



# WE BELIEVE

## A STUDY ON THE HISTORY OF THE NICENE CREED

February 4, 2024 "Catalyst for the Creed"

Share some of the most common threats against Christians in the first three centuries.

Explain the new era that began with Emperor Constantine and summarize his goals.

Summarize Arius' teaching and list at least two fallacies in his arguments:

✓

✓

Review the position of Athanasius and explain why he would not be able to compromise.

*"We are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses..." -Heb 12:1*

### DISCUSS: PART 2 – CATALYST FOR THE CREED

1. Some might contend that a creed has to be personal because you can't know what everyone believes or force someone to believe something. How does the use of the first-person plural "we believe" bolster the use and purpose of the Nicene Creed?
2. Agree or Disagree: "The Nicene Creed is the confession of the Church (The Holy Christian Church)."
3. Group Exercise: The Fathers of Nicaea made sure not to lose track of God's plan of salvation. They created a meaningful confession by tying in each part about the person of Jesus with his work of salvation. They also chose to use the same vocabulary (when possible or necessary) as their opponents so that they could clarify terms.  
Pick one of the following topics. Have someone in your group list the false teachings that might be taught under that topic. Have the group briefly formulate a creed which ties in each point of response with God's plan of salvation.
  - "A Creed on Marriage"
  - "A Creed Regarding Church Fellowship"
  - "A Creed Regarding Respect for Human Life"
  - "A Creed on the Real Presence in the Sacrament"
  - "A Creed Regarding Christian Freedom"

**Next Session: Part 3 – Completing the Nicene Creed**

Rock of Ages Evangelical Lutheran Church, Payson, AZ - Sunday Bible Study