

4: majoring on the 'majors'

Paul is convinced that right believing leads to right living, or what we might call, 'majoring on the majors'. This material helps us to identify what in our faith and practice is important to us and gives us a chance to think about what we would include in our own creed.

open it The great creeds (credo = I believe) of the Church are recited by many Church traditions each week, and convey something of the faith and practice of the Church. Spend a moment together thinking about the creeds with which you are familiar, and what place, if any, they have had in your Christian walk.

read it Read 1 Timothy 3.14-16— **what 'majors' does Paul highlight in this passage?** Paul has not said everything about the Christian faith here, why do you think he says *these* things in particular?

apply it **Consider the two creeds in the box.** What do you like about them? What would you want to highlight? Are there any things you consider to be important that you feel are missing?

What themes are particularly important to you about your faith and belief right now? List them below.

live it **If you had to write your own Credo, what would you write?**

Don't feel you have to write everything, just perhaps focus (as Paul did) on what things are particularly significant for you at the moment. **Use the other side of this sheet.**

pray it

Finish your time together either reading your creeds, or using the themes you have identified as prayers. Listen to one another's prayers and see how the Lord speaks to you through one another.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.*

Apostles' Creed

We believe and trust in God our creator who made us to be neighbours together, brothers and sisters from every tribe and nation and culture.

We believe and trust in Christ our redeemer who saves us from self-centeredness and isolation to be joined together as part of a body that loves and cares for each other.

We believe and trust in the Spirit our enabler who calls us to be one family with rich and poor, disabled and whole, with young and old, oppressed and despised.

We believe and trust in God Creator, Redeemer, Enabler who welcomes us home into the eternal world where justice and love will reign forever.

We believe and trust in God's new world coming when one day together with sisters and brothers and all Nations we will be healed and made whole to become all that God intends us to be.

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