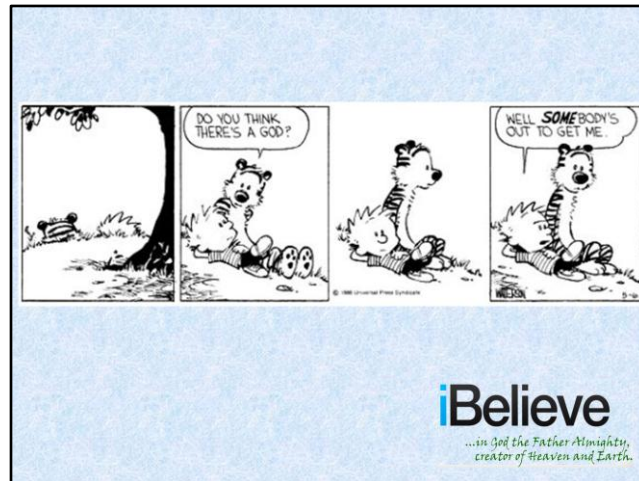


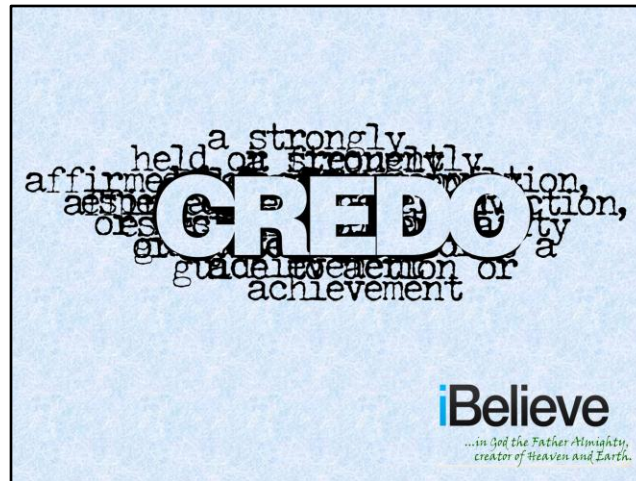
Welcome to Catechism...

The Narrative Lectionary brings us to a different part of the Catechism each summer...



Do you remember Calvin and Hobbes.

Sometimes people struggle with what to believe...



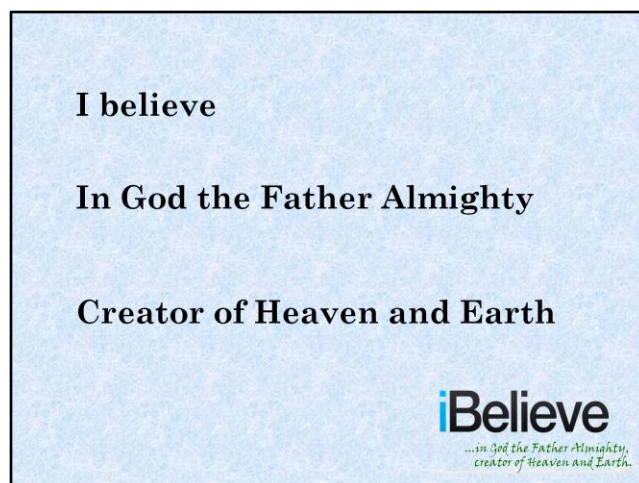
This summer we look at the Apostles' Creed...

It's history is a bit mysterious.

- The legend is that each of the 12 Apostles contributed one line to the Creed.
- The reality is that this is the oldest recorded statement of Faith that we have as Christians.

It is a summary of two things:

1. The story of the Bible
2. The teachings of the Christian Scripture

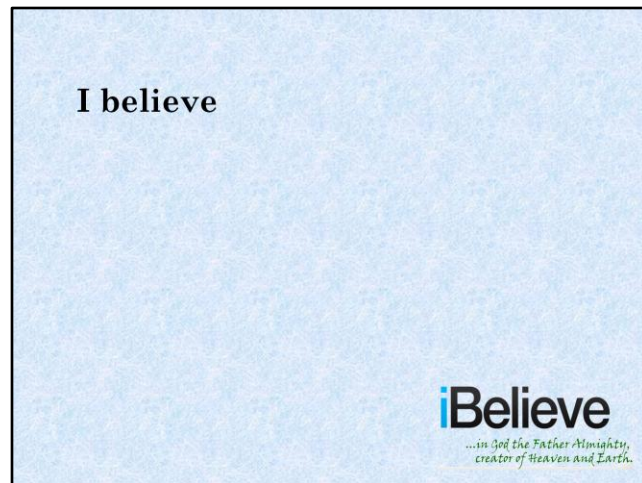


Today we look at the first article.

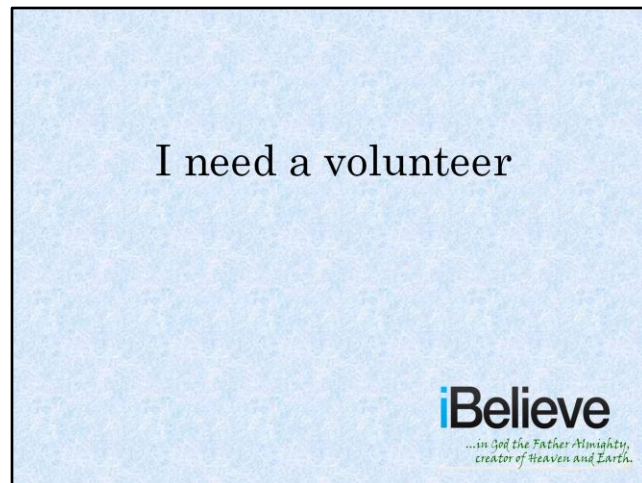
Let's say it together...

I want to look at it in three parts;

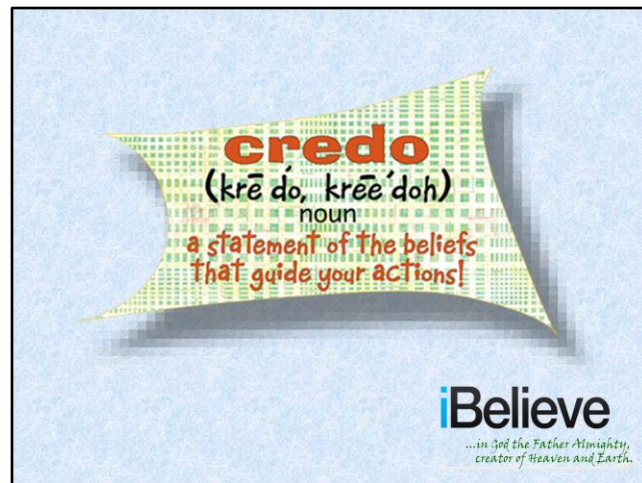
1. What does the word "believe" mean?
2. Why do we say the Father Almighty?
3. What are the implications of a creator God?



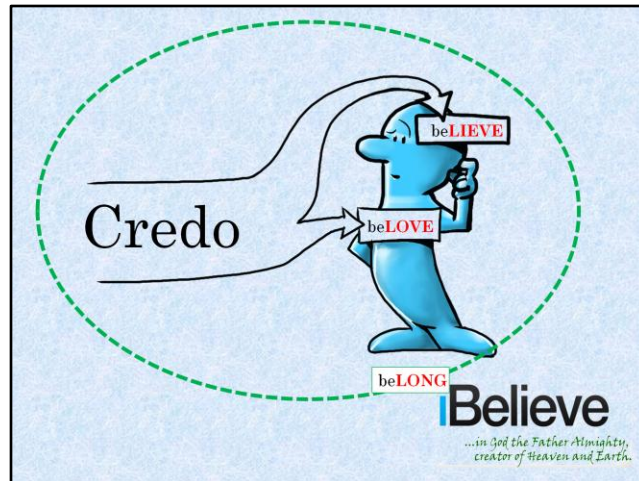
First let's look at the phrase "I believe"



Exercise with chair...



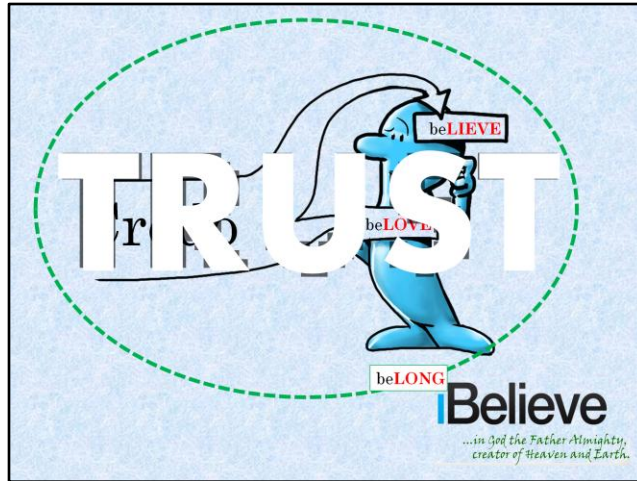
The word is Latin...



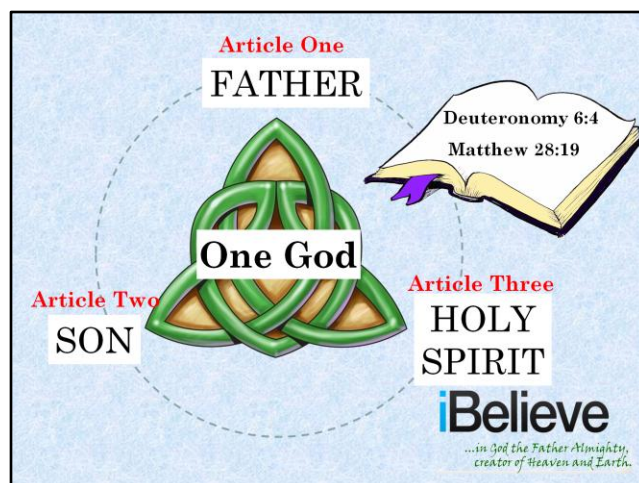
It has three senses to it.

1. It is a mental agreement (that is our cultures default)
2. It is an emotional connection
3. It is a communal connection

When you boil it down, it means... [next slide]



TRUST.



The Creed also points out another important truth about God.

Deuteronomy tells us that there is one God.

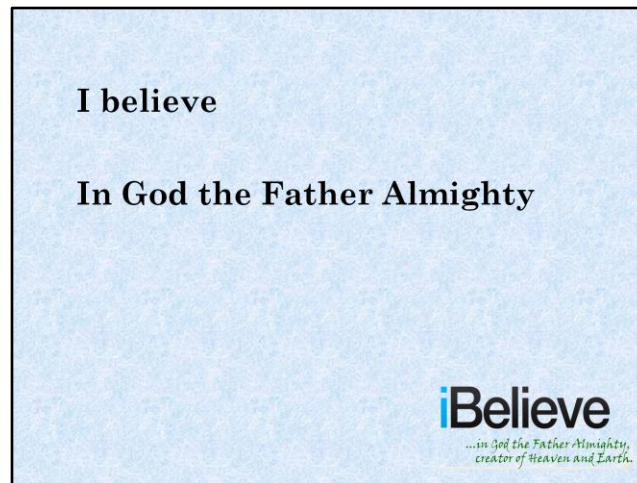
The Gospels tell us that there is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We call this the Trinity, and I will talk about that in three weeks.

For now, try saying the Creed with *Trust* instead of *believe*.

- I *trust* in God the Father Almighty
- I *trust* in Jesus Christ
- I *trust* in the Holy Spirit

This is actually a PRAYER!



Now, let's look at the next phrase.

Is God male?



Look at these images.

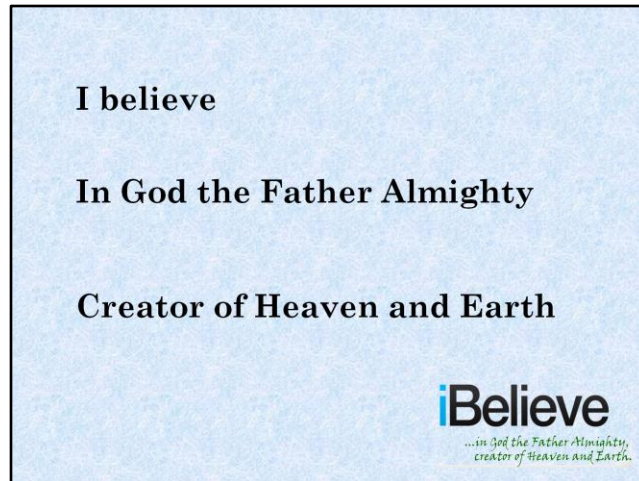
If I said that each of these images was an image of God...

- Which one would comfort you?
- Which one would offend you?
- Which one would raise questions?

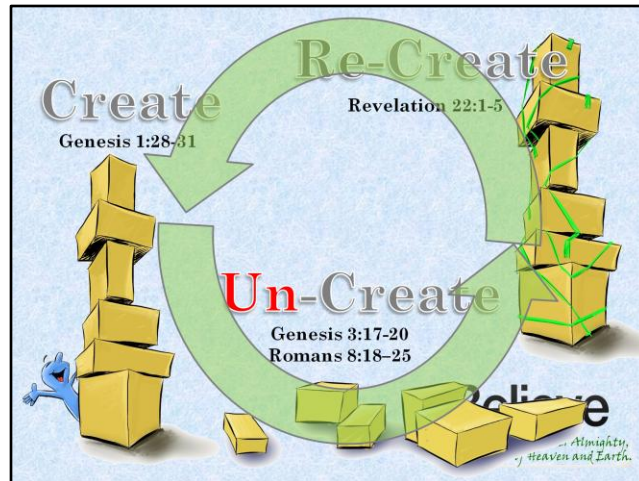
The truth is that every one of them will do one of these for someone.

Here's what we have to remember. There is nothing to which God can be accurately compared. Everything we say about God is an analogy and is wrong, but helpful.

Therefore, God is just as much a Mother as a Father, an Eagle, and a Rock.



Now, finally, when you think of God as creator, what does that do for you?



Here's a picture I use with the catechism.

We play a game...

Then I use the game to describe this cycle of creation

- God creates
- We uncreate
- God re-creates

Repeat

God is making ALL THINGS new. That's what Heaven and Earth means...All things.

This is the promise and that is why we can say...

**I TRUST IN GOD THE FATHER/MOTHER
ALMIGHTY, CREATOR AND RECREATOR OF
ALL THINGS.**

