



Sermon Discussion Questions
02-22-26

Rev. Trevor Johnston (LOX); Pastor Brandon Weaver (LW); Pastor Mitch Nazario (ESP)

Sermon Series: I Believe
Week 1: I believe...

1. ICE BREAKER: If you were to win the lottery without anyone knowing, what would be some of the "signs" that might start giving you away? In other words, how would you spend your lotto money?
2. Read our Scripture for this week, Matthew 28:16-20:

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This is a portion of Jesus' first public sermon - the Sermon on the Mount. Is there a particular section or verse that is sticking out to you as you read it today? How do you think this teaching would have been received by Jesus' original audience?

3. The Lent season began last Wednesday, which is the 40 days (excluding Sunday) leading up to Easter. It is a time that we set aside to remember the death of Christ, in order that we might more fully celebrate His Resurrection! Our sermon series this Lent will be a journey through the Apostles' Creed.

Discuss with your group what Lent means to you, and if you've had any specific practices you've engaged in, in the past, or if you haven't really observed it before. What about the Apostles' Creed? Have you encountered the Creed before?

4. Creeds have been used throughout the history of the church in order to synthesize Scripture, and defend against false teaching. Reciting them now also helps to connect us to the historical church.

Talk about each of the three purposes of creeds, especially the Apostles' Creed. Why was it important to synthesize Scripture? How does it defend against heresy? Why are these purposes important to us, even today?

To begin this series, we first need to understand the phrase, "I believe."

5. First of all, "I believe" is not the same as "I know." In our faith journey, we all have to reach a point where the "knowledge" we have about God moves from our head, to our heart.

How do you understand the difference between "I believe" and "I know"? Do you remember a moment in your own faith where you feel like your "head" knowledge became "heart" knowledge? What happened? What was that like?

6. Secondly, "I believe" is not "I agree." James 2:19 says, *"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder."* We can believe the right things, and agree with the right things, without having the living faith in our lives that Jesus brings.

How is "I believe" different from "I agree"? React to the challenging words in James 2:19. What happens to our faith if we keep it only at the "agreement" level?

7. A right understanding of "I believe," one that grounds our faith and leads to deeper faith" is "I trust."

How would you define "trust"? How do you think knowing the Apostles' Creed could help lead to that deeper understanding of "I believe"? Is there anywhere in your life right now where God is inviting you to a deeper sense of trust?

8. Having faith like this, having trust in God the Father, trust in the Son, and trust in the Holy Spirit is what makes all the difference in our lives. This trust saves us from guilt of past sin, from fear of future death, and from the power of sin now.

Which of these three are most impactful to you at this moment? Why? What kind of faith practices could help grow this kind of trust in your life? What do you do in those moments where you need more faith to trust?

9. PRACTICE: This whole series will be spent in the Apostles' Creed. For your weekly faith practice with your group, we encourage you to end by saying the Apostles' Creed together. Perhaps you will memorize it by the end of Lent! Try to really think about the words and their meaning as you say them out loud.

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, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead.

The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there, He shall 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.