

Apostles' Creed

Parent's packet

Have your child work through the Apostles' Creed word search

What is a Creed?

1. Make a list of all the things you believe. Think of as many things as possible in all areas of your life. i.e. I believe the world is round; I believe the sky is blue; etc...

2. What is a Creed?

- Creed comes from Latin “Credo” which means **“I believe.”**
- A creed is: a short statement of shared **beliefs.**
- A creed is based on **biblical** statements of belief
- The first creeds date back to the very beginning of the **church.**

As the early church decided what statements were foundational to include in the Apostles' Creed, they had to weigh everything that was said about each of the persons in the trinity. The Father could include more than just “maker of heaven and earth”, the spirit could have included more on how he works in our lives. The early church leaders wanted to focus more on Jesus in this creed in order to combat false teaching that was going on about who Jesus was and what he did.

3. Apostle's Creed has 3 Articles

- 1st Article is about God the **Father**
- 2nd Article is about God the **Son**
- 3rd Article is about God the **Holy Spirit**

Each article focuses on the truths about each person of the trinity. Each article is a stand-alone statement, yet when put together with each other becomes a powerful statement of our faith and what we believe.

4. What are the three creeds of the church?

- **Apostles'**
- **Nicene**
- **Athanasian**
 - Who wrote the Apostles' Creed?
 - **We don't know**

5. Why are creeds important?

- Guarding against **false** teachings
- **Teaching** new believers
- Maintaining Christian **unity**

It is very important that we have a unified statement of what we believe.

All Christian churches subscribe to the basic facts of truth that are stated in the Apostles' Creed. We call it the Apostles' Creed not because the Apostles wrote it, but because the creed summarizes the teaching of the Apostles as written in scripture.

The Trinity

1. The nature of God

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4
 - Christians are **Monotheistic**
- 1 Corinthians 8:4
 - We worship **One** God

This is a very important foundation of the Christian church. The trinity is a hard concept to understand as we identify 3 distinct persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) yet say that we only worship one God.

2. Catechism page 133

What does trinity mean?

- God exists as **triune**
 - Tri = **(three)** and une = **(one)**: **Three-in-one.**
 - That is: God in three persons, **Father**, **Son**, and **Holy Spirit**. Yet there is only **ONE** divine essence.
 - Each person is **distinct** and **unique**. Yet, there is only **ONE** God.
 - This is a **mystery** that cannot be fully explained, and cannot be fully compared with anything, but that doesn't mean we don't try to understand it.
- Read Matthew 3:16-17
 - Read Matthew 28:19

Each of these verses identifies God as 3 distinct "persons". Each part of the trinity is listed in these verses.

3. Brainstorm all the different things that have 3 things in them. For example a cheese pizza has a crust, sauce and cheese; a pencil has lead, wood and an eraser.

Everything happens in threes

- Ding dong
- Peanut M&M
- Apple
 - All of these examples fall short!

4. Attributes of God

- Read Psalm 139:1-4 and John 21:17
 - Omniscient (All Knowing)
- Read Genesis 17:1
 - Omnipotent (Almighty)
- Read Jeremiah 23:24
 - Omnipresent (Present Everywhere)
- Read Psalm 90:1-2
 - Eternal (Never beginning and never ending)

As we look at the attributes of God we see the difference between him and us. He knows all things, controls all things, is everywhere and has no beginning and no end.

God the Father

1. What have you created?

2. As we look at God the Father as our creator, we will see the power and love he had toward his creation. Read the following passages.

- Genesis 1:1-2
 - What did God have to create with? **Nothing**

Unlike you and me, God doesn't need materials in order to create something. When he chose to create the world, he had nothing to work with, except his imagination. He began creating everything that was needed in order for life to exist on this earth. He knew everything we needed and put it into his creation.

- Genesis 1:3,6,9,14,20,24
 - “And God said, “**Let there be**”
 - God created out of **nothingness**

With just simple words God commanded there to be something and it was. All the animals, the trees, the ground and sky were all just commanded to be. There is power in the word of God.

- Genesis 1:26
 - What is different in this verse?
 - **In our own image**
 - “Then God said, “Let us **make man**”
- Genesis 2:7, 21-22
 - How was man and woman created differently than the rest of creation? **He molded them. He shaped them.**

The word “make” is very important here. All the other times he just commanded there to be and there was, here he said “make.” This is a very special work because now God is taking a different

approach to creating man. He's not going to just call them into existence... he's going to create them, make them, special and valuable. That's not to say the rest of his creation is not valuable or special. Here God is taking special care to creating humans.

- What does this say about the creation of man and woman? They are unique and special

God will have a special relationship with humans. They will be his people; he will love them, walk with them, and talk with them.

- Read Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25
 - “And God saw that it was good”
- Read Genesis 1:31
 - “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”

3. Since God proclaimed that at the creation of man it was very good, what can we understand about who we are in God's eyes?

- Read Psalm 139:13-14
 - Who created you?
 - God

Here God says that we are wonderfully made. This means that we have purpose and we have a reason to be here. God loves you so much that he chose to create you uniquely and special. There is no-one like you and that's good, very good!

What does that say about you?

You are valuable!

4. God created the heavens and the earth. Look at page 141 in your catechism for an illustration of this.

- It is not by accident or chance
- You are not a mistake!
- God made you the special and unique person that you are.

5. What does it mean that God made man in His own image?

- You are **holy**
- Complete knowledge of **God's will**

6. So what happened because of our sinfulness?

- Read Genesis 3:1-8
 - **Disobeyed** God
 - Now they are **afraid** of and **separated** from God

Here we see that God's image is perfect. We were created to be perfect, knowing God's will and following it. Yet we messed that up by sinning. Now we are made in man's image which is sinful and not fully knowing God's will and following it.

7. How did God care for Adam and Eve?

- Read Genesis 2:9
 - **Food**
- Read Genesis 3:21
 - **Clothing**

8. How does God care for you?

- Read Matthew 6:31-32
 - He provides me with **everything** I need.
- Make a list of how God has taken care of you, protected you, and provided for you today.

Every good thing we have comes from God and his love for us.

9. What's up with evolution?

Page 141 in your catechism

Creation	Evolution
God's eyewitness account	Man's theory
Six days	Millions of years
Out of nothing	Primordial cells
By God's Word	An uninterrupted chance process
Man is a special creature	Man – the most highly developed animal
responsible to God	Master of his own fate

- What is a theory?
 - A **statement** of what you **believe** that **hasn't** been **proven** to be **true**.
 - What about dinosaurs?
 - Job 40-41
 - What do these animals resemble?
 - When was Job written?
 - **Before** the **flood** in **Genesis!**

10. What truths do we believe about the Father?

- Creator of **heaven** and **earth**
- Human beings were created by the **hand** of God.
- God continues to **provide** for our needs.
- Adam and Eve **disobeyed** God and **perfection** was lost.
- He sent his son so that we are **declared** perfect once again.

Even though everything was perfect, we failed to keep God's will center in our lives. And although we sinned, we see the love of the father still coming through as he sent his son for the payment of our sinfulness and the victory over those sins.

God the Son

The second person of the trinity is the Son, Jesus. In the following you will discover who Jesus is and what he did for you.

1. Read the following passages and identify the human characteristics of Jesus.

- Matthew 4:1-4 **He was tempted and hungry**
- John 19:28 **He is thirsty**
- Mark 4:38 **He sleeps**
- Matthew 27:45-50 **He died**
- John 11:33-37 **He cried**
- Luke 2:1-7 **He was born**
- Matthew 26:36-46 **He had sorrow**

Here we see that Jesus was completely human, 100%. He had the same emotions as we do, experienced the same frustrations, pains and hurts as we do. He laughed, cried, got disappointed and rejoices just like we do.

- What does that mean to you personally that Jesus is 100% human and experiences the same things as we do? That he went through the same things that we do?

2. Why is it important that Jesus is human?

- Matthew 5:48
 - God says that we are to be **perfect!**
- Romans 3:23
 - We are **far** from perfect!

- Romans 6:23
 - Wages of sin is **death!**

➤ Human beings need to be **saved**

According to these verses we find out that God demands for us to be perfect and holy. We know that is impossible as we are all sinners and fall short of God's glory and standard. Because of this fact we need to be saved from our punishment (eternal separation from God). There needed to be a payment that was perfect to God's standards and sacrificed for us.

What did Jesus do that no other human being could do?

- I Peter 2:22
 - Committed no **sin**
 - Did Jesus deserve to die? What do you think?

Jesus committed no sin and therefore was perfect according to the standards of God. Remember he was fully human and obeyed God's law perfectly. He didn't deserve to die because he was perfect. He chose to die as the sacrifice for the payment of our sin.

3. Read the following passages and identify the God characteristics of Jesus?

- John 1:3 **He was there at creation**
- John 2:1-11 **Performs miracles**
- Luke 5:17-26 **He heals people and forgives sins**
- Hebrews 13:8 **He is eternal, the same yesterday, today and forever**
- Matthew 28:18 **All authority of Heaven**
- Matthew 1:23 **His name means "God with us".**

Here we see that Jesus is identified as God. He is 100% God. It interesting to note that Jesus when he became human he put aside his God-hood and took on the human flesh and characteristics. He did not cease to be God when he became human. He was 100% God and 100% human at the same time.

- What does that mean to you personally that Jesus is 100% God? What does that mean for your life?

He knows what we are going through and has power to do something about it. That gives us comfort knowing that no matter what happens or is happening in our lives God, Jesus, is with us.

Catechism page 154

4. Why is it important that Jesus is God?

- 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - He was **made** to be **sin** for us
 - He paid the payment of our **sins**

We as humans were not capable of living a completely perfect life in order to please God's standards. God himself decided to be that sacrifice for us and he sent his Son to live a life of perfection for us. He took on all the sins of the world that were committed and will be committed. He became that sin we do on a daily basis. He did this because of his love for us.

- Luke 24:6-7
 - He rose from the **grave**
- 1 Corinthians 15:54-57
 - He was victorious over **sin**, **death**, and the **devil**

➤ Look at page 154 in your catechism.

In this illustration we see that Jesus is true man and true God and that through this he lived the life we could not live and became our savior through his death and resurrection.

5. The Offices of Christ

There are 3 offices in which Jesus was anointed into.

- Deuteronomy 18:15
 - **Prophet**
- Hebrews 3:1
 - **Priest**
- John 12:12-15
 - **King**

- Acts 10:38
 - The word “Christ” means – **Christ** or **Anointed One**

Page 159 in your catechism

What do you think each of these offices do? Think about each of these and identify what key role they performed and how did Jesus fulfill them.

- Prophet
 - Luke 8:1
 - **Teaches** God’s word
 - **Proclaim** what God wants
- Priest
 - Hebrews 7:26-27
 - **Represents** the people
 - **Sacrifice** self **for sin** of all
- King
 - 1 Corinthians 15:56-57
 - Wins **victory**
 - **Rules** in our **heart**

The prophet was a person who proclaimed God’s desire to the people. They foretold of what God was going to do, they called people back to God, and they spoke God’s word to the people. The

Priest was the one who made sacrifices to God, represented God and entered into God's presence. The king was the one who ruled over the kingdom, took care of the people, lead the people to battle and victory.

6. Jesus' humiliation and exaltation

- Page 166 in your catechism

Humiliation	Exaltation
○ <u>Gave</u> up the <u>full</u> use of his <u>heavenly</u> glory	○ Again took up his <u>heavenly</u> glory
○ To <u>live</u> a <u>humble</u> way on <u>earth</u>	○ To <u>live</u> an <u>exalted</u> way <u>filling</u> heaven and earth
○ Done to <u>redeem</u> (pay a ransom for)	○ Done to <u>assure</u> us that we are <u>redeemed</u>

<u>Conceived</u> by the Holy Spirit	<u>Descended</u> into hell
<u>Born</u> of the virgin Mary	<u>Rose</u> again
<u>Suffered</u> under Pontius Pilate	<u>Ascended</u> into heaven
Was <u>crucified</u>	<u>Sits</u> at the right hand of God
<u>Died</u>	<u>Judge</u> the living and the dead
Was <u>buried</u>	

As Jesus left his God-hood in heaven and took on the form of a human we call that his humiliation. He “lowered” himself to the form of a servant, to the form of a human. He left heaven in order to walk on the earth as a human. His exaltation happened when he descended into hell. At this moment he became “fully” God in human form. We see his true person as he takes the victory march to hell to proclaim the truth of what happened and then we celebrate it as we witness his resurrection.

- Why did Jesus go to hell?
 - 1 Peter 3:19
 - To proclaim the victory

7. Can you be 100% sure that you are going to heaven?

- There is only one way to get into heaven. Look up the following verses and identify what the Bible says about this.
 - Acts 16:30-31 – Believe in Jesus
 - John 3:16 – Believe in what Jesus did

As we have seen through this study, Jesus was the sacrifice for our sins and through his death and resurrection we are saved. He died for all people. He rose for all people. What is required is that we believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins through his death and resurrection. We call that FAITH. You don't have to go to church, read the bible, and be a nice person or prayer every day. These are responses to what God has done for us. Our faith says that we can't do it ourselves; we must trust and rely on God for our salvation. It's all about what Jesus has done for us. If you have faith then you can be 100% sure of your salvation!

The Holy Spirit

The third person of the trinity is the Holy Spirit. In the following you will discover what the Holy Spirit does and how he interacts in your life.

1. Read John 14:15-17, 25-26

- The Holy Spirit is called a counselor and advocate

This counselor will live inside you, will be with you, speak truth, teach us and remind us of everything about Christ. An advocate is someone who walks alongside you, supports you, encourages you and is always there for you.

- Read Acts 2:1-4
 - Pentecost took place ten days after Jesus ascended.
- The Holy Spirit is not simply an:
 - Impersonal force
 - Emanation from God
 - Attribute of God

The Holy Spirit is not just a feeling we have or this force that we sometimes feel. He is active and alive and lives in our hearts and directs us to live a life that is pleasing to God. We will see that a little later in our lesson.

- Read Acts 5:3-4
 - Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit (v3) and Peter says that Ananias also lied to God (v4). Therefore, the Holy Spirit is also God.
- Matthew 28:19 –
 - The Holy Spirit is identified as part of God, the Trinity

2. What is the basic work of the Holy Spirit? Read the following verses to identify how he works in our lives and interacts with us and our faith.

- Read 1 Corinthians 3:16.
 - Where is God's temple? **In each person**
 - Who lives there? **God's Holy Spirit**
- There are two ways in which the Holy Spirit comes into our lives...
 - Romans 10:17 – **Hearing** the **Word of God**
 - Matthew 3:16-17 **At our baptism**
- From the verses we just read, what does the Holy Spirit create in us?
 - **Faith**
- Read Titus 3:5.
 - We are **rebirth/renewed** by the Holy Spirit.

Renew means to start it new, all over again. That's what God does for us as we have faith in Him.

- Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13.
 - God **sanctifies** us through the Holy Spirit.

Sanctify means to set apart as holy. Here the Holy Spirit guides, directs us to be holy as we live our lives.

- Read John 17:17.
 - Through the Spirit we know that God's word is **true**

God's word is true and tells us that we are sanctified by the Holy Spirit through His word. We can know the truth through scripture because it is reliable and trustworthy. The bible is God's word and tells us about who he is, what he's done and what he expects from us.

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - We are a **new creation**

This means that our sinful self is not counted against us as God sees our faith and calls us new/forgiven. God gives us new life through the Holy Spirit. He makes us a new creation.

- Read Ephesians 2:10 and look at page 191 in your catechism.
 - We are able to do what, through our faith?
 - Do **good** works.
 - What are some examples of good works you can do?

- Read Colossians 5:16. Why should I do good deeds for others?
 - To **glorify/praise** God.

The Church

1. Read Ephesians 5:23 and I Corinthians 1:2

- The church is the **body** of Christ.
- The church is the **believers** in Jesus.

2. How can you know if someone is a believer in Jesus?

- Read Romans 10:9-10
 - If they **confess** with their mouths
 - Believe in their **hearts**
 - Can you look into the heart? **NO!**

We can see evidences of faith by what a person says and how a person acts, but that doesn't ensure that we know who truly believes and who doesn't. There are a lot of people who "do church" and "nice things" but don't believe Jesus is their personal savior.

- Only God knows who the **true believers** are.

3. We can drive down the road and see many visible churches. The building, the crosses, yet there is another church that is out there. It's the Invisible Church.

- What is the invisible church?
 - **True** believers in **Christ**
 - Known **only** to **God**
 - All **around** the **world**

4. What is the visible church then?

- **Word of God** is preached and taught
- **Sacraments** are offered