



Calling deserters back to the gospel
Mark 14:72

SEPTEMBER 19, 2010

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten

Hear ☼

*The Creed is Provided
on the Back Page*

We are spending time on the Apostles' Creed, but this doesn't mean that we won't stick with the simplicity we normally enjoy in family worship. Read, pray, and sing. Read a short passage of Scripture together (maybe a Psalm or a story from the *Jesus Story Book Bible*), Pray, and Sing one or two short songs together. This kind of simplicity normally fits in a 10 to 15-minute window. Each day consider, discuss and understand one item or point in the Creed. Keep working to memorize the Creed together if you don't have it down yet, and don't worry about discussing anything outside the first line of the second paragraph this week - "I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord."

Love ☼

How do sons and fathers relate to (treat) each other? Who obeys whom? Can you think of specific times in the gospels when we see Jesus acting this way with his Father?

What does it mean for us to say that Jesus is God's "only Son"? [HINT - "only" here is probably better understood as a reference to Jesus' uniqueness as a son. Christians are God's children in that he adopts us because of Jesus' work on our behalf, but Jesus' sonship is different - how so?]

What does "lord" mean? What does it mean to call someone our "lord"? What does it mean to say this about Jesus?

Proclaim ☼

When we say the line "Jesus Christ, his only Son," it should make us giddy to get this glimpse of the good news. Jesus is the Father's only begotten Son - that is the only son who shares his entire nature. But, because of Jesus, we know that Jesus is not the Father's ONLY son. In Jesus, and because of Jesus, the Father adopts us to be his sons and daughters - not by our nature, but by his grace. This one glimmer of the gospel is more than enough good news to feed us for the week. But this is good news that we are tempted and distracted enough to forget. Spend this week not letting each other forget that Jesus, the Father's unique Son, has won gracious adoption for us as the Father's sons and daughters.

When we talk about fathers and sons in human terms we normally include that one is older than the other; that one is born. This doesn't fit when we talk about God the Father, and God the Son, because, well, they're not human. So, what does it mean for us to talk about them as Father & Son? What parts of their relationship do you think are revealed in the human relationships between fathers and sons? What things are the same? What things do you think are different?



The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.