



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 who we need.

Message Summary

We saw last week that creeds are like guiding principles that aren't meant to help us know everything, but rather are meant to help us know what we need to know - in other words, the basics that allow us to then start the journey to learn more. But we don't take that journey alone, and that's the other wonderful purpose of creeds. They help us know what matters most, but also to grow with who matters most. The end result of all that? Unity, and nothing opens up the church to the blessings of God more than that. The church can thrive in seasons of persecution, but she has never thrived in seasons of division. Creeds help us fight against the things that try to divide us.

Discuss

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

- Read Ephesians 4:4-6 and John 17:21. How part could creeds play in the answer to Jesus' prayer for the church?
- Read Psalm 133 and discuss the insights found in this short psalm about unity.
- According to Philippians 2:1-3, what did Paul say would complete his joy? What type of a lifestyle does verse 3 lead to when we walk in unity?
- Creeds are like guardrails that keep us from wandering off the path of truth. Of course, they also allow freedom on that path for differences of opinion or disagreements about preferred practices. Read Romans 15:1-7 and discuss how we should approach those situations.