



THE APOSTLES' CREED STUDY

Purpose: This 10 statement study assists in the understanding and memorization of the Apostles' Creed. It is divided into 2 parts: Part 1—The Father and the Son and Part 2—The Spirit and the Saints. While designed for ages 10 and above, discussions may be adapted to other age levels.

Supplies: Create a poster or provide individual copies of The Apostles' Creed for children.

Teacher Tips:

- Provide a take home copy of The Apostles' Creed.
- As difficult or controversial theological questions arise, commit to the students that you will research their questions in the Bible and with your spiritual leaders. Respond as soon as possible.
- Plan a gathering for students and families to be held at the close of Part 2 where students will recite the Apostles' Creed together from memory.
- In addition to traditional classroom or small group use, this study may be taught as a class for parents and students, or as part of a church membership class.

Additional Related Activities:

- Print the Apostles' Creed on bookmarks.
- Create a Creed Card Collection by printing each statement on a card and having the children collect all 10 cards.
- Make a stone collection by printing the scripture reference for each statement on a separate stone using a permanent marker.
- For each student, print each word of each statement on a separate slip of paper. Shuffle papers. The first student to put the words in correct order wins. Allow students to work in teams, if they choose. For added fun, draw symbols instead of words.

THE APOSTLES' CREED STUDY is located in the GOT TIME? segment of the following lessons:

- God of Wonders: Lessons 12-21
- Kings & Kingdoms: Lessons 12-21
- Prophets & Promises: Lessons 12-21

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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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THE APOSTLES' CREED

Statement 1, Part 1: The Father and the Son

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."

The apostles were the followers of Jesus chosen to lead the church. Believers everywhere are His followers. You may be a future leader of the church. The most important thing to do as a leader is to follow Jesus. It is important for you to be able to clearly say what you believe, just as the apostles did as the first leaders of the church. For centuries, believers have recited the Apostles' Creed; a statement of what we believe as Christians. "Creed" is another word for "belief."

Today, we will discuss the first statement:

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."

Say it with me. Read this first statement together. **This means we as Christians believe God is the One who created the universe and all that is in it—including us!**

Volunteer reads Genesis 1:1. **How does God's creation show you His power? His creativity? His ability to plan details? His artistry? Does anyone have questions about this first statement of our faith?** Recite The Apostles' Creed together.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Statement 2, Part 1: The Father and the Son

"I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord"

The Apostles' Creed is a statement of what Christians believe to be true about God and those who believe in Him. There are many theories about when this creed was written. Some historians believe it was written within 100 years of Jesus' life on earth. The first historical proof that the Apostles' Creed existed was in 390 A.D. Who remembers what the word "creed" means? (Belief.)

Today, let's say the opening two statements together:

**"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,"**

Students repeat the second statement. **When we say, "His only Son," that means we as Christians believe Jesus is God's only Son just as God says He is many times in the Bible.** Volunteer reads Matthew 17:5.

When we say, "our Lord," it means we claim Him as our Lord. Volunteer read Romans 10:9. **What do you think it means when someone says Jesus is the Lord of his or her life?** (Children respond.) **Does anyone have questions about this statement of the Christian faith?** Recite The Apostles' Creed together.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Statement 3, Part 1: The Father and the Son

"...who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,"

There are many different ideas about who actually wrote the Apostles' Creed, but each statement in this creed is known to follow the teachings of the apostles as recorded in the Bible. Who chose the apostles? (Jesus.)

Today, let's say the opening three statements together:

**"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,"**

Students repeat the third statement. **When we say, "conceived by the Holy Spirit," it means we as Christians believe God as the Holy Spirit, formed baby Jesus in Mary.**

Volunteer reads Luke 1:35. **"Born of the Virgin Mary" means baby Jesus was born to His mother Mary who was a pure young maiden. Who explained this miracle to Mary and Joseph? (Angels.) Does anyone have questions about this statement of the Christian faith?** Discuss what it would have been like to be Mary or Joseph and hear that you would be the earthly mother or father of God's Son. Recite The Apostles' Creed together.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Statement 4, Part 1: The Father and the Son

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

The Apostles' Creed is called a statement of faith. Each statement is supported by the Scriptures. Christians believe "God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true." (2 Timothy 3:16.)

Today, let's say the opening four statements together:

**"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried."**

Students repeat the fourth statement. **Jesus "suffered under Pontius Pilate." Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea. He sentenced Jesus to be crucified, which is death on a cross.** Volunteer reads of Jesus' suffering in John 19:1-3, 16-19, 30. **The Roman centurion testified that Jesus died. Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus in a tomb and sealed it with a stone.** Volunteer reads about Jesus' burial in Mark 15:43-47.

In proving that Jesus truly died, why is it important to have the word of a Roman centurion, rather than only the word of Jesus' followers? (The centurion was a more objective witness.) Who did the women see sealing the tomb? (Joseph of Arimathea.) Does anyone have questions about this statement of the Christian faith? How does knowing Jesus chose to suffer and die for you affect your relationship with Him? Recite "The Apostles' Creed" together.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Statement 5, Part 1: The Father and the Son

"On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,"

This statement is key to the Christian faith. In Romans 10:9, the apostle Paul states, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Today, let's say the opening five statements together:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,**

Students repeat the fifth statement. **"He rose again," means as Christians, we believe God the Father, raised Jesus from death to life. Jesus proved this Himself by appearing to over 500 witnesses during the 40-day period between God raising Him from the dead and God lifting Him up to heaven.** Volunteer reads Paul's list of eyewitnesses in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

"He ascended into heaven," refers to the time when God lifted Jesus up to heaven. Read Acts 1:8-11. **Where do Christians believe Jesus is living now?** (Heaven.) **Does anyone have questions about this statement of the Christian faith?** Discuss what it would have been like to be one of the people who watched Jesus disappear into the clouds. Recite The Apostles' Creed together.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Statement 6, Part 2: The Spirit and the Saints

"He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead."

We will look at The Apostles' Creed in two parts. The first part explains the role of God the Father and the life of God the Son. The second part discusses the key elements in the lives of the saints. (All believers.) Today, let's say this statement about the saints together: "He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead."

Volunteer reads Mark 16:19. **"Seated at the right hand of the Father"** means seated on God's throne in heaven. **What do you think Jesus does as He sits by God's right hand?** (Children respond.)

Volunteer reads Romans 8:34. **"To intercede"** means to plead for someone else. **How does it feel to know Jesus is pleading to God the Father for you?** (Children respond.)

Volunteer reads 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18. **How do you think you will feel when you hear the trumpet blast and see Jesus coming through the clouds?** (Children respond.)

Volunteer reads 2 Timothy 4:1-2. **Who will Jesus judge when He returns?** (He will come to judge everyone who is alive when He returns as well as those who have already died.) **The good news is those who believe in Jesus will be judged and rewarded fairly for their thoughts, words, and deeds; but they will not be punished for their sins.**

Does anyone have questions about this statement of the Christian faith? Brainstorm ways to accept the challenge in 2 Timothy 4:2. Recite The Apostles' Creed together.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Statement 7, Part 2: The Spirit and the Saints

"I believe in the Holy Spirit,"

As Christians, we believe in one God. This one God is a mystery because He is three in one. He is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Let's say this next statement together: "I believe in the Holy Spirit."

Volunteer read Genesis 1:1-2. **The Holy Spirit created the world with the Father and the Son. He visited different people in the Old Testament, giving them the power to say and do mighty things.**

Volunteer reads John 14:26-27. **Jesus promised His Spirit would lead us in truth. The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible. He points us to Jesus and helps us believe. He guides us in making choices that please God. The Holy Spirit is also called the Counselor.**

Volunteer reads Acts 1:8. **The Holy Spirit gives us power to love, serve, and point others to Jesus.**

Volunteer reads 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. **The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus sent to live in the hearts of believers when Jesus returned to heaven.**

Does anyone have questions about this statement of the Christian faith? (Children respond.) Why is it important to believe in the Holy Spirit? (He is God.) Why do we, as believers, let the Holy Spirit lead us? (So we can live a life that pleases God.) Recite The Apostles' Creed together.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Statement 8, Part 2: The Spirit and the Saints

“(I believe in) the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,”

The word “catholic” has two meanings. When it is capitalized, it refers to a certain church group called the Roman Catholic Church. The leader of the Roman Catholic Church is the Pope. The Apostles’ Creed uses the other meaning of catholic. When the word catholic is not capitalized, it means universal or worldwide. “The holy catholic church” refers to the whole group of believers from every tribe, nation, and denomination.

Volunteer reads 1 Corinthians 1:2. **While we may worship and serve in different places all over the world, we are still one church made up of people who follow Jesus. Why do you think the worldwide church is such an important part of our faith?** (We are one family building God’s kingdom together.) **Does anyone have questions about this statement of our faith?**

Saints means believers. The “communion of saints” does not refer to the taking of the bread and the cup at the Lord’s Supper. In the Apostles’ Creed, it means coming together.

Volunteer reads Matthew 18:20. **God wants His believers to gather and worship Him together. He promises that wherever two or more are gathered in His name, He is there, too!** Volunteer reads Hebrews 10:25. **The Bible reminds us never to give up meeting together with the saints. Why do you think it is important for believers (saints) to get together often?** (In gathering to worship, we can worship in unity. We are encouraged to come together to remember who God is and what He has done in our lives.) **Does anyone have questions about this statement of our faith? Why do you think God wants us to assemble?** Brainstorm ways to connect the church worldwide. Recite The Apostles’ Creed together.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Statement 9, Part 2: The Spirit and the Saints

"(I believe in) the forgiveness of sins,"

As Christians, we believe in the forgiveness of sins. Sin is doing wrong in God's eyes. Let's say this next statement together: "I believe in the forgiveness of sins."

Volunteer reads Acts 10:43. **Before Jesus came to earth, God promised He would one day make a New Covenant with His people. A covenant is an agreement that usually includes a promise. In the Old Covenant, God promised if the people obeyed Him fully, He would make them His treasured possession. Unfortunately, they kept breaking the Old Covenant, because everyone disobeys God by doing wrong. Under the Old Covenant, what was the final punishment for sin? (Death.) What did Jesus do to take away our final punishment? (He died on the cross to redeem us.)**

Volunteer reads Hebrews 8:10-12. **God's New Covenant with His people promises that whoever believes in His Son, Jesus, will be forgiven. When Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins, He bought total forgiveness for all who believe.**

Does anyone have questions about this statement of the Christian faith? (Children respond.) Why do you think it is such an important part of our faith to believe in the forgiveness of sins? (So we know that our sins are erased and no longer separate us from a life forever close with God.) Recite The Apostles' Creed together.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Statement 10, Part 2: The Spirit and the Saints

"I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

Resurrection means rising from the dead. As Christians, we believe that all who believe in Jesus will be raised from the dead and will have life everlasting with Him. Let's say this final statement from the Apostles' Creed together:

"I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

Volunteer reads John 11:25 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52. **What is the sound we will hear just before Jesus comes back to raise the dead? (A trumpet.) Our bodies will be changed from bodies that can die to bodies that live forever in heaven with Jesus. What do you imagine your new body will look like? (Children respond.)**

Volunteer reads John 6:47. **Everlasting life is life forever. Jesus promises everlasting life to all who believe in Him. That means even if our body dies, our souls will live forever close to God.**

Does anyone have questions about this statement of the Christian faith? (Children respond.) Why do you think it is such an important part of our faith to believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting? (Our deepest desire is to live forever close to God. It is the promise of hope for all who believe in Jesus.) Recite The Apostles' Creed together.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

Teacher Tip: For children who have completed the Apostles' Creed Study over the past ten lessons, plan a gathering for students and families where students will review and then recite the Apostles' Creed together from memory.