



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.**

### Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

#### **The Big Idea**

*When we heed the creed, we'll have what we need.*

#### **Message Summary**

Creeds can seem foreign to a lot of us who didn't grow up in the church, and even for those of us who did, creeds are often reserved for the "formal" churches. But as we'll see over the next few weeks, the idea of creeds is something that all of us already use and the actual creeds written by the early church fathers were tools to allow common people like you and me to learn the most important aspects of the faith even as they grew to understand it in greater depths as they followed Jesus. This week, Paul helped us understand exactly what a creed is.

#### **Discuss**

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Paul compared creeds to fun or memorable things our dads say. What are some things that you have said or done that reminded you of something your dad said or did?
- Ephesians 4:4-6 is a great example of a creed because the apostle Paul boiled a lot of truth down into 7 "ones" that sum up what matters most. Are there other passages that come to mind where a lot was reduced to a few?
- Creeds are like a touchstone - something we can come back to over and over again to stay connected to the foundations of the gospel. What are some of the foundational Bible truths that have served the purpose of a touchstone in your life? Share some passages that you find yourself coming back to over and over again.
- Paul talked about how his family's silly end of prayer song and the Panthers "Keep Pounding" chant were modern day examples of what creeds are. What are some other examples of guiding principles that you find yourself using (or hear others using) in everyday life?
- Looking back at Ephesians 4:1-6, discuss how the "grind" we experience as we live out verses 1-3 can be covered with the "grace" that comes from the unifying creed revealed in verses 4-6.