

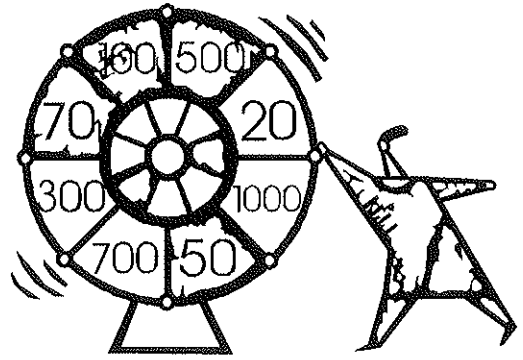
I Believe

Studying the Trinity and the Apostles' Creed

Games

Theater

Grades 1-4



Key verse

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

Gathering (Shepherd)

As students arrive:

- Check them in on the attendance sheet.
- Give them their name buttons.
- Collect offering.
- Have them write their prayer concerns and joys in the class prayer journal.
- Guide them to the opening activity. The activity in your room today is to engage students while other students are arriving. The activity will vary from week to week.
- Begin with prayer. Include entries in the class prayer journal.

Telling the story (Workshop Leader)-15 minutes

Show the PowerPoint presentation.

Sometimes what we believe is not really the truth. Sometimes we are fooled.

At times there can be more than one way of interpreting things. Different people see things in different ways. It can be a matter of opinion.

Most people believe that the sun will come up in the east every day.

Most people believe that the sun will set in the west each night. Tell me some things you believe.

Not everyone agrees on what constitutes a beautiful day! What do you think? That's an opinion!

After Jesus died, his followers did not always agree about what Jesus had taught. And over time things got worse. People forgot things, remembered things differently, or just had different views of the same events. Church leaders put together short statements from the Bible that explained what God is like so that people could understand and remember them easily. These short statements of belief are called creeds. The word *creed* comes from the Latin word *credo* which means *I believe*. The creed was not written by the 12 Disciples, it teaches us what Jesus' first followers knew about Jesus. These followers were called *apostles*. That's why it's called the Apostles' Creed! The Apostles' Creed is a simple way to learn and remember basic truths about God. People in our church believe these same truths. We all agree on the truths of the Bible and the Apostles' Creed.

Responding to the story (Workshop Leader)-20 minutes

Hand out copies of the Apostles' Creed. Say the creed together.

Examine the creed. Notice that it is in three parts. These three parts are called *articles*. The first article refers to God, the Father and Creator. The second article is all about Jesus Christ, God's Son. The third article is about the Holy Spirit, the part of God that lives in our hearts and lives.

Note these other facts:

- The word *catholic* in the creed means universal, not Roman Catholic. It means we are one church family, no matter what the name of our building is.
- The *communion of saints* is all of us. We are all saints, not just dead people. It means the Holy Spirit works in and through us. We are not perfect. And we are all equal in God's sight. We all have duties and responsibilities as *children of God*.

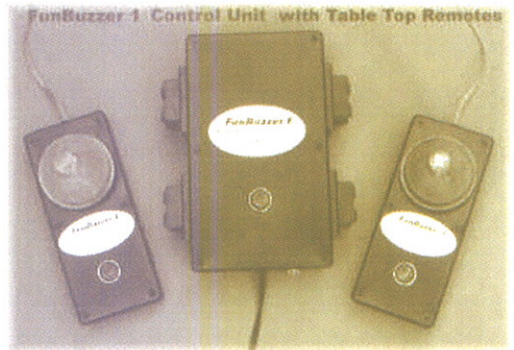
- The *forgiveness of sins* is easy to understand, but hard for us to accept. We have a hard time accepting grace, the free gift of forgiveness and everlasting life. We think we have to earn it.
- The *resurrection of the body* may be hard for some children to understand. When we live with God in heaven we will not need our old, achy bodies. God will give us the body we need to live in heaven forever. This is something we don't know very much about, but we trust God. We have faith that God will take care of us.

There is a very simple creed or belief statement most of us learned when we were very young. It goes like this:

Jesus loves me, this I know,
 For the Bible tells me so.
 Little ones to Him belong,
 They are weak, but He is strong.
 Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
 Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Let's see what you believe—and what you remember from this year's church school lessons by playing a game!

Spin the wheel for the number of points to be awarded before reading each question. If you have a student that needs extra attention, that student could be your spinner or could keep score. Bibles and copies of the creed can be placed by the buzzers to aid in answering some questions. Remember, many 1st and 2nd graders cannot read well enough to use the Bible for some questions. Form teams in a way that works for your class. Randomly choose questions from the lists. They are split into easy and hard categories and cover material from the whole year. Answers follow each question in parentheses.



The point of the game is to have fun. No put downs. No rewards! Especially no candy, doughnuts, or cookies. We have children who are allergic to certain foods. Some families have rules about sweets and such and would not appreciate what you might consider a treat. Thank you!

Reflection (Shepherd)—2 minutes

Say the Apostles' Creed together as a class. If this is the 3rd, 4th week, try it from memory!

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 power of the
Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
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

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Quiz Questions–Easy

1. Was the Apostles' Creed written by the Apostles? (no)
2. How many parts are there in the Apostles' Creed? (3)
3. How many forms of God are in the Trinity? (3)
4. What are the forms of God in the Trinity called? (Father or Creator, Son or Jesus, Holy Spirit or Holy ghost)
5. Community of saints means we are like one big...?(family or church)
6. Are all saints dead? (no)
7. Are saints perfect? (no)
8. Name a saint. (any person!) Have the other contestant name one for points, too!
9. Name something God made. (anything!) Let the other contestant answer for points, too!
10. Why did Jesus die? (to save us from our sins)
11. Which part of God lives in our hearts and lives? (Holy Spirit)
12. What are the two parts of the Bible called? (Old & New Testament)
13. Who is the Good News? (Jesus)
14. What happened on Palm Sunday? (Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey)
15. What day do we remember as the day Jesus died? (Good Friday)
16. How did Jesus die? (on a cross)
17. Who saw Jesus die? (women, Mary Magdalene, Jesus mother)
18. What happened three days after Jesus died? (Jesus rose from the dead)
19. Was Jesus death and resurrection a trick, a fact, or a miracle? (a miracle)
20. What was Saul's new name? (Paul)
21. How did Paul keep in touch with new churches? (he wrote letters)
22. How did Paul travel? (walked, ship, donkey)
23. Why did Paul travel? (to spread the Good News)
24. What do we celebrate at Christmas? (Jesus' birth)
25. Is Jesus' birth in the Old or the New Testament? (New)
26. Name a food Mary, Joseph and Jesus may have eaten. (fruit, olives, bread, cheese, grapes, etc.)
27. What does *reformation* mean? (change something that is wrong)
28. How did Martin Luther make it easier for people to sing songs during worship? (he wrote songs using tunes they already knew, he just changed the words)
29. True or False: Martin Luther was a black man who lived in the United States and fought for civil rights for black people. (False)
30. Elijah was a prophet. Was is a prophet? (person chosen by God to give people a special message)
31. Elijah's message from God was "Listen and _____" what? (obey)
32. Name a time when you did not listen and obey God. (varies)
33. Elijah met a widow who had a son and very little to eat. What did Elijah ask of the widow? (share her food)
34. When the widow obeyed God, what happened to her food supply? (they had plenty to eat, it never ran out)
35. Mix in these Bible knowledge questions:

Old Testament or New

Elijah
Paul
Easter
Creation
Jesus death
Noah & the Ark
Ten Commandments
The Lord's Prayer
Mary, mother of Jesus
The 12 Disciples
David & Goliath

Find the book in the Bible

Genesis
Matthew
Psalms
Luke
Mark
1 Kings
Acts
Proverbs
John
Exodus
1 Corinthians

Quiz Questions-Harder

1. What are the parts of the creed called? (articles)
2. What is another name for the Three-In-One? (Trinity)
3. What does the Latin word *credo* mean? (I believe)
4. Why is a triangle like God? (Trinity or Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
5. Name another symbol for God. (3 interlocking circles, shamrock or clover, cross, etc.)
6. Is God's church located in a building? (NO!)
7. What is God's church made of? (people)
8. True or False God created the earth a long time ago. God is done creating. (false)
9. Why doesn't God destroy us when we sin? (God loves us!)
10. Which part of God helps us believe in Jesus? (Holy Spirit)
11. What does the word *catholic* mean? (universal, all believers everywhere)
12. Why do we say the Apostles' Creed? (to remember what we believe, to feel part of God's family, a sense of community)
13. Name the first four books of the New Testament. (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
14. What are the first four books of the New Testament called? (The Gospel)
15. What does Gospel mean? (Good News)
16. What was the special meal Jesus had with his disciples days before he died? (Last Supper)
17. What did Jesus' friends do while he died on the cross? (hid, they were frightened)
18. Name someone besides Jesus who was important during Holy Week. (Mary, Peter, Judas, Thomas, Pilate, Caiaphas, John, James, Herod)
19. Name someone, besides you and your parents, who has plans for you. (God or Jesus would be great answers, but accept any reasonable answer)
20. What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus? (God talked to him and he was blind)
21. Why did we write letters to prisoners? (to share the Good News, because Paul wrote letters, Paul was in prison a lot, too)
22. Jesus, our King, was born in a palace in Bethlehem, right? (NO)
23. How do Christmas trees remind us of Jesus and God? (evergreen, eternal, always loves us, shaped like a triangle/Trinity)
24. Are the wise men and shepherds in each gospel story of Jesus birth? (no)
25. What is grace? (God's free gift of love, forgiveness, and life with God forever)
26. Name any part of Martin Luther's seal. (black cross, red heart, white rose, blue background, gold ring)
27. What did Martin Luther want to change about the church? (people should read the Bible, you do not earn grace—it is a gift from God, you don't have to buy forgiveness)
28. Tell something about Martin Luther and the 95 Theses. (Luther nailed these to the church door, they were 95 things he thought should be changed about the church, 1500's, religious leaders didn't like it)
29. Elijah was taken up to God in a chariot of fire. What does that tell us about God? (God is all powerful)
30. How do people feel when they don't listen and obey God? (unhappy, sad, lost, angry, scared)
31. Elijah challenged the worshippers of Baal, a false god. Elijah wanted to prove something. What? (his God was the one, true God and his God is all-powerful)
32. Mix in these verse searches:

John 3:16 For God so loved...

Deuteronomy 5:27b We will listen and obey...

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest...

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved...

Romans 3:22 Righteousness from God comes...

Matthew 28:5-6a Then the angel spoke to the women...

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd...

Mark 12:30-31 Love the Lord your God, with all...

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you...

1 Timothy 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you...

Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples...

Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returns...