

Catechist Handout

Lesson 9-Dec. 12, 2021

The Apostles' Creed



CATECHIST NOTES

OBJECTIVES

OVERVIEW

1. 4:00- 5:00pm - Mass
2. 5:15-6:45pm – Small Group Lesson Plan/Dismissal

LESSON COMPONENTS

- A. Community Building
 - B. Scripture & Prayer
 - C. Shared experiences by adults and teens
 - D. Catholic Teaching/Insight
 - E. Putting Faith Into Action
- Announcements

Community Builders

What do you believe in?

Take a few minutes as a group to brainstorm things that they believe in. Some examples are provided. (God, Santa Claus, love at first sight, luck, putting peanut butter on pancakes, science)

Then debrief. Why do they believe this? Do they tell others about these beliefs? How to they let others know that they believe in them? What makes them sure that this belief is real?

Scripture & Prayer

Together, read the Apostles' Creed through once without giving any sort of instruction. Take a moment. Ask the teens to let the words rest on them. Then read the prayer again. This time, ask the teens to read intentionally. To let the words and what they are professing really wash over them.

Shared experiences by adults and teens & Catholic Teaching/Insight

As a group, go through the Apostles' Creed line by line.

There will be discussion questions on the THO to talk about as a group. Additionally, you can use the extra information below.

I believe- Let teens know that this is their choice. It should be their choice and their decision to believe. It's like saying "I do" in marriage. It's a symbol of our trust in, and relationship with, God.

Creator...- Reference Genesis 1: 1-31. On pages 22 & 23 of the CYB(orange) or pages 22 & 24 in CYB(tan), there are great blurbs about creation. About how we can share in it and what it means. Go to these pages and read "Did You Know?" on page 22.

Our Lord- The word 'Lord' is used almost six hundred times of Jesus in the New Testament. In the Greek, the word is *kurios*, and it expresses ownership.

Conceived...- Reference Luke 1:26-38. In the very fine print on the bottom of page 1415, there is a note about 1:34. It talks about the impact of Jesus being conceived of the Holy Spirit and how that makes him the Son of God.

Born...- Reference Luke 2:1-20. Ask teens what they know about the story of Jesus' birth. Talk about how this isn't just a story for Christmas. It's something we should remember always. God made Himself one of us, vulnerable in the form of a child.

CATECHIST NOTES

When going through the Apostles' Creed, refer to the Teen Handout for questions referring to each line or phrase.

This is going to feel tedious, but it will be worth it!

Really dig into what we believe and why we believe it!

Check out <http://catholicism.org/the-apostles-creed.html> for more information on certain phrases. It also has the legend of how the Apostles' Creed was written. This may be a cool story for some of the teens!

CATECHIST NOTES

Suffered...- The reference to Pontius Pilate anchors the Creed firmly in history. This gives a timeline to the life of Jesus and shows him in not just a Spiritual sense, but it also gives Him a place in history. Pilate represents the rejection of Jesus by the world. Jesus was made to suffer.

Crucified...- The “save yourself” remark can be found in Luke 23:29.

Descended... - To mention that he descended into hell is to emphasize that he was truly dead. Furthermore, Jesus Christ died for the work of Divine love, and thus his literal, sacrificial death becomes a source of spirit and life to the living. The fact that he actually died and descended into the underworld- Hades or the Hebrew *Sheol*- also sets up the next statement regarding his resurrection. Not even the prison bars of hell could contain the One in whom the Holy had become flesh; Jesus is even depicted as preaching the good news to the dead (1 Peter 3:19). The Resurrection of Jesus indicates not that he has come back to life, but that he still lives, is still a force in the universe.

Third day...- Reference Luke 24:1-12 for Jesus’ resurrection. There is a good “Did You Know?” on page 1472 in CYB(orange) to accompany the story of the resurrection. Reference John 24:1-44 for the story of Lazarus.

Ascended...- Reference Acts 1:6-12 for Jesus’ ascension into Heaven. There are many instances of the right hand in the Bible:

The right hand can be used interchangeably with the hand in poetic texts (Judges 5:26 ; Psalm 74:11). The hand of God, and especially the right hand, is also understood as a place of salvation, refuge, and protection (16:8). It is the favored position for the firstborn of Joseph to receive Jacob's blessing (Gen 48:13-18), for the bride of the king (Psalm 45:9), and for the chosen one who sits at God's right hand while judgment is rendered upon the earth (110:1 ; Jer 22:24). This is applied to Jesus (Mark 14:62 ; 16:19). He sits at God's right hand, where he intercedes as a priest for believers (Rom 8:34 ; Heb 8:1) and exercises authority over all powers (1 Peter 3:22). The apostles extend the right hand of fellowship to Paul (Gal 2:9), perhaps reflecting an ancient practice of greeting (2 Sam 20:9).

Judge...- Reference Matthew 25:31-46. This passage of the Creed can be interpreted in a couple of different ways, one more literal and one more symbolic. The more literal interpretation is that Jesus Christ will judge the living and the dead when he returns for the Second Coming. However, a more symbolic reading suggests that “on the deepest level...only those whose lives are attuned to divine justice are truly alive; the others are more dead than living”. To awaken from the dead, is to awaken to a life lived in Christ and the Lord who loves us.

This (Resurrection) is THE BIG IDEA. This is HUGE. This statement is one of the main beliefs of our faith. Make sure that the importance is communicated to the teens.

CATECHIST NOTES

Holy Spirit...- Can review the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are Wisdom, Understanding, Right judgment, Knowledge, Courage, Reverence, Wonder and Awe (WURK CRW).

Church...- Catholic means universal. In the Creed, it is not capitalized. That's because we're not talking about the institution of the Catholic Church. We're talking about our universal (catholic) church.

Saints...- Reference the Saints lesson plan from week 13.

Resurrection... everlasting- Because Jesus allowed himself to be a house for the Holy Spirit, his death was not final. He still lives in us and in the Church. Reference Revelation 21:1-22:6.

Amen- Amen means "I believe".

LESSON PREPARATION NOTES:

Is there something I want to pick up or go over from last week's class?

My community building activity this week will be

What parts of the lesson will the Peer Ministers lead/facilitate?

Do I need anything from the Faith Office prior to class?

Other

CATECHIST NOTES

Things I will need for class this week:

The Key Ideas/Objectives for this week are

Things I need to consult Mel about
