



Kidztown Sunday Morning Apostle's Creed Series Lesson 1: I Believe In... God The Father

Memory Verse

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.

Psalm 19:1

Lesson Objective

1. We will learn where the Apostle's Creed came from.
2. We will learn that knowing the Apostle's Creed helps us define our faith, defend our faith, and declare our faith.
3. We will work on memorizing the first of twelve articles from the Apostle's Creed:
I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Thoughts On The Lesson

Over the next 12 weeks, we are going to be studying and memorizing the Apostle's Creed. This series of faith statements, written around 400 A.D., is considered the foundation of Christianity. There are twelve faith statements to the creed.

The Apostles' Creed was not written by the Biblical Disciples. The Creed carries this name because it is composed of the early Apostolic teachings which the disciples would have held to. The word 'creed' comes from the Latin word 'credo', which means 'I believe'.

The earliest creed developed was called the Christian's Creed. As a refute to Gnosticism, The Apostle's Creed was written, and was followed in the year 325 by the Nicene Creed. The central doctrines of the Apostle's Creed are those of the Trinity and God the Creator.

The Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed are essentially alike. They teach one God; the incarnation of His Son, Jesus Christ, and both state the same gift of the Spirit. They declare the same beliefs concerning the universal Christian Church, they both look for the same Second Coming of Christ. Both proclaim the same salvation, both in soul and body.

No creed ever says all there is about God; rather, a creed is our attempt to say some things about our faith.

The Christian church in all its denominations and variations has many creeds and affirmations, but the Apostle's Creed is the most widely used creed in the church. More Christians around the world say this creed than any other.

The purpose of this series is to support our Kidztown children as they learn to define, defend, and declare their faith.

Note To The Kidzcare Leaders

The role of Kidztown and of the kidzcare leader is to teach, to support, and to celebrate each child as they walk their own journey of faith. This series on the Apostle's Creed is designed to help each child understand more clearly what the church believes, recognize that there are millions who believe like them, and take pride in their faith.

If you have never had the opportunity to memorize the Apostle's Creed, take the time with your group and commit it to memory.



Kidztown Sunday Morning
Apostle's Creed Series
Lesson 1: I Believe In... God The Father

Order

Introduction

N'Trouble:
Stymey:
Leader 1:
Leader 2:
Leader 3:

Songs

Puppets:
Dancers:

Memory Verse

Leader 1:
Leader 2:

Game

Leader 1:
Leader 2:

Object Lesson

Team Member 3:

Memory Verse

Leader 1:

Skit

Nelson:
Team Member 4:

Conclusion

Leader 2:

Puppet Presentation Song

Puppets:
Props:



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Small Group Gathering Time

Be ready to greet your group with a big hello! Dress for our Foundations! series by putting on a construction hat, long plaid shirt, safety goggles. Take a few moments to introduce new kidz to your group and to yourself. Spend some time making them feel welcome, included, and accepted.

KidzCare Leader:

Good morning! I am so glad you are here! We are going to have a lot of fun together. *(Take our some wooden blocks.)* Okay, because I'm new at this construction business, I'm going to need some help and see how high I can get this pile of blocks to go. *(Pile them one on top of the other. Eventually they will fall, providing you don't use tight locking Lego or Duplo!).* What is the problem with this building here? Any ideas? *(We need a bigger bottom, stronger foundation).* Wow! Are you ever smart! I think you're right. What we build on is very important to how the rest of the building goes, isn't it?

This morning in Big Group we are going to be learning some more about the importance of having a good foundation, a strong and solid support to build on. Let's join everyone and have some fun!

Big Group Welcome

Leader or off stage voice:

Only 1 minute until Kidztown. Come on over and grab a seat. ... Only 20 seconds to Kidztown.
(Play Kidztown Intro Music)

Leader:

Does anyone know what time it is?

Kidz:

Kidztown time!

Leader 1:

Oh, I can't hear you! I know you can be louder than that! I said, "Does anybody know what time it is?" Much better!

Lesson Introduction

N'Trouble:

Hello, everybody! And welcome to our first pilot episode of – Stymey's Stupendous Structures! Let's hear a cheer for our host – Stymey!

Stymey:

(enters, wearing a bandana and talking very confidently) Thank you! Thank you! You are too kind! No, no, I didn't say stop! I just said thank you. Well, like N'Trouble said, this is our first show and we're glad you could all make it here today on this historic occasion. This show was a great idea of mine.

Leader 1:

(enters from side of stage, wearing a plaid shirt and a tool belt). And mine! Hey, I thought we were calling the show Leader 1's Marvelous Makeovers!

N'Trouble:

Oh, Mr. Leader 1, you're part of this show too? Phew, now I don't need to worry so much.

Stymey:

What do you have to be worried about? You're just the pretty face that does all the moving around of stuff around here. What do they call you? A roadie? A grip?

N'Trouble:

Stymey, whenever you're involved in a project, something bad always happens. And look at all the tools around here. This is a disaster waiting to happen. You think I have a pretty face?

Stymey:

N'Trouble, that's not part of the script. Go get me a Pepsi! We need some sponsor endorsements in here somewhere. *(N'Trouble exits)*. Now, Mr. Leader 1, where were we? Oh yes, the name of the show. I thought Stymey's Stupendous Startovers had a better ring to it.

Leader 1:

Well, it doesn't. No better than Leader 1's Marvelous Makeovers!

Stymey:

Okay, then, how about last option? Forever Foundations.

Leader 1:

Forever Foundations it is. Boy, it's great to be here! I've been in construction a long time and I'm excited that all these kids are wanting to learn how to properly build.

Stymey:

Yes, well, what do you have for us today, Leader 1?

Leader 1:

Today we are going to looking at what is perhaps the most important part of any construction job.

Stymey:

The paycheque?

Leader 1:

I can't believe you even get one of those for what you do. No, the most important thing – now remember this one, kids – is the foundation.

(N'Trouble enters and holds up an audience cue card that says – AHHHH!)

If you don't have a rock solid foundation, everything you build on top of it is going to collapse at some point. To start with a foundation, you need the exact measurements of cement mix, rocks and water.

(Leader 1 begins to add some ingredients to a pail).

Now, you pour it carefully to where you want your project to be. Today we are building a foundation for Kidztown. So step aside there, Stymey. *(begin to look like pouring behind stage).*

Stymey:

Hmmm, that looks pretty good. We needed some sprucing up around this place.

Leader 1:

Once the cement has been poured, your foundation is set. Now you need to let it sit for two days.

Stymey:

Two days???

Leader 1:

Yes. A good foundation can't be rushed.

Stymey:

Well, I'm not sitting around waiting for two days. Luckily I have my Wind Maker 5000 in my trunk. *(brings up a*

Large Group Setup:

Construction Site:

Have Caution tape all across stage.

If possible, have some Men at Work signs hanging, couple of sawhorses standing, pile of boxes or boards ready.

Leaders should be wearing construction hats, work aprons or tool belts, perhaps protective goggles, and/or gloves, long sleeved plaid shirts.

Have the PowerPoint carry the theme of this series on every slide

Make a great effort and use wonderful creativity to make the puppets and their station look realistic.

fan) When I plug this baby in, it'll have that foundation dry and ready for building in no time.

Leader 1:

Stymey, you can't rush drying cement!

N'Trouble:

Oh no! I think we're in trouble. (*N'Trouble ducks in the corner*).

(*Stymey pretends to plug in fan. He acts as if the fan is pushing him away. Throw over the stage some paper, a couple cups, even Leader 1 is struggling to stand straight. Stymey finally succumbs to the fan, scrams, and falls, presumably into the cement*).

Stymey:

(*from below*) Yecchh! Does this stuff come out of fur?

Leader 1:

(*leaning over stage*)

Aren't you glad you've got two days until it hardens?

N'Trouble:

Thank you for joining us. See you next time on Forever Foundations! (*holds up audience cue card of cheering*).
(*play Home Improvement theme music as all characters exit*)

Leader 3:

Good morning! My name is Builder Leader 3.

Leader 2:

And my name is Builder Leader 2. We are so glad to see you here today in Kidztown!

Leader 3:

That's right, Builder Leader 2! And today, and for the next several weeks, we are going to be learning with all of you how to become terrific builders of the faith.

Leader 2:

Who can tell me what Mr. Leader 1 said was the most important part of building? (*having a strong foundation*). Very smart workers! Wow! Am I glad you're in my company. Let's stand and do some singing!

Songs

Song 1:

Song 2:

Leader 2:

Wow! Those songs were great! I love being here at Kidztown.

Leader 1:

Me too. Who wants to play a game?

Apostle's Creed Memory

Items Needed:

- *Sheet of plywood*
- *1 nail*
- *hammer*

Leader 2:

All great builders of the faith have a strong foundation and a great structure to support their faith. Starting today, we're going to be learning about the Apostle's Creed.

Leader 1:

The fossils knees? Are they knobby?

Leader 2:

No! The Apostle's Creed. A creed is a set of beliefs or guiding principles. There are 12 statements to the Apostle's Creed.

Leader 1:

So who wrote them? The apostles?

Leader 2:

No. It would seem like it, having the title Apostle's Creed and all. But actually, the creed was written around 200 – 400 AD. A group of church leaders got together and hammered out this creed. However, it's comprised of all the beliefs that the apostles believed strongly in. So strongly, in fact, that they were willing to die rather than stop believing them.

Leader 1:

Wow! That's belief!

Leader 2:

Yup. And this Apostle's Creed is believed and known to over 90% of all Christian churches around the world.

Leader 1:

Wow! That's like – millions of people – just like me, all believing the same thing.

Leader 2:

Yeah. And millions of people – from thousands of years ago – also believed the Apostle's Creed. So it's pretty special.

Leader 1:

Well, what does it say?

Leader 2:

Okay, here's the first one that we're going to be learning today:

"I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."
(invite the Big Group to repeat four times).

Leader 2:

So, I'm going to hammer this nail in our Apostle's Creed. We're going to build on this thing every week.
(Hammer in one nail on the sheet of plywood, taking care to place it in one of the 12 places possible)
Do you think you can remember this first nail for next week?

Leader 1:

I can sure try. Okay, who wants to play a game?

Game

Number of Players: 12

Items Needed:

- three paper cups

How it's Played:

Using skill testing questions, invite twelve children to play the game. Divide them into two teams. Have the teams break down into three pairs. At the word "go!", the first pair from each team must form a wheelbarrow and race to the end of the room, where they will "pick up" a cup. They must return to their team, and tag the next pair who will repeat the same thing. The first team back with all three wheelbarrows is the winner!

Object Lesson: The Strong Foundation

Items Needed:

- 1 bag mini marshmallows
- 1 container toothpicks
- 2 golf balls
- 2 tables

Team Member 3:

Good morning, everyone! I am going to need a couple of volunteers. *(pick out two of the older children).*

I'm going to give each volunteer 20 marshmallows and a bunch of toothpicks. At the word "go!", they will have one minute to build a structure out of these tools that will be strong enough – to hold this golf ball for at least 10 seconds! Go!

(after one minute test each structure to determine strength)

Ask the following questions of the participants:

- Did they have a strategy or plan?
- Why do you think your structure succeeded or failed in holding up the golf ball?
- Do you know what shape is the strongest structure? *(Triangle)*
- Do you think your foundation was strong enough?

(Give a small prize as a reward for their efforts).

Mr. Leader 1 told us at the beginning of Kidztown that a foundation is the most important part when you're building something. It's also important when we're building our faith. If you don't have a strong foundation, your faith could easily crumble and fall when hard times come.

The Apostle's Creed is something that is strong. It has been around for thousands of years. Millions of people believe the Apostle's Creed. Once you know the creed, you can:

1. Use it to define your faith. Have you ever tried to explain what you believe to somebody? Now you'll be able to – in 12 easy steps!
2. Use it to defend your faith. Let's say someone comes up to you and says that they believe the earth was started as a random act of dust getting together. You can take that belief, hold it up to the Apostle's Creed. Does it hold true with the Creed? Of course not The Apostle's Creed says that "I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth. So you know that statement is not true.
3. Use it to declare your faith. Declare means to share and tell everyone. Once you know the Apostle's Creed, it will be easier to tell others!

Thanks to our willing helpers who worked hard on their marshmallow structures!

Memory Verse

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of His hands.
Psalm 19:1*

Items Needed:

- Memory verse written out in 5 phrases on numbered pieces of paper
- Long board
- Five nails
- One hammer

What to Do:

Invite five kidz up to the front. Tell them they are going to help build something for everyone to learn from. Give them each a sheet. They are to take turns hammering the paper, verse side out, along the board and in correct order. Once the verse has been hung up, lift up the board for everyone to see. Say the verse together several times until it is committed to memory.

Ask the following questions:

1. What do you think this verse is saying about God? (*that even nature “shows off” and celebrates the existence and the glory of Him*).
2. What else besides the heavens and the stars show the existence of God and His nature? (*mountains, grass, sea, etc. people*)
3. What else can people do besides show the nature of God?
(*Tell others about Him*)

Skit: From Over The Fence

(*Team Member 4 comes out and sits in a lawn chair in front of the stage*).

(*Puppet comes up to the fence of Kidztown, wearing a hat. Only the eyes are showing, however. There is to be no showing of the nose or mouth – think Home Improvement*).

Nelson:

Well, heighdy – ho, neighbor! I thought I heard someone moving around over there. How is life going in Kidztown?

Team Member 4:

Oh, pretty good, I guess.

Nelson:

Looks like you're planning on doing some building.

Team Member 4:

Oh, this? Yeah, we've been busy today. Building some things out of marshmallows and toothpicks, playing with wheelbarrows. It's been great!

Nelson:

Sounds like fun. You look a little glum, though, for all that fun? Something you want to talk about?

Team Member 4:

Well, Team Member 3 was just in Kidztown, telling us about all the great things we can do once we learn the Apostle's Creed.

Regular Rehearsals

Please take time each week to rehearse the material! By the time you present, the leaders out front should need no more than an order of events posted where they can see it. We generally put this on a sheet of paper on the floor of the stage. Please, never stand on stage with a script in hand! Your puppeteers should be prepared enough that they have a good handle on the script. The script may be right in front on them but they will be ready to adapt as needed to the out front leader who does not have a script. We are sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with these kidz – it deserves our best!

Nelson:

Aah, the Apostle's Creed. An ancient set of beliefs that are guiding principles for millions of people, both in the past and today.

Team Member 4:

Yes, so I heard. Today we learned the first statement. Want to hear it?

Nelson:

Well, I'd love to.

Team Member 4:

Okay, it says that "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth."

Nelson:

That's pretty good, neighbour. I'd say you got that spot on!

Team Member 4:

I've got a spot on? Where? Show me!

Nelson:

Sorry. That was a figure of speech.

Team Member 4:

Oh! Well, I was just wondering, if God is really the Almighty God, the Ruler of Everything – He even made all the sky and universe – why would He want to bother Himself with me? Why should he care about me? My marks at school are only average, I'm not good at any sports, I pick on my brothers and sisters, sometimes I forget to pray at lunch. Why does Someone so big want to have anything to do with someone small like me?

Nelson:

Aah, very good question, neighbour. I believe a wise man named Luke once said in one of his books, chapter 12: and verse 7, that God knows exactly how many hairs you have on your head, which, in my case, wouldn't take very long to count!

You see, my young friend, you are basing your sense of worth on how you think others around you are evaluating you. But you are one of God's children! He evaluates you on a totally different scale. It's not on what you look like or how you perform with God. He loves you because you belong to Him! To God, you are the most important thing in this big universe that He built.

Team Member 4:

Are you just saying that? How do you know for sure?

Nelson:

Well, that's what the Bible tells me. I believe it.

Team Member 4:

Thanks, Nelson. To think that God is that interested in me. It's such a big thought. It almost hurts my brain to think that big. But my heart feels real good about it. I better get going. We're almost ready to do our big Puppet Song.

Nelson:

Well, toodle-loo. I'm off to watch this big ol' universe through my telescope. It helps me too, to know that God loves me this much.

(Nelson and Team Member 4 exit)

Big Group Conclusion

Leader 2: Alright guys, let's go over what we've learned today!

1. What does the word creed mean? (*A set of beliefs or guiding principles*)
2. Why are these statements called the Apostle's Creed? (*they are based on beliefs of the Apostles*)
3. What is the most important part of any building? (*the foundation*)
4. What is the first statement of the Apostle's Creed? (*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth*).

Puppet Presentation Song

Song – Creed by Third Day (Offerings II CD, track 3)

Closing Prayer

Leader 2:

Let's have a word of prayer now and be dismissed to our small groups.

Dear God, you are an amazing God. We give you praise this morning. Thank you for loving us so much. Thank you for creating the heavens and the earth, so that we can enjoy them. Thank you for the centuries of people that have come before us, have believed in You, and have given us such a strong foundation of faith. Continue to be with us, Father, as we build our own strong foundations of faith. We love you. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups



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Small Group Options

Option #1: Bible Guidance

Invite your group to look up the following Scripture references and answer the questions:

1. Genesis, Chapters 1 and 2; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Why do some people find the creation story so difficult to accept?
2. Read what God says to the Israelites in Isaiah 40:6-31. What does God say to the Israelites?
3. 2 Peter 3:8-10, We know that God is great, powerful, and self-sufficient. Why does He concern Himself with mankind?
4. Job chapters 38-41; Job 2:9,10. How does God answer Job's doubts?
5. Romans 1:18-25, How does God feel about those who do not worship Him as Creator?

Remember that the main purpose of small group time is to apply the lesson and build relationships with your kidz. Take the time to be sensitive to what your kidz want to learn and discuss. There is no "end" to the lesson, until you feel the kidz understand the purpose of the Creation story and you feel you have connected in some way to each one of them.

Take a few moments with your group to memorize the first article in the Apostle's Creed: I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Spend some time in prayer, inviting your group to pray sentence prayers. Ask for God's guidance throughout this coming week.

Option #2: Craft – Power of Sin

Items Needed:

- Peg board, one for each child
- Fun foam
- Fun foam letters or construction paper
- Pencils
- Markers
- glue
- Paper with the memory verse printed on them
- Paper with the first Apostle's Creed article printed on them.
- One Hole punch

What to do:

1. Give each child a peg board.
2. Have each child trace around a real tool (eg. hammer, wrench, etc.) or trace around a copy found from the internet.
3. Each child can cut out their tool.

4. Glue the memory verse on one side of the tool; the Apostle's Creed article on the other side.
5. Decorate the peg board and the tool.
6. Punch a hole through the top of the tool. Using the string, attach it to the peg board.
7. Keep the peg board in Kidztown. It will be used to store all the kidz' tools for this series.

Take a few moments with your group to memorize the first article in the Apostle's Creed: I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Option #3: Books of the Bible Game

Items Needed:

- 66 Index Cards with a Bible book written on each of them

Give one child the stack of cards. You could give them the OT books only, the NT books only, or the whole Bible. Time each child and see how long it takes them to get the books in order.

OTHER OPTIONS:

Items Needed:

- Stopwatch

Invite the children to attempt to recite all the books of the Bible as quickly as possible as a group, with each child saying only one book at a time. The first child says "Genesis" and the next "Exodus" and so on until "Revelation" is reached. Note how long it takes the children to recite the entire Bible, and write it on the board or a piece of paper. If a child does not know the next book, he or she can take a hint from the leader or say "pass". There is no penalty other than the time it takes to them to pass. You either award the winning team, or reward the entire group whenever they break the record!