 16:7-15; Romans 8:1-17
Sep Study 1	06 Sep	We Believe in the Holy Catholic Church and the Communion of Saints 1 Peter 2:4-10; Ephesian 2:11-22
Sep Study 2	13 Sep	We Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins Titus 3:3-8
	20 Sep	We Believe in the Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting Romans 8:18-30

We will be in 1 Thessalonians (The Gospel-Centred Church) from 27 Sep to 22 Nov 2026.

09, 16, 23 August 2026

August Study 1

We Believe in Jesus the Son

PREPARE (INDIVIDUAL): REFLECT

If a non-Christian asks you who Jesus is, what would you say to him/her?

PREPARE TO SHARE (INDIVIDUAL): LOOK BACK

What has God been teaching you in the last few weeks?

Who has God laid on your heart to pray for?

GROUP: SHARE AND PRAY

Take note of one another's prayer concerns.

Come together to pray for each other, the church, and the world (see this month's prayer bulletin).

GROUP: WORSHIP TOGETHER

Prepare your hearts to meet God and one another in His Word through worshipping together.

GROUP: STUDY 1

1. Read Colossians 1:15-23.
 - a. What does this text tell us about who Jesus is? Consider also the testimony of John 1:14-18.
 - b. What does this text tell us about what Jesus has done? Consider also Isaiah 53:5. How is this demonstrated in your life?
2. Read Isaiah 53 and Luke 23:44-55.
 - a. Compare the description of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53 (in particular vv.4-5, 7-9) to what Jesus went through in Luke 23:44-55. What parallels do you see? What does this tell us about why Jesus went through this suffering?
 - b. What details show us that Christ really died? Why is his actual physical death essential to the gospel?

3. Read Philippians 2:5-11.
 - a. Philippians 2 reiterates that Jesus is God, but at the same time was “found in appearance as a man” (v.8). What is most remarkable to you about the fact that God was incarnate in Jesus Christ?
 - b. What are the reasons for the exaltation of Jesus (vv.8-9)?
 - c. What does it mean for you that “Jesus Christ is Lord” (v.11)?
4. Consider what we have read so far.
 - a. In your own words, summarise what we believe about Jesus.
 - b. Do you think that Jesus is qualified to “judge the living and the dead”? Why, or why not?

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August Study 2

We Believe in God the Holy Spirit

PREPARE (INDIVIDUAL): REFLECT

If God the Father is a loving parent, and Jesus the Son is a brother or saviour, what mental image or picture comes to mind when you think of the Holy Spirit? Why do you think many Christians find the Spirit harder to conceptualise than the Father or the Son?

PREPARE TO SHARE (INDIVIDUAL): LOOK BACK

What has God been teaching you in the last few weeks?

Who has God laid on your heart to pray for?

GROUP: SHARE AND PRAY

Take note of one another's prayer concerns.

Come together to pray for each other, the church, and the world (see this month's prayer bulletin).

GROUP: WORSHIP TOGETHER

Prepare your hearts to meet God and one another in His Word through worshipping together.

GROUP: STUDY 2

1. Match the following verses to what they tell us about the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:2	•	• The Holy Spirit is God
Psalms 33:6	•	
Isaiah 63:10	•	
Acts 5:3-4	•	• The Holy Spirit is a Person – Intellect
Acts 16:6-11	•	
Romans 8:27	•	
Ephesians 4:30	•	• The Holy Spirit is a Person – Will
1 Corinthians 6:19	•	
1 Corinthians 12:13	•	
2 Peter 1:21	•	The Holy Spirit is a Person - Emotions

2. Look at the verses listed above again. How do these verses counter the idea that the Holy Spirit is a generic force or energy?

3. Read Ezekiel 36:24-28. What role does the Holy Spirit play in our salvation?

4. Read John 14:16-26, 16:7-15 and 1 Corinthians 2:10-13.
 - a. In John 14 and 16, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Advocate (NIV), or Helper (ESV). According to these verses, what specific help does the Holy Spirit give us that we cannot do on our own?
 - b. How does the work of the Holy Spirit differ from that of the Father and the Son?
5. Read Exodus 31:1-5; Judges 3:9-10 and Micah 3:8. What kinds of things did the Holy Spirit empower people to do in the Old Testament? Why do you think it was important for the Holy Spirit to be involved in these?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and Galatians 5:16-25. What kinds of things does the Holy Spirit empower people to do today?

7. Consider what we have read so far
- a. In your own words, summarise what we believe about the Holy Spirit.
 - b. What does it mean for us to be filled with the Holy Spirit today?
 - c. Where do you see the Holy Spirit acting in your own life (both in the past and today)?
 - d. What would you say to a professing Christian who doubts if he/she has ever experienced the ministry of the Holy Spirit?
 - e. Galatians 5 talks about “keeping in step with the Spirit” rather than gratifying the desires of our flesh. Looking at your upcoming week (at work, home, or school), in which specific relationship or situation do you most need to consciously surrender control and let the Holy Spirit produce His fruit in you?