

Week 2: 'We Believe in God' 06-12-16
Series: *We Believe* Pastor Peter Smith

Nicene Creed:

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

Something to believe in: Ultraman!

- Ultimate good & powerful
- I imitated him when we played
- He was stronger than evil (monsters), he protected mankind
- I had someone to believe in: Ultraman was concerned about good & evil
- In fact, the creator of the character was a Christian so he symbolically used a 'cross' as one way Ultraman's power ray worked!!

What about your life? Do you find yourself on a journey, longing for something / someone to believe in? You are not alone!

- People in every area of the world, throughout all times, have believed in some sort of god and devote time to worship and devotion.
- In fact, this is God's plan...to seek after Him

"God began by making one man, and from him he made all the different people who live everywhere in the world. He decided exactly when and where they would live. "God wanted people to look for him, and perhaps in searching all around for him, they would find him. But he is not far from any of us."
- Acts 17:26-27, ERV

Question for us is this: which God do we believe in? Which one do you pick?

The Nicene Creed reminds about foundational belief in God:

- We believe in **one** God, not many (in some forms of Hinduism there are millions of gods!)
- We believe He is our Father (we have origins in him as our creator)
- We believe He is powerful (almighty means all power comes from and resides in Him. So he can make things like heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen)

So our belief in God assumes He exists, and that He has an interest in our lives.

The Bible teaches that:

1. God reveals Himself as our Father

a. So He is for us, not against us

- It means he Loves us
- He wants what is BEST for us
- So we can trust his teachings, His ways

b. Desires a two-way conversation with us

- Moms, dads, grandparents: Don't you wish your kids would talk to you?!! So does God
- Reading the Bible tells us who God is, what he desires
- Prayer reveals our hearts to God: our burdens, our joys (thanksgiving), our fears, our dreams, our sins (through confession)

“Against You--You alone--I have sinned and done this evil in Your sight. So You are right when You pass sentence; You are blameless when You judge.”

-Psalm 51:4, HCSB

- The more we get real in our talks with God the closer He gets to knowing us

2. God wants a relationship with us

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.”

-Ephesians 1:17, NIV

- He tells, through the Bible, what He wants from us: our hearts, our lives...us!

- We most fully understand this point in the story of Jesus: His came to seek us out, to bring us to God. More next week!

3. God is Powerful, so He can provide for us

“My God will use his glorious riches to give you everything you need. He will do this through Christ Jesus.” -Philippians 4:19, ERV

- Provision either comes from God or someone else
- If God doesn't fill us up, meet our needs, something else or someone else will!
- Jesus' prayer: give us today our daily bread...be intentional asking God to provide, read about his promises:

Healing & health, for assurance, for daily needs (to survive!), for direction, for wealth, for wisdom...God has all the answers we need because He is Almighty

- The real test for us is trust:

It means we lean on Him, His promises

Jesus says,

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” -Matthew 6:33, NLT

4. If God is Creator then He has expectations for us

- a. That we would live to please Him and not ourselves (our moral life)
- b. That we would live with Purpose (living to make disciples)

My Next Step:

This week I will get to know God through Bible reading and let God get to know me through my prayers.