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THE APOSTLES' CREED

The Trinity

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 2: KNOWING GOD

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture The Apostles' Creed is based on the teachings of the Apostles in the NT.

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about knowing God.
- The Apostles' Creed is a statement of what we believe as Christians, and it is based on the teachings of the Apostles as recorded in the Bible.
- The Apostles' Creed summarizes biblical doctrine about the Trinity, salvation, the Church and eternal life.
- Christians have memorized this creed all through the history of the Church.

Memory Verse The Apostles' Creed

ACNA Catechism Connections Today's lesson of The Apostles' Creed is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q18 What is a creed? A creed is a statement of faith. The word "creed" comes from the Latin credo, which means "I believe."

Q19 What is the purpose of the creeds? The purpose of the creeds is to declare and safeguard for all generations essential truths about God, the Church, and the world, as revealed in Holy Scripture.

Q20 What does belief in the creeds signify? Belief in the creeds signifies acceptance of God's revealed truth and the intention to live by it. To reject any element of the creeds signifies a departure from the Christian faith.

Q21 Which creeds has this church received? This church believes the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed.

Q22 Why do you receive and believe these creeds? I receive and believe these creeds with the Church because they are grounded in Holy Scripture and are faithful expressions of its teaching.

Q23 Why should you know these creeds? I should know these creeds because they state the essential beliefs of the Christian faith.

Q 24 What is the Apostles' Creed (Read the Apostles' Creed)

Q36 – Q120 provides detailed explanations of the Apostles' Creed. Reference this section for questions regarding the teaching in this lesson.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Large Bible
- The Kingdom Life storyboard is not used for this lesson

Lesson Props:

- The Apostles' Creed poster (see props document)
- Teacher's "cheat sheet" with actions (see props document)
- The teacher needs to memorize the actions for the Apostles' Creed ahead of time and use the cheat sheet to jog their memory during the lesson. The actions are available here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6r6mcR40fA>.
- If time allows, this song can also be used along with the actions:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCBEjKL_dEU.

Memory Verse: The Apostle's creed will be used in place of the memory verse.

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan).

2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	My God is so Big Our God is a Great Big God <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i> The Apostles' Creed song (may be used at the end of the lesson) – available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCBEjKL_dEU .
Review of foundations	This lesson is a review of The Apostles Creed.
Reading	Skip this section for today's lesson.
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Storyboard Progression

The Kingdom Life Storyboard is not used in this lesson.

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *This lesson requires that you have memorized the actions ahead of time. Actions are available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6r6mcR40fA>. Have the actions cheat sheet ready for the teacher to refer to. The Kingdom Life storyboard will not be used for this lesson.*

In teaching the Apostle's Creed, divide the creed into 3 stanzas. The 3 stanzas each start with the words, "I believe."

Have an older child read the "Student" parts of the lesson.

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is about knowing God, and is based on the teachings of the Apostles in the New Testament.'*

STORY:

TEACHER: The Apostle's Creed is a statement of what we believe as Christians. The words and ideas in the creed all come from what the Apostles taught in the Bible. The Apostles were the first disciples of Jesus.

Christians have memorized this creed all through the history of the Church.

Today we are going to learn the Apostle's Creed with some actions which will help us to memorize it.

ACTION: *Show only the first stanza of the creed, so the children are focused on the actions and remembering the words. Use the actions cheat sheet as a reminder for yourself.*

TEACHER: Let's look at part 1 and read it together: "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

TEACHER: This section tells us about God **the Father**, who is the first person of the Trinity. He is almighty and creator of everything that exists in heaven and on earth.

TEACHER: Let's stand and say it together again with the actions.

ACTION: *Say stanza 1 of the creed with the actions. Say the stanza about 3 times. Start slowly reading and doing the actions. Each time you repeat the stanza, say it a bit faster.*

TEACHER: Now let's sit down and read part 2 together: "I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead."

TEACHER: (*Bolded words: point to these words on the creed as you explain them*) This section is telling us about God the Son, **Jesus**. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity. Jesus is **Christ** – the promised Forever King. He is God's only Son, he is our **Lord**. When we say **conceived** by the Holy Spirit it means that God the Holy Spirit formed baby Jesus in Mary. **The Virgin Mary** means that Mary was not married at this time.

He **descended to the dead** (which means he died). **Ascended into heaven** means that after he rose from the dead, Jesus in his physical body went up to heaven to be with God.

STUDENT: What does it mean that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father?

TEACHER: It means that Jesus has been given power and authority from his Father to reign as King over all of God's creation in heaven and on earth.

STUDENT: What does it mean that Jesus will "judge the living and the dead"?

TEACHER: It means that when Jesus comes back again to reign on the earth, he will judge those who are living now and those who have died. The good news is that all those people who believe in Jesus will be judged and rewarded for their actions. They will not be punished for their sins because Jesus took the punishment for sin when he died on the cross.

TEACHER: Let's stand and say the 2nd part with the actions.

ACTION: *Have the children stand. Say the 2nd stanza a couple of times. Start slowly saying the words and actions. Repeat as necessary.*

TEACHER: Now let's sit down and read the 3rd part together: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

ACTION: *Have the children sit.*

TEACHER: (*Bolded words: point to these words on the creed as you explain them*) The **Holy Spirit** is the 3rd person of the Trinity. The word **catholic** means "universal." The **holy catholic church** includes everyone who has ever followed

Jesus anywhere in the world, both in the past, the present and the future. Together all those who follow Jesus are the **saints**. **Communion** means that we have fellowship with all other Christians who ever existed or will exist. **The resurrection of the body** means that one day, when Jesus returns, our bodies will also be resurrected, and **life everlasting** means that we will live with him in his wonderful Kingdom forever!

TEACHER: Let's stand and say the 3rd part with the actions. (*Start slow and then repeat it a couple of times.*)

ACTION: *Have the children stand.*

TEACHER: Let's say all three (3) parts with the actions.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- What is the Apostle's Creed? (It is a statement of what we believe as Christians. We believe all these words because they are what the Apostles taught in the Bible. The Apostles were the first disciples of Jesus. The leaders of the early church.)
- God the Father is the 1st person of the Trinity. What does the first part of the creed tell us about God the Father? (He is Almighty, he created everything that exists.)
- God the Son, Jesus, is the 2nd person of the Trinity. What does the creed tell us about Jesus? (He is Christ – the promised Forever King, he is God's only son, he is our Lord, he was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, descended to the dead and rose again, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, will come again to judge the living and the dead.)
- Who is the 3rd person of the Trinity? (The Holy Spirit.)
- What does the creed tell us about the church? (Together all those who follow Jesus are the "saints". We have communion/fellowship with every other Christian who ever existed or will exist.)
- What does the creed tell us about eternal life? (When Jesus returns, our bodies will also be resurrected, and we will live with him forever.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.