

Believe the Creed

(John 1:1-5; 3:16; 15:26-27)



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. 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 to the dead.

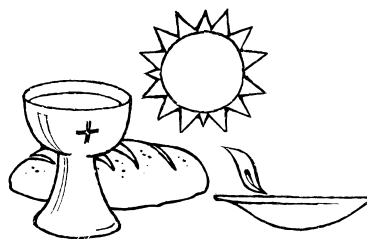
On the third day he rose again.

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



God has always been, since before the world began. Through God's spoken words, all things in the heavens and upon the earth were made. See John 1:1-5.

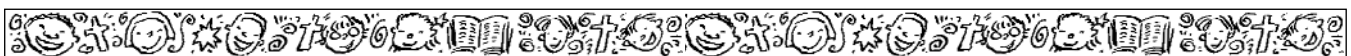
THINK ABOUT IT
We call God the creator. Can you name something God did not create?

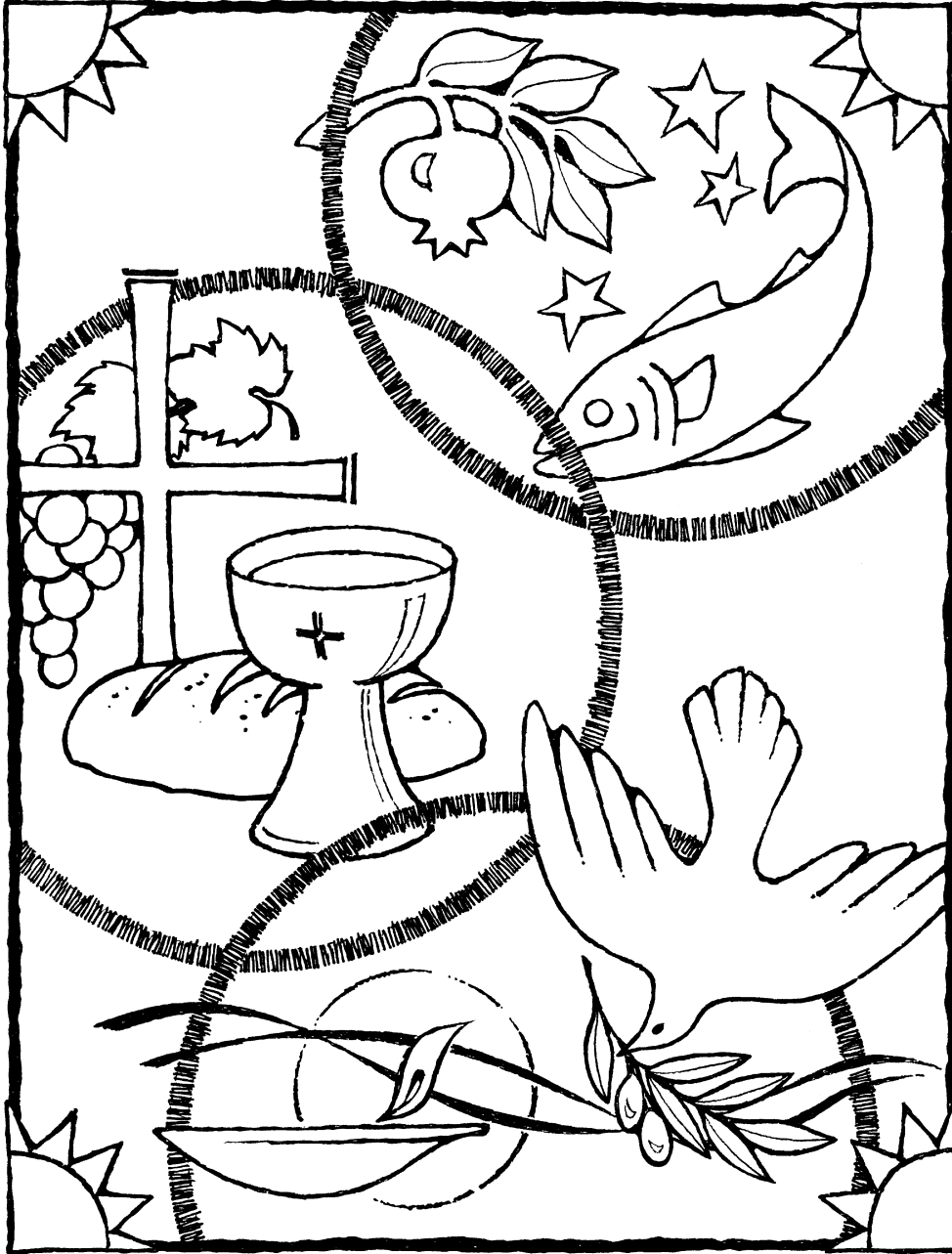
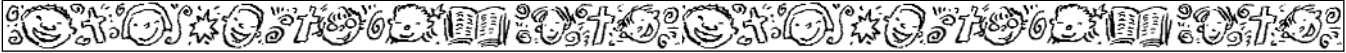
Out of love for all people who believe, God gave us Jesus who died and rose again. See John 3:16.

THINK ABOUT IT
What would you add to this description of Jesus?

God the Father sent us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is with us wherever we are and whatever we do, keeping us mindful of all that God has done. See John 15:26-27.

THINK ABOUT IT
Who is the holy catholic church and the communion of saints? How are you included?

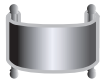




Think about something you believe in strongly and write about it here.



Believe the Creed



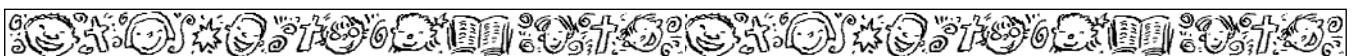
Here's the Story (John 1:1-5; 3:16; 15:26-27)

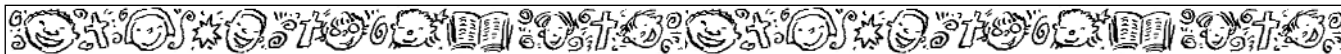
i BELIEVE

A creed is a statement of one's faith. The word *creed* comes from the Latin word *credo* that means "I believe." The Bible has examples of people who confessed their faith, saying what they believe to be true about God. Look up these Bible passages and complete the chart to identify their personal creeds.

Bible reading	Who said it	What they believed
Exodus 15:2-3		
Job 19:25		
John 6:68-69		
1 Thessalonians 4:14		

Over the centuries, creeds have been formed into statements of belief. In a worship service the people join together to say a creed. The creeds begin with the words "I believe" or "We believe." Then the creeds state the truths about who God is and about what God has done. Use your hymnal to find two creeds that we frequently use as part of a worship service and write them below.





Note Home



Today your child explored the meaning of the word *creed* in preparation for understanding the meaning of the Apostles' Creed. Oftentimes a child's interpretation of the Trinity, the three persons of God, is skewed. Their perception comes from what they already know, what is familiar to them. Discuss with them how we can be one person but yet have three different identities: son or daughter, grandchild, sister or brother, niece or nephew, and how each identity comes with its own set of expectations and responsibilities.

Family Time



The word *believe* is one your child knows, but it often comes with the meaning "trust me" or "I'm telling the truth." Seldom does your child have to declare what they really believe. Talk about the meaning of *believe* and what it means to state what you accept as true. One dictionary defines *believe* as having faith in the existence of God. Spend some time at the mealtime table or on a car trip and discuss as a family what you believe when you say, "I believe in God." Read the Apostles' Creed together.

Catechism Tunes



Listen to "I Believe, I Do Believe" (Track 3) and "Dios Créo la Tierra" (Track 4) on the Catechism Tunes CD with your child.

Pray Together



Dear God, teach us to loudly proclaim that we believe you are God of all. Amen

Believe the Creed

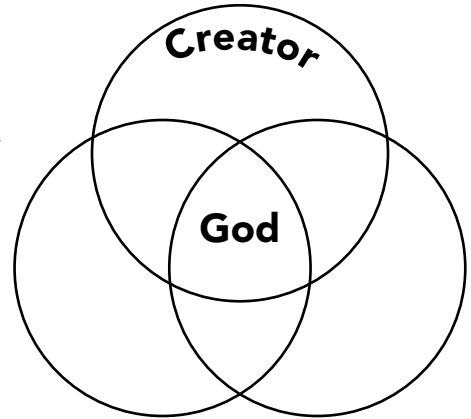


Here's the Theme (John 1:1-5; 3:16; 15:26-27)

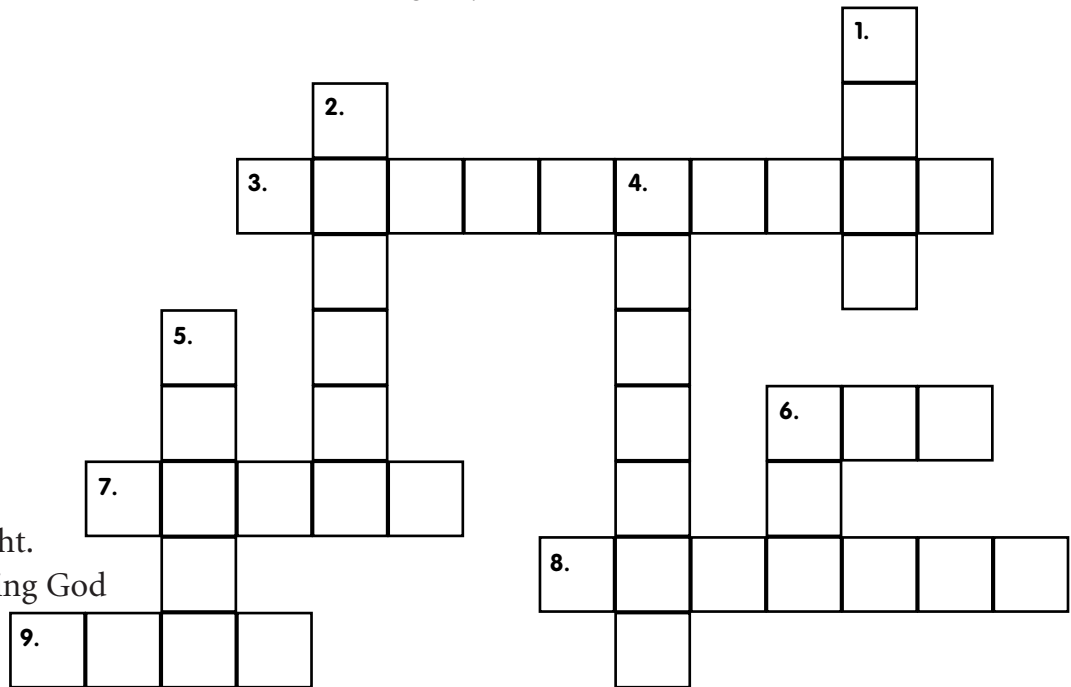


GOD THE CREATOR

The first thing God did was to create the world. The Apostles' Creed reminds us immediately that God made the heavens and the earth. You are part of this creation. In the Apostles' Creed we say that we believe God did create the world just as it is recorded in Genesis 1. No matter where we are or what we do, as we look around us we are always reminded that the earth is God's marvelous handiwork. So before all other things, God is the Father, the Creator.

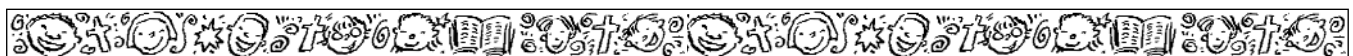


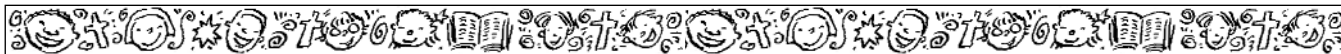
Complete the crossword puzzle, remembering as you do it what God made.



1. ⚡ A night-light.
2. ⚡ The last thing God created.
3. ⇨ A name for all kinds of plants.
4. ⚡ After God made these, Adam named them.
5. ⚡ They look like small pinpoints of light in the night sky.
6. ⇨ Sometimes it is blue, but sometimes it is gray.
6. ⚡ The biggest star of all.
7. ⇨ Two-thirds of the earth is covered with this.
8. ⇨ Mars and earth are examples of these.
9. ⇨ They live in 7 ⇨.

Word List:
 moon, sky, sun,
 stars, planets,
 water, people, fish,
 animals, vegetation



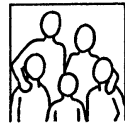


Note Home



Your child learned about the first portion of the Apostles' Creed in this session. The focus was on one person of the Trinity, God the Creator. Read together John 1:1-5. You may wish to reread the story of creation in Genesis 1 together to review how it was that God made our world. How can you describe this God as anything but almighty? What are some of the wonders of creation that always astound you? What do you believe about God the Creator?

Family Time



We take our world for granted. We trash, we waste, we ignore, we trample, we cut down, we use up. Why did God make humans to be a part of the created world? If God is the creator, what is our responsibility? What does your family do to help preserve what God made? As a family, examine exactly how you care for the environment. Ask yourselves if you are doing enough. What more can you do? How can you do it? Develop a conscious awareness within your family as preservers, not only for this generation, but for those to come.

Catechism Tunes



Begin to learn with your child "I Believe, I Do Believe" (Track 3) on the Catechism Tunes CD. Also listen to "Dios Créo la Tierra" (Track 4) with your child.

Pray Together



God our Maker, we praise you for the wonders of your creation. Inspire us to be its caregivers. Amen



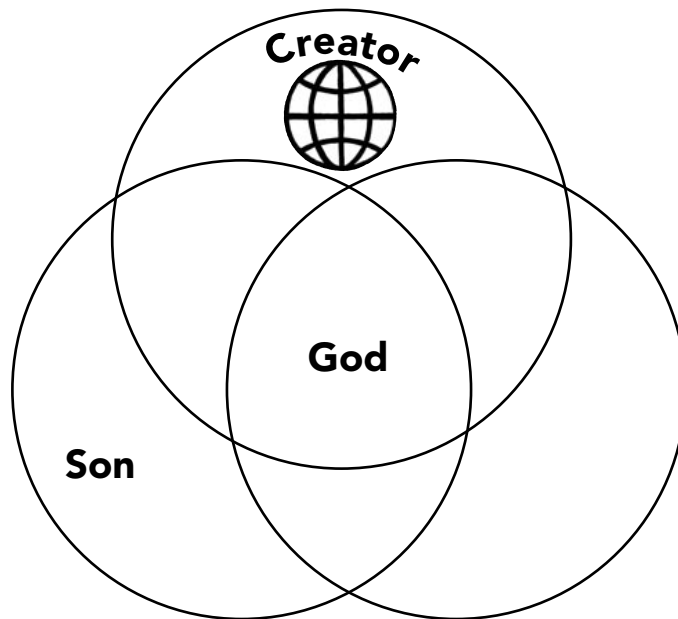
Believe the Creed



The Story and Me (John 1:1-5; 3:16; 15:26-27)

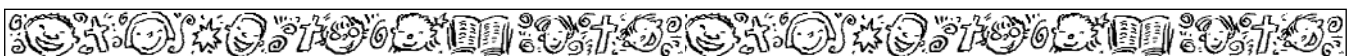


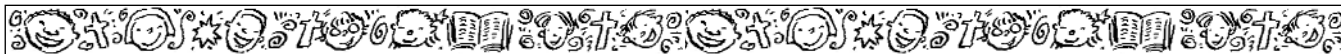
GOD THE SON



The second portion, often called the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, reminds us of what happened when God gave us Jesus Christ, the Son. Jesus, in his life on earth, shared with us God's actions and told us God's words for our lives. Even though Jesus came as a human, Jesus is still God. As you match these events remembered in the Apostles' Creed with their Bible references, keep in mind that God did all of this for us because God loves us.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---|
| 1. Luke 3:21-22 | ___ | a. Jesus was put to death on a cross |
| 2. Luke 1:30-35 | ___ | b. Jesus rose into heaven |
| 3. Mark 15:1 | ___ | c. Jesus lives! |
| 4. Mark 15:25 | ___ | d. Through the Holy Spirit, Mary would become the mother of God's Son |
| 5. Matthew 27:57-60 | ___ | e. Jesus waits for us in his Father's house. |
| 6. Luke 24:1-6 | ___ | f. The body of Jesus was buried in a tomb |
| 7. Luke 24:50-51 | ___ | g. Jesus is God's only son |
| 8. John 14:2-3 | ___ | h. Jesus stood trial before Pontius Pilate |



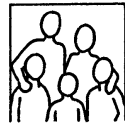


Note Home



Your child learned that the Apostles' Creed, written in the second century as a statement of faith for the Christians and as a defense against others attacking Christianity, was used to question adult candidates for baptism. How would you answer these questions if they were addressed to you: "Who is God the Father?"; "Who is Jesus the Christ?"; "Who is the Holy Spirit?" The responses, as the words of the Apostles' Creed, find their basis in the words of the gospels. Use the references in the exercise on the other side of this sheet to review those accounts.

Family Time



The second article of the Apostles' Creed—the section that focuses on Jesus Christ—brings home God's love for us in Jesus' birth, life, and death. No matter what time of year it is, gather your family around a small nativity scene or nativity picture and recall how God gave us this precious gift. Do you remember this time only at Christmas, or do you keep it with you throughout the year? Do the same for Easter, remembering that at this time God's promise was fulfilled. Jesus suffered and died so that we may live eternally with God.

Catechism Tunes



With your child, try to memorize "I Believe, I Do Believe" (Track 3), and listen to "Dios Créo la Tierra" (Track 4) on the Catechism Tunes CD.

Pray Together



Giving God, we thank you for the gift of your Son. Help us understand that Jesus is God, too. Amen



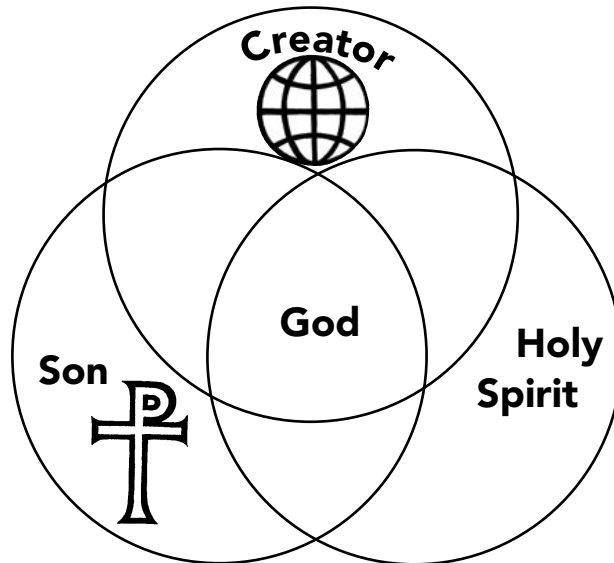
Believe the Creed



The Story and My Church (John 1:1-5; 3:16; 15:26-27)



GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT



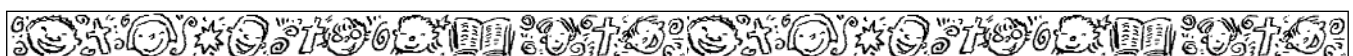
The Holy Spirit comes to us when we are baptized. It is the Holy Spirit that gives us our faith and helps this faith to grow within us. The Holy Spirit is always with us wherever we go.

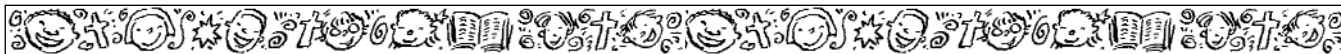
Do the word search below. The words go left to right, down, or diagonally. Find and circle the words that tell places you go in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Put a star on the place(s) where you will find the “communion of saints.” Add additional places where the Holy Spirit is with you in the empty squares. (You do not need to fill in all of the squares.)

Complete the symbol for the Holy Trinity. What can you use to represent the Holy Spirit? How does this symbol relate to the Apostles’ Creed?

- WORD BOX**
- GAME
 - MALL
 - LIBRARY
 - CHURCH
 - HOME
 - SCHOOL
 - NEIGHBORHOOD
 - PARK
 - THEATER
 - STORE

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





Note Home



Today your child became familiar with the third section or article of the Apostles' Creed. It begins with God the Holy Spirit, the sometimes hard to understand presence in our lives that keeps our faith strong and alive. Your child may have many questions for you about the Holy Spirit. It is sufficient to say that it is through the Holy Spirit that we are claimed as children of God. Encourage your child to participate with the rest of the community of believers each time they confess together the Apostles' Creed.

Family Time



Third and fourth grades yearn to be included in larger communities such as your church family, the communion of saints. Talk about what your family does to celebrate their role as members of the family of all believers, the holy catholic church. Do you participate in Bible study, include others outside your family in your prayers, contribute in some way to your church's mission work, attend worship together, and regularly attend Holy Communion? Include in your daily family prayers petitions that the Holy Spirit be active in your lives.

Catechism Tunes



Have your child teach the rest of the family the song, "I Believe, I Do Believe" (Track 3), on the Catechism Tunes CD. Have your family also listen to "Dios Créó la Tierra" (Track 4).

Pray Together



Loving God, help us to respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives. We are comforted knowing that you are with us now and forever. Amen

