



THE NICENE CREED

c. 325 AD

CHECK-IN & CHECK-UP

// CHECK-IN

:: Everyone take a minute or two to share how they've been since the last time you met.

// CHECK-UP

:: Do a spiritual check-up. *How's your bible-reading, prayer, church attendance? In what ways do you feel encouraged/discouraged? Where do you see evidence of the Spirit's work in your own life?*

• SEMESTER II • SESSION IX • THE HOLY SPIRIT

*“...And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord
and giver of Life.”*

This line from the Nicene Creed was added at the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD, not to be confused with the Second Council of Nicaea in 787. The 381 council revised the original 325 Nicene Creed to address the heresy of Pneumatomachianism—a denial of the Holy Spirit’s full divinity. In this session, we reflected on how creeds function as faithful summaries of biblical truth, passed down by the Church through history.

We then looked at the word “Lord” (Kyrios) as it applies to the Holy Spirit in the Nicene Creed. This was a deliberate term used by the early Church. In the Greek Old Testament (Septuagint), Kyrios is the translation of Yahweh, the divine name of God. So calling the Spirit “Lord” is a clear affirmation of His full deity. We examined Romans 10:13, where Paul quotes Joel 2:32 and applies the name Kyrios to Jesus. Then in Acts 5:3–4, Peter confronts Ananias for lying to the Holy Spirit—and in doing so, says he has lied to God. This passage affirms both the personhood and deity of the Spirit.

Lastly, we explored what it means for the Spirit to be the “Giver of life.” In Genesis 2:7 and Job 33:4, God gives physical life through His breath—ruach in Hebrew, also translated as Spirit. In John 3, Jesus tells Nicodemus that one must be born again by the Spirit to enter the kingdom. This shows that the Holy Spirit gives not only physical life, but also spiritual life, bringing about the new birth for those who believe.

• SEMESTER II • SESSION IX •
THE HOLY SPIRIT

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READ TOGETHER:

Acts 5:3-4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What are some other attributes of the Holy Spirit that are found in Scripture?

How has the Spirit's life-giving work of regeneration affected your life?

READ TOGETHER:

John 3:1-8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

In what ways do you recognize the Holy Spirit's presence and work in your daily life?

Do you see some of Nicodemus in yourself in how you respond to spiritual things?

The Spirit causes us to be born again. How can we share this new life with others?

// GETTING TO CHRIST

Who sends us the Comforter (The Holy Spirit), to be with us forever? (John 14:16-17)

What was required to happen for Him to be sent?

// GETTING TO ME

How can we strive to recognize the Spirit more in our daily walk?

What are some things that prevent us from walking in the Spirit?

// GETTING TO OTHERS

Christians say the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all God—so how can we still believe there’s only one God?

EVANGELISM & PRAYER

HAVE EACH PERSON SHARE A PRAYER REQUEST
AND CLOSE BY PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

