The words of Jesus and the words of Scripture point to three fundamental ideas about God. The first idea is that God is beyond our comprehension. It is the idea that, though we can know things about God, we can never fully understand the ways of God.

The second idea is that God is manifested in many ways. God interacts with the world in different ways. God creates us and creates the world. God comes to dwell with us in the person of Christ Jesus. God’s wisdom or spirit journeys beside us in daily life, *rejoicing in God’s inhabited world and delighting in the human race.*

The third fundamental idea is that there is only one God. It is the idea that God is one. It is the idea that there are really no other powers in the universe.

This is the simplest and most controversial of these three fundamental ideas about God. Yes, God is beyond our comprehension. Yes, God is present in the world in different forms. But, there is only one God? At the time of Jesus this was a controversial idea. Most people thought there were opposing divine powers. We can see Paul and the other New Testament writers struggling with the idea that there is only one God. We see in our time that many people are attracted to the idea of a cosmic struggle between the forces of goodness and the forces of evil.

But there is only one God. This is the main idea behind the Nicene Creed. God is one. *We believe in one God.*

The Nicene Creed was created 300 years after the time of Jesus. By this time there were over a million Christians and dozens of branches of the church spread over much of the ancient world, from India to the British Isles. There was also great diversity among Christians, in a way that is similar to the diversity among Christians today.

The Nicene Creed was an attempt to impose a unified structure of belief to a quickly growing, diverse, far-flung network of churches and believers. The really good thing about the Nicene Creed is that it continues to unite many different groups of Christians, all over the world, in some important ideas.

The problematic thing about the Nicene Creed is that the Nicene Creed and all other creeds can be in conflict with that first fundamental idea about God, the one I started with a few minutes ago: God is beyond our comprehension. Though we can know things about God, we can never fully understand the ways of God. The Nicene Creed can be helpful to us as long as we hold onto the idea that it is not comprehensive. The Nicene Creed does not tell the whole story, because we can never understand the whole story about God.

In fact, it might be more helpful to think about God, and talk about God, in terms of a story, rather than in terms of definitive creedal statements. A story is never 100% definitive. A story is not universal. A story is ongoing. A story is personal, it is told from a human point of view. A story can be very true, it can give powerful revelations about the meaning of our lives.

As each one of us has a slightly different journey with God, the story each one of us tells would be slightly different. When I tell my version of the story of our God it is a little bit longer than a creed, but hopefully it is more interesting and understandable. This is my version of the story of our God.
The story of our God is a story of unity. It is the story of unity that is greater than our fears and divisions. It is the story of grace and goodness intended for all people. It is the story of God’s desire for people everywhere to care for one another as sisters and brothers. This is the story of our God.

The story of our God is a story of diversity. It is the story of the one whose presence is manifested in many ways, in many times, in many places. It is the story of the one we know in many ways, yet one who is beyond our knowing. It is the story of the one we call by many names, yet one who is beyond all of our names. It is the story of God treasuring the unique gift of each human life. It is the story of compassion and kindness for each person in their strength and weakness. This is the story of our God.

The story of our God is a story of love. It is the story of the great power God has given to us, which is the capacity for love. It is the story of the God’s love for us. It is the story of God’s desire for love to be the center of our lives. It is the story of love that reaches beyond fear and hatred. This is the story of our God.

The story of our God is a story of freedom. It is the story of a love which is made known in freedom. It is the story of the freedom God intends for us. It is the story of the freedom to choose right or wrong. It is the story of freedom for each person to determine their destiny. It is the story of God leading us out of slavery into freedom. This is the story of our God.

The story of our God is a story of truth. It is the story of God’s desire for us to know truth in our lives. It is the story of a spirit of truth, inviting all people to open their hearts and minds to greater understanding. It is the story of God giving us gifts of perception, reason and memory so that we might know and live in truth. This is the story of our God.

The story of our God is a story of justice. It is the story of the strength that is revealed in humility and compassion. It is the story of God giving us gifts of freedom, love and the spirit of truth so that we would work for justice for all people. It is the story of God’s people, living in a world of blessings and challenges, struggling to make sure that each person has good food to eat each day and a safe place to sleep each night. This is the story of our God.

The story of our God is a story of creativity. It is the story of God’s desire to create and our desire to create. It is the story of God creating people in the image of God. It is the story of God creating beauty and of people creating beauty in the world. This is the story of our God.

The story of our God is a story of incarnation. It is the story of God’s presence with us from the beginning. It is the story of God being born in the person of Christ Jesus. It is the story of God’s presence beside us, behind us, before us, even in times of despair and pain. It is the story of God desiring to be born into the world in our lives. It is the story of God reaching to us today and every day. This is the story of our God.