



# **We Believe**

**A three-week education ministry that teaches fourth grade students about the Apostles' Creed.**

*Developed by Kristin Skare—Word of Peace Lutheran Church Rogers, MN*

## **Prepping Parents For the Three Week Session:**

- \*Advertise learning opportunity to parents via parent newsletter, worship bulletin, and church website.
- \*Inform Parents prior to the three-week experience what their child will be learning and experiencing via letter, e-mail, and church website.
- \*Provide Apostles' Creed teaching tools to parents via the website.
- \*Provide Apostles' Creed teaching tools to parents via take home sheets.
- \*Ask parents to send a canned food item to the class for food shelves.

## **Learning Objectives for the Three Week Session:**

- \*Students will be encouraged to memorize the Apostles' Creed.
- \*Students will express in their own words what the Apostles' Creed means to personally to them.
- \*Students will serve and care for God's world by sharing canned food items for the local food shelf.

## **Learning Objectives of We Believe Lesson #1**

- \*Students will be encouraged to memorize the Apostles' Creed.
- \*Students will hear and read the Apostles' Creed.
- \*Students will hear the Creation story.
- \*Students will know the definition of a Creed.
- \*Students will share their gifts with the food shelves.
- \*Students will say in their own words what things that God gives to them.
- \*Students will write a letter to express their gratitude for God's good gifts.

## **Supplies**

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Martin Luther's Small Catechism       | Baptismal Bowl                                  |
| Quick dry modeling clay               | Bookmarks with Apostle's Creed written on them. |
| Magazines                             | Memorization sheets to take home to parents.    |
| Scissors                              |   |
| Bibles                                |   |
| Fresh Eggs                            |   |
| Spoons                                |   |
| YouTube videos downloaded to computer |   |
| Projection screen                     |   |
| Paper                                 |   |

# Week #1 – The First Article of the Apostles' Creed

## Arrival:

\*Students will be greeted at the door and given a pack of quick dry modeling clay. (Found at craft stores, large warehouse stores (i.e.-target), or art supply stores.

\*Students will be asked to create anything they desire out of the quick dry modeling clay.

## Welcome:

\*Leader will ask all students to close their eyes, breathe, and sit in silence.

\*Leader will say an opening prayer.

## Activity:

\*Provide students a few more minutes to allow students to complete their creations.

\*Circle students up. Ask each student to introduce themselves to the group and share what they made with their clay and why they made it.

## What is the Purpose Today?

\*Leader explains that what they created with their modeling clay is important because their creation is really important. Explain to students that creation is really is a very important in the Apostle's Creed.

**\*Leader says:** *We are learning about the Apostle's Creed today. Does anyone know what a Creed is? To explore the answer to this question, I am going to give all of you plastic cups. But first, let's watch this video of the Apostle's Creed.*

\*Show YouTube video of 6 students reading the Apostle's Creed. (Provide this link on church website and use it in follow-up email to parents.)

YouTube Video – Apostles' Creed <http://youtu.be/FLU9RP5khyQ>

Parent Tool: (Post the following music YouTube video—Creed by Third Day, on the church website <http://youtu.be/nGRUaN4bwAs> )

\*Give all students enough small plastic cups so that they are able to build a tower. Tell them to build a tower anyway they choose. Some of their towers will fall, others will remain standing depending on how they are built. (The towers that are built like a pyramid with a wide base will be the most stable.)

**\*Leader says:** *The towers that were built with a strong foundation were not only the strongest, they were less likely to fall. A Creed is a statement of belief. It is much like the towers we built today. The Apostles' Creed is a statement of what we believe and provides a foundation for what we believe.*

# Teaching the Parts of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed

## Created Me and All That Exists

**\*Leader reads** the first article--*"I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers."*

**\*Leader says:** *Look at your creations. The Apostles' Creed tells us that God created the world and everything in it. You know you are loved because just as you love your creations, God loves you.*

**\*Give** every child a *SPARK! Storybook Bible* (Augsburg Fortress) and read the Creation Story.

**\*Leader:** *Ask students questions about the Creation story.*

*What surprised you about this story?*

*How did this story make you feel?*

*What was your favorite part of the story?*

**\*(If there is time show the YouTube video *Re:Form—Does God still create stuff today?*: <http://youtu.be/egsG9WNoUEE>**

## Provides Our Needs

**\*Leader Says:** *When you make something you want to take care of it. And God takes care of us.*

**\*Read next part of the definition:** *"He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day."*

**\*Have** students bring forward the item they brought for the food shelf. Honor these gifts by saying a prayer. Explain to students that we can care for God's people by providing them with food to eat.

**\*Have** students get in groups of four and cut out pictures in magazine of things that they think God gives us.

**\*Have** students share two items that their group found that they believe is from God.

## Protects Us

**\*Leader:** When you love something, you want to protect it. We're going to play a game.

**\*Egg Race:** Divide students into four groups. Each group will divide their group in half. Each half should separate and stand on opposite sides of the room. Place an egg on a spoon and give to the first child in each of the lines. Students should then race to see who can travel with the egg to the other team on the other side of the room. The egg and spoon should be passed to the first person in the line on the other side of the room. The first person that successfully passes the egg to each person on their team wins. If the egg falls, the team needs to start over again.

**Leader asks:** *What kind of things did you do to prevent your egg from falling? How did you pass the egg and spoon to one another? How did you feel if your egg fell? Spend time listening to the group share their answers.*

When you love something you want to protect it. Listen to what it says in the definition of the First Article, "God also protects me in time of danger and guards me against evil." God protects us by helping us make good decisions. God is with us when we are sad, when bad things happen, and when we feel lost or alone. God protects us just like you protected your eggs.

## Give God Praise and Thanksgiving

**Leader says:** *If God created us and gives us everything we need and protects us this is quite a gift! What do you do when someone gives you a gift? (Take student answers At least one child will probably say, "we should say thank you".) That's right, we should be thankful. Today, I want you to write a thank you note to God for the many things God gave you. Anything you say in it is fine. You are the only one that will see your letter. If you don't want to write words, you can draw a picture. When you are done, place them in the envelope I provided to you.*

**\*Students** draw pictures or write their thank you letters to God. When they are all done, instruct the kids to take their letters home. At bedtime, encourage them to read their letters as a bedtime prayer.

## **Closing**

\*Distribute a bookmark with the words of the Apostles' Creed printed on them.

\*Invite students to read the words that are printed on their bookmarks along with you. (If some students choose to not read out loud, this is fine. Let them follow along while they groups reads.)

**\*Leader:** *Today you learned that a Creed is a statement of beliefs. The Apostles Creed is a statement of what we believe. Today we learned the first article of the Creed. It tells us that God created the world and everything in it. God provides us with what we need and protects us. We should live our lives in thanksgiving for these good gifts.*

\*Take Home Challenge: Send home memory sheets with each student to bring home. Encourage students to recite the First Article (not the definition) by memory to their parents. If they do, they can bring in their signed sheet for a "surprise." If memorizing is hard, they can share with their parents what the Apostle's Creed means to them.

\*Closing Prayer

\*As students leave the room bless each student by placing your finger in the baptismal font that you have set-up at the back of the room, make the sign of the cross on their forehead and say, "You are a beloved child of God."

## **Resources Used:**

*Martin Luther's Small Catechism*

Pastor Krista Strum, Word of Peace Lutheran Church—Tower Activity idea

YouTube Resources