

Apostles' *Creed*

Name _____

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 “_____.”
- A creed is: a short statement of shared _____
- A creed is based on _____ statements of belief
- The first creeds date back to the very beginning of the _____

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 _____
- 2nd Article is about God the _____
- 3rd Article is about God the _____

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?

- _____
- _____
- _____

○ Who wrote the Apostles' Creed?

- _____

5. Why are creeds important?

- Guarding against _____ teachings
- _____ new believers
- Maintaining Christian _____

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 _____
- 1 Corinthians 8:4
 - We worship _____ 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 _____
- Tri = _____ and one = _____: _____.
- That is: God in three persons, _____, _____, and _____ . Yet there is only _____ divine essence.
- Each person is _____ and _____. Yet, there is only _____ God.
- This is a _____ 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

- _____
- _____
- _____
 - All of these examples fall short!

4. Attributes of God

- Read Psalm 139:1-4 and John 21:17
 - _____ (All Knowing)
- Read Genesis 17:1
 - _____ (Almighty)
- Read Jeremiah 23:24
 - _____ (Present Everywhere)
- Read Psalm 90:1-2
 - _____ (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

Page 135 in your catechism

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? _____

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, " _____ "
 - God created out of _____

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?
 - _____
 - "Then God said, "Let us _____ "
- Genesis 2:7, 21-22
 - How was man and woman created differently than the rest of creation?

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 _____ and _____

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 _____”
- Read Genesis 1:31
 - “God saw all that he had made, and it was _____.”

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?
 - _____

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 _____!

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

- It is not by _____ or _____
- You are not a _____!
- God made you the _____ and _____ person that you are.

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

- _____
- Complete knowledge of _____

6. So what happened because of our sinfulness?

- Read Genesis 3:1-8
 - _____ God
 - Now they are _____ of and _____ 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
 - _____
- Read Genesis 3:21
 - _____

8. How does God care for you?

- Read Matthew 6:31-32
 - He provides me with _____ 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
_____ eyewitness account	_____ theory
_____ days	_____ of years
Out of _____	_____ cells
By _____	An uninterrupted _____ process
_____ is a _____ creature	_____ – the most highly developed _____
_____ to God	_____ of his _____ fate

- What is a theory?
 - A _____ of what you _____ that _____ been _____ to be _____.

 - What about dinosaurs?
 - Job 40-41
 - What do these animals resemble?
 - When was Job written?
 - _____ the _____ in _____!

10. What truths do we believe about the Father?

- Creator of _____ and _____
- Human beings were created by the _____ of God.
- God continues to _____ for our needs.
- Adam and Eve _____ God and _____ was lost.
- He sent his son so that we are _____ 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.

Page 151 in your catechism

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

- Matthew 4:1-4 _____
- John 19:28 _____
- Mark 4:38 _____
- Matthew 27:45-50 _____
- John 11:33-37 _____
- Luke 2:1-7 _____
- Matthew 26:36-46 _____

Jesus is _____

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 _____!

 - Romans 3:23
 - We are _____ from perfect!

 - Romans 6:23
 - Wages of sin is _____!
- Human beings need to be _____

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 _____

 - 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.

Apostles Creed word search

E P V X S T B Y I R L I F R H F S L U K
A R W R E Y I Q F E A I G E H T I A F S
T A M D L J F R A I E V E H D O T N C R
O I U H T M G I I V T I F T U C E B Q U
O S F H S Q X P R P W C Y A E P R I X A
W E O X O D F V R O S G N F M O S L Y Z
I C V Z P P T P T C L Y O A X N E S U R
K A Z H A M L C N D M G L O S A A N G J
S A L V A T I O N O E Y H O D P P A U D
Z A N B J R M Q D E I O T D H W I M Z B
U N W R M F S U E J L T A Z W U O I X B
R M F X B U I Z E Y T B A Q Z H A R A Y
E Q W S E Q W X R I O P R E N T X D K Z
T C E F R E P H C X Y W R O R A O W D S
C G G X I J A C N T I L P R I C L R Q K
Q D G O M Z X R J U B Y T K F W Z B K Z
X U Z F N E K U G R F D T D C V A W P M
N O S T N J M H G C T B N F R U E D W U
W I I H U K A C V Q W V A K P S G D H G
D B C I M U Z Y K B N P S K V S O L B G

Words to find (each letter is used just once, so Holy and Holy Spirit will not use the same letters):

APOSTLES

FAITH

HOLY

SALVATION

CHURCH

FATHER

HOLY SPIRIT

SANCTIFY

CREATION

GLORIFY

PERFECT

SON

CREED

GOOD WORKS

PRAISE

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

- John 1:3 _____
- John 2:1-11 _____
- Luke 5:17-26 _____
- Hebrews 13:8 _____
- Matthew 28:18 _____
- Matthew 1:23 _____

○ Jesus is _____

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.

4. Why is it important that Jesus is God?

- 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - He was _____ to be _____ for us
 - He paid the payment of our _____

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 _____

 - 1 Corinthians 15:54-57
 - He was victorious over _____, _____, and the _____
- 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
 - _____
- Hebrews 3:1
 - _____
- John 12:12-15
 - _____

- Acts 10:38
 - The word “Christ” means – _____ or _____

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
 - _____ God's word
 - _____ what God wants

- Priest
 - Hebrews 7:26-27
 - _____ the people
 - _____ self _____ of all

- King
 - 1 Corinthians 15:56-57
 - Wins _____
 - _____ in our _____

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
○ _____ up the _____ use of his _____ glory	○ Again took up his _____ glory
○ To _____ a _____ way on _____	○ To _____ an _____ way _____ heaven and earth
○ Done to _____ (pay a ransom for)	○ Done to _____ us that we are _____

_____ by the Holy Spirit	_____ into hell
_____ of the virgin Mary	_____ again
_____ under Pontius Pilate	_____ into heaven
Was _____	_____ at the right hand of God
_____	_____ the living and the dead
Was _____	

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 _____ the _____

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 _____
 - John 3:16 – Believe in _____ 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.

Page 181 in your catechism

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

- The Holy Spirit is called a _____ and _____

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
 - _____ took place ten days after Jesus ascended.
- The Holy Spirit is not simply an:
 - _____ force
 - _____ from God
 - _____ 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 _____ (v3) and Peter says that Ananias also lied to _____ (v4). Therefore, the Holy Spirit is also _____.

- Matthew 28:19
 - The _____ is identified as part of _____, the _____

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? _____
 - Who lives there? _____
- There are two ways in which the Holy Spirit comes into our lives...
 - Romans 10:17 – _____ the _____
 - Matthew 3:16-17 _____
- From the verses we just read, what does the Holy Spirit create in us?
 - _____
- Read Titus 3:5.
 - We are _____ 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 _____ 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 _____

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 _____

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_____works.

- What are some examples of good works you can do?

- Read Colossians 5:16. Why should I do good deeds for others?
 - To _____ God.

The Church

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

- The church is the _____ of Christ.
- The church is the _____ in Jesus.

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

- Read Romans 10:9-10
 - If they _____ with their mouths
 - Believe in their _____
 - Can you look into the heart? _____

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 _____ are.

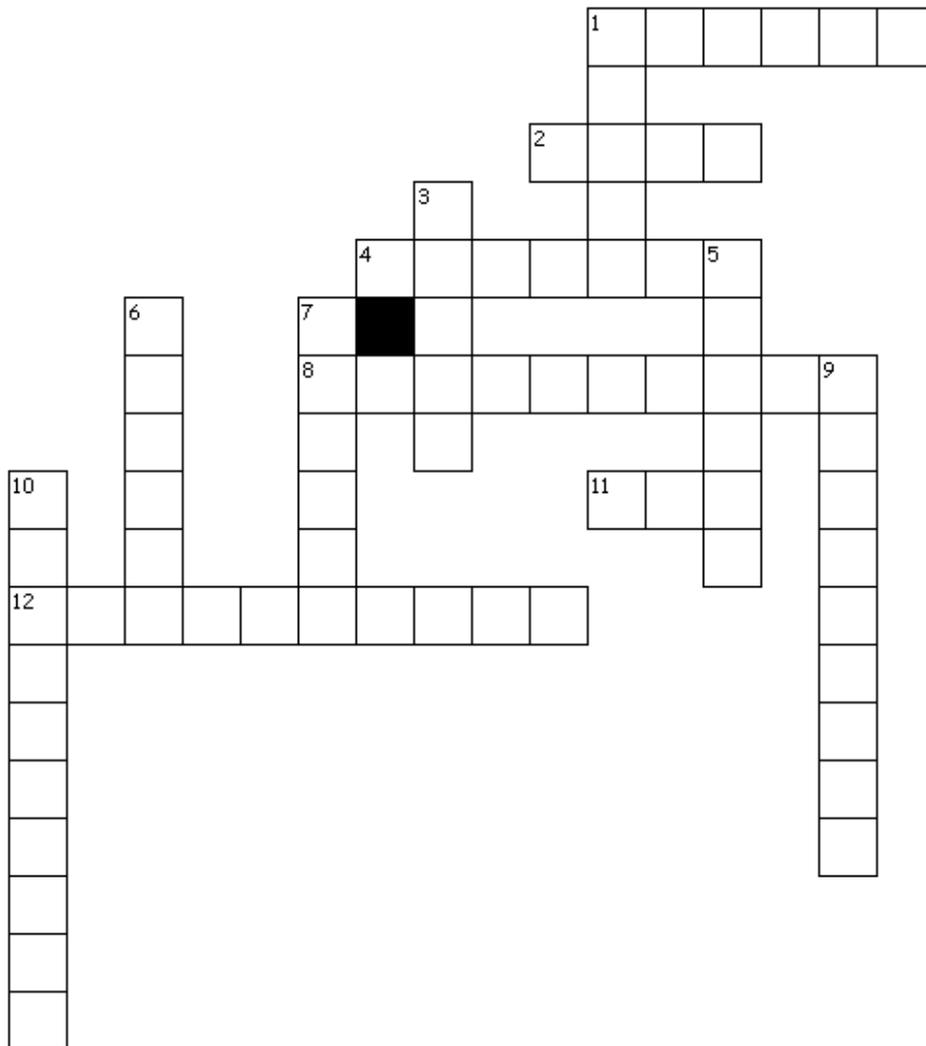
3. We can drive down the road and see many visible churches. The building, the crosses, yet there is another church that is out there. It's the Invisible Church.

- What is the invisible church?
 - _____ believers in _____
 - Known _____ to _____
 - All _____ the _____

4. What is the visible church then?

- _____ is preached and taught
- _____ are offered

Apostles Creed Crossword



Across

1. Creator of everything
2. One of the offices that Jesus fulfilled where he leads us to victory over sin, death and the devil
4. One of the offices that Jesus fulfilled where he spoke about God's word to the people
8. What does God provide for us daily?
11. Savior of all, Jesus is the _____ of God.
12. Words used by God the Father when he created everything

Down

1. Belief, love and trust in God as your personal savior
3. A statement of what we believe
5. 3 in 1
6. One of the offices that Jesus fulfilled where he was the sacrifice for our sins
7. Our body is God's _____
9. Jesus is 100% both of these
10. Counselor/advocate

What to do now?

Apostles' Creed Retreat

1. Discussion questions for the ride home and/or at home:

- A. What was the most important thing you learned this weekend?
- B. Why was that really important to you?
- C. What was the part you enjoyed the most? Why did you enjoy that?
- D. Tell me one of your memory verses? What does that mean to you?
- E. Did your faith grow this weekend? Why or why not?
- F. Tell me something you didn't know that you learned this weekend.

2. Each student will write a summary report, in paragraph form, on what they learned this weekend. Their report should answer the following questions:

- A. What is a creed and why is it important to know the Apostles' Creed?
- B. Why is it important to know that our God is one and yet three distinct "persons"?
- C. What did Jesus do for you (be specific)? Why is it important to know the facts about what Jesus did?
- D. What does justification mean?
- E. Who is the father and what does/did he do? Who is the Holy Spirit and what does/did he do? What is the church and why is it an important part of our lives?
- F. Other learning and applications from the weekend.

Each report will need to be typed, single spaced, 14 font, one page long. It will need to be turned in to TK by the next Sunday after the retreat. Make sure your name, "Apostles' Creed report" and date are on the top of the page.