(iii) The Book of Services, *WORSHIP THE LORD,* contains *THE APOSTLES CREED* (page 369).

Make copies for the group members and arrange for someone to read it. Allow a few minutes for everyone to read it for themselves

1. **Does the creed summarise what you believe?**
2. **Is there anything you find difficult to understand?**
3. **Is there any part of the creed you have difficulty accepting?**
4. **As a group try to compose a version of the Creed using contemporary language?**

 **(iv) Café Church**

Think of the different ways your church members help those in need in the community e.g. food banks, soup runs for the homeless, meals on wheels, street pastors, volunteering with charities etc.

Could your church open it’s doors to some of the people who are being helped? What are the opportunities that offer themselves to your church? What do you think would be most challenging? Can you see any problems arising? What would have to change in your church for it to succeed?

**Go to the Café Church section at** [**www.freshexpressions.org.uk**](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk) **for further ideas.**

***Union of Welsh Independents***

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**What do Christians believe today?**

***Year 1, Part 3***

***How to use the material***

**It is suggested that the discussions based on the contents of the third film in this series be divided into 4 sessions. The questions for each session are on pages 2 and 3.**

***Session A*:** Watch the episode, *The Core of the Faith,* and discuss the questions

***Session B*:** Watch the episode, *Believing the Faith,* and discuss the questions.

***Session C*:** Watch the episode, *Questioning the Faith,* and discuss the questions.

***Session D*:** Watch the episode, *Results of the Faith,* and discuss the questions.

The individual episodes are accessible from the main menu of the DVD. Please use the four cursor ‘arrows’ to select options. For those using the downloaded version, the episodes are available from our website, [www.annibynwyr.cymru/videos](http://www.annibynwyr.cymru/videos)

Pages 3 and 4 of this leaflet contain additional material to use during the sessions. Before concluding each session, it would be useful for the group to discuss the question:

***What can we do, as a church, following this discussion?***

***Questions for discussion***

***Session A*: Core of the Faith**

1) What is basic to your faith, and why?

2) When presenting the faith to other people, how can we avoid: a) making it too complicated to understand; too simple to encompass the complex world we live in?

3) Does God reveal himself in ways other than through Jesus?

4) ‘In him all things hold together’ (Colossians 1:17). What does this tell you about Jesus?

***Session B*: Believing the Faith**

1) Is it possible to condense the message of the Bible to a set of statements? How important is attempting to do so?

2) What is the difference between a personal faith and a private faith?

3) How can we be relevant to today, and remain faithful to the Bible and the Historical Church Traditions?

4) With so many people today indifferent or suspicious of any authority, how do we proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord over all of life?

***Session C*: Questioning the Faith**

1) ‘Although there are things I don’t understand, I believe that everything is possible for God.’ Which aspects of the faith do you find difficult and how do you deal with it?

2) Can you think of examples of the Faith being changed in order to be more acceptable to modern society?

3) How would you respond to the accusation that religion is at fault for much of the killing and injustice in today’s world?

4) What do you believe is the greatest challenge facing the church in its attempt to get people to take the Christian faith seriously?

2

***Session D*: Consequences of the Faith**

***Session D*: Results of the Faith**

1) How would you define love?

2) Share a story about love which has challenged your faith?

3) How does your church help you to put your faith in action?

4) What is the value of initiatives like ‘Street Pastors?’

**What some people over the centuries have said about the Faith, in order to stimulate further discussion**

***‘The main task for a Christian is to make the love of God real.’***

*'Pray, and leave the worrying to God.'*

***‘This is my simple belief. There is no need for temples or complicated philosophy. The mind and heart are the temple; kindness is the philosophy.'***

*'Don’t miss the opportunity to observe beauty. For beauty is God’s handwriting.'*

***'The quality of the life of the local congregation is the best interpretation of the Bible'***

*'The greatest gift we can give to others is acceptance and unconditional love.’*

**(i) Read Genesis 11: 1-19 (The story of the Tower of Babel)**

What do you think was the message or messages that the author wanted to present through this story? Can you see a relevant message for today?

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