



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

Apostles'
Doctrine

Fellowship

The Breaking
of Bread

Prayer

MIDWEEK GUIDE

2016

June

Your small group does not need to answer every question provided in the Midweek guides. There are a range of questions so that each group can answer questions that are applicable to them and that they are comfortable with. Also, take your time with discussing the questions and don't feel the need to rush through them in order to answer every one.

2016 June MIDWEEK GUIDE

Session 1: Apostles' Doctrine

Apostles' Doctrine

The apostles' doctrine refers to what the early apostles preached and taught. They taught about Jesus Christ.

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 dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

1. What does Acts 2:42, "and they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers," mean to you? What does daily participation in those activities look like?

Bible References

Acts 2:41-42

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 16:8

Matthew 28:19

John 20:23

2. Can you imagine what it would be like to be in the first church with a brand new faith? Can you imagine church without written teachings and traditions? What would it be like?

3. To grow as a Christian, we have to continually learn about Jesus. Do you feel that you are growing in your knowledge of Him? What steps are you taking to continually grow in your relationship with Him?

Going Deeper

For more information on the Nicea-Constantinople Creed and the Athanasian Creed please see Chapter 2 of the Catechism.

4. Why is it important to clarify that the apostles' doctrine refers to what the early apostles preached and taught and is not about the apostles themselves?

5. Why do we have a creed?

6. How does the Apostles' Creed unify Christians?

7. How is the apostles' role today different than that of the apostles in the early church? How is it the same?

8. TAKE HOME: Write the Apostles' Creed in your own words.

Session 2: Fellowship

Bible References

Acts 2:42-47

1 Corinthians 1:9

John 13:34-35

John 17:20-21

1 John 1:3, 6-7

Philippians 2:1-4

Hebrews 10:19-25

Romans 12:9-13

1 Thessalonians 5:11

1. Reflect on the topics of the conversations that you have had over the past week. How often have you talked about Jesus and what He means to your life? If you haven't, why do you think He wasn't a part of your conversations?

2. How has the craziness of life affected your relationship with God?

3. What are some ways to become more intentional about sharing our faith in our fellowships?

4. What do you imagine the fellowship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is like?

5. How does fellowship build up the church?

6. Jesus prayed for us all in John 17:20-21 – “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” What does it mean to you that Jesus prayed for you in this way before you ever existed?

7. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need (Acts 2:44-45). What would it look like to live in a community where you shared all things?

Session 3: The Breaking of Bread

Bible References

Acts 2:42

Matthew 26:26-28

Going Deeper

What we do or do not do with our material possessions is an indicator of the Spirit's presence or absence.

—Krodel

They continued in the breaking of bread, in celebrating that memorial of their Master's death, as those that were not ashamed to own their relation to, and their dependence upon, Christ and him crucified.

— Matthew Henry

1. What is an example of food in the Bible that speaks to you?

2. How do our moments of "breaking bread" together transform from just eating together to growing in our spiritual lives and developing Christian relationships?

3. How are we fed when we celebrate the Lord's Supper together as a congregation? How does continual participation in Holy Communion strengthen your relationship with Jesus?

4. Why is food such an important element in our culture?

5. What do you think of the connection that food has with the divine? Do you think God made this connection on purpose?

6. Does thinking about our daily bread ever inspire us to provide daily bread for others?

7. Food fills a natural need of ours. What needs of ours does Jesus fill? Was there something from the video that stood out to you?

8. Can you think of something you recently learned or discovered about Jesus when you were sitting around a table?

Session 4: Prayer

Bible References

Acts 2:42

Psalm 13:1-6

1 Timothy 2:4-6

1 Thessalonians 4:16

1 Peter 3:19-20

1 Peter 4:6

James 5:16

1 Corinthians 15:29, 51-52

1. How do we keep focused and devoted in our prayer life when our lives grow increasingly busy?

2. Reflect on when you turn to God in prayer. Is it only at routine times – before eating or going to sleep? Or do you turn to Him at random times similar as to when we choose to talk with our best friends? What are some ways to grow in your prayer life?

3. In Acts 4:23-31, we can read that the first believers prayed to God for the courage to “speak your word with great boldness.” Read the rest of Acts 4:23-31. What could we borrow from the prayer of these first believers in order to help grow the church of Christ today?

Going Deeper

For more information on the sacraments, see questions 474 – 478 in the Catechism Q&A.

4. What emotions do you express in your prayers?

5. Read Psalm 13:1-6. How does this Psalm demonstrate that prayer is a two-way conversation?

6. What do you expect of God when you pray to Him? If you can't come up with an answer, think about what Jesus said about prayer (Matthew 6:6, Matthew 21:22, Mark 11:24-25). On a broader scale, think of those things that God has promised us in Scripture.

7. Why are intercessory prayers necessary?

8. When we place our trust in Jesus and pray to Him about the souls in the departed, what is our hope?

9. For all the time that you have spent praying for souls in eternity, have you spent that same amount of time speaking to people on the earth about their salvation?
