

Small Group Leaders Plan Session 1	
Our DNA: What do we believe?	
Before session	
Resources required	Copies of The Creed for each person Post it notes Music
Activity 1	Introduce the course and give an overview of the session. Ask: What do we hope to get out of this course? If you have a quieter group, or a new group, you may like to do this as a post-it storm while you play some music. Make a note of the responses – you may like to go back through them later in the course.
Response	Pray for the group as you discuss this week’s topic and the course as a whole.
Main discussion	Read Acts 13:16-39 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagine you travel back in time to the Council of Nicaea in 325AD. What do you imagine were some of the difficulties facing those who were part of the council? • Why is it so important to have a statement like The Creed? Read The Creed in sections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After reading Lines 1-4, identify the different aspects of God that are identified in the creed. Why does the creed start like this? • After reading Lines 5-12, ask, what does this tell us about the incarnate nature of God? How does it help us to understand God as both Father and Son? • Read Lines 13-19. Look especially at the reasons for Jesus’ death – for us, for our salvation, for our sake. How does this make you feel? Why do you think the Council at Nicaea chose to emphasize this three times? • Read lines 20-25. This tells us that death itself has been defeated. Do we truly live as though death has been defeated? • Read lines 26-29. What does the Holy Spirit do? How does the creed explore the idea of Father, Son and Holy Spirit being one? • Read lines 30-33. Why do you think the Council of Nicaea chose to emphasize unity? Look at the key things that they thought were important: one church, one baptism and resurrection.
Response	Read The Creed together as a group.
Further resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk through the Bible - https://www.bible.org.uk/index.php • The One-stop Bible Guide by Mike Beaumont - https://www.eden.co.uk/shop/the-one-stop-bible-guide-4080404.html • The Bible Course - https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/ • A Kingdom of Priests by Mark Stibbe https://www.amazon.co.uk/Kingdom-Priests-Deeper-into-Prayer/dp/023252064X • Tim Keller’s Podcast https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/timothy-keller-

[sermons-podcast-by-gospel-in-life/id352660924?mt=2](https://www.eden.co.uk/shop/surprised-by-hope-3979445.html)

- Surprised by Hope by NT Wright <https://www.eden.co.uk/shop/surprised-by-hope-3979445.html>

If you would like to discuss Walk through the Bible or The Bible Course, please contact Naomi naomilynas@stjamesclitheroe.co.uk and we will support this as a church.

WE BELIEVE in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come