

We believe...

THE CREED OF THE NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH

JUNE 2020

Session 1: Pentecost Discussion

Session 2: Future Events

Session 3: Wordly Authorities

Facilitators: Please remember to report your small group attendance to the appropriate person in your congregation. **If you're interested in being able to text in your attendance, talk to your rector about the Text2Voucher option.** For any additional questions, please email communications@nac-usa.org.

If you have participants in your small group that do not attend the New Apostolic Church, please encourage them to bring their Catechism or statement of beliefs to add to the discussion.

2020 June MIDWEEK GUIDE

Session 1: Pentecost Discussion

1. What one thing moved you the most from Sunday's Pentecost service?

2. What did you learn about the Holy Spirit and His activity?

3. Read Acts 2:1-21 together.

a. What effects did the Holy Spirit have on those who were gathered?

b. How did the Holy Spirit affect Peter specifically?

c. What gifts of the Spirit are evident in this Bible passage?

d. What spiritual gifts do you have, and how can they be a benefit to others?

e. What does it mean to you to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

4. How did the service connect to the theme for this year, “Christ makes free”?

Bible Verse from the Pentecost Service

2 Corinthians 3:17

Bible Reading from the Pentecost Service

Acts 2:1-4, 12-21

Session 2: The Creed: Future Events

1. What part of the ninth Article of Faith excites you most, and why?

2. Was there a part of the ninth article that you had not thought about before? What was something new that you learned from this session?

3. In Hebrews 9:28, it states, *To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.* What does it mean to “eagerly wait” for the Lord?

4. For many, it might seem that we have been waiting for the return of the Lord for a long time. How can we live our lives with the expectation that Jesus Christ will return at any time?

5. Who are the “firstfruits”? What does it mean to be part of the firstfruits?

6. It’s mentioned in 1 Peter 3:15, *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear...* How would you describe your hope for the future? Find Bible verses that support this hope.

7. In the thousand-year kingdom of peace, we believe the gospel will be proclaimed to all human beings, both the living and dead. What are some ways we can proclaim the gospel already today?

8. When we hear the term, “proclaim the gospel,” what exactly is the gospel?

9. During the thousand-year kingdom of peace (for those on earth), have you ever considered that children will be born, and people will still die? Or that people will still sin?

10. What is your personal take-away from studying the ninth Article of Faith?

Bible References

John 14:3

Revelation 20:6-15

John 5:22, 26-27

Acts 1:11

1 Peter 2:9

1 John 3:2

Revelation 14, 21, 22

Ninth Article of Faith

I believe that the Lord Jesus will return as surely as He ascended into heaven and that He will take to Himself the first fruits of the dead and living who have hoped for and were prepared for His coming; that after the marriage in heaven He will return to earth with them, to establish His kingdom of peace and that they will reign with Him as a royal priesthood. After the conclusion of the kingdom of peace, He will hold the Last Judgment. Then God will create a new heaven and a new earth and dwell with His people.

Session 3: The Creed: Worldly Authorities

1. What are some practical ways to demonstrate that we are already citizens of God's kingdom through our citizenship here on earth?

2. Read Matthew 22:15-22. What do these verses tell us about Jesus and His teachings?

3. What are some examples of godly laws, and how might these laws be transgressed? Use Acts 5:17-32 as a point of discussion.

4. The video said, "It is because we honor God and recognize that He is always in control that we willingly submit to the civil authorities of our time." Is this easy or hard for you to do? Why or why not?

5. How do you act or respond when you don't agree with natural authority: a) when it's not against God's law, and b) when it is against God's law?

6. Peter writes that we are to “live as God’s slaves” (1 Peter 2:16 NIV). The word “slave” generally has very negative connotations. Why is this not the case here? What do you think Peter’s words mean for us today?

7. How does the tenth article demonstrate the relationship that exists between the Christian faith and the government? How should this guide us in our beliefs and feelings regarding civic duty?

8. As we finish this series on our Creed, what is something new you have learned? Has your understanding of what it means to be a New Apostolic Christian changed? If so, how?

Bible References

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| Matthew 22:15-22 | Acts 4, 5 | 1 Peter 2:15-16 NIV |
| Romans 13:6-7 | Acts 5:29 | 1 Peter 2:17 |

Tenth Article of Faith

I believe that I am obliged to obey the worldly authorities provided no godly laws are thereby transgressed.

Small Group Theme for July: The Sermon on the Mount