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# The Apostles' Creed

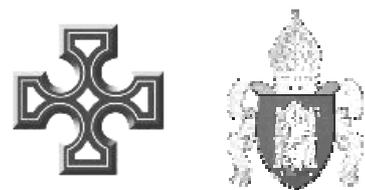
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A Teaching  
Resource for  
Sunday Schools

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Clogher Diocesan Board  
of Religious Education

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The Church of Ireland  
Diocese of Clogher

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This resource guide has been prepared by the Board of Religious Education of the Church of Ireland Diocese of Clogher. We hope that it will be of use in Sunday Schools, Youth Groups and Confirmation Classes throughout the diocese and beyond.

## **Suggested Use of this Material**

For ease of use we have divided the material into six sections:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. God the Father**
- 3. Jesus – who he is**
- 4. Jesus- what he came to do**
- 5. The Holy Spirit and the Church**
- 6. The Holy Spirit and the Christian**

Each section has been divided into 3 parts:

- A:** an introduction – containing ideas to introduce the topic
- B:** Moving on – a more detailed study of the topic
- C:** Finishing off – a way to conclude the topic

Each section may take more than one week.

Please adapt it and use the material as seems appropriate for your group.

# THE APOSTLES' CREED

## Introductory notes for Teachers

The Apostles' Creed is one of the three Creeds recognised by the Church of Ireland and contained in the Book of Common Prayer. The word 'Creed' comes from the Latin *credo*, meaning 'I believe', and is simply a statement of Christian belief. The other two are the Nicene Creed (which has additional material to that in the Apostles' Creed, mainly relating to the divinity of Jesus Christ), which is to be said at Holy Communion, and the Creed of St Athanasius, which describes the interrelatedness of the persons of the Holy Trinity, as well as how Jesus is God and Man in one person.

The Apostles' Creed is the most common of the three creeds, used in Baptism and at Morning/Evening Prayer. It is a basic statement of belief for everyone who is baptised. Despite its name, it does not come from the apostles, but appears to have originated from baptismal confessions in the early centuries of the Church. The earliest baptismal creed "Jesus is Lord" was expanded upon, as Christians sought to explain the significance of who Jesus is, the significance of his death and resurrection, and how Jesus related to God the Father, and to the Holy Spirit.

However, it can rightly be called the Apostles' Creed, as it summarises the teaching of the apostles (see Article 8, *Book of Common Prayer*, page 780). The Apostles' Creed is not the Bible, but we use it and believe it as a summary of the Christian faith, as its teaching is in line with what the Bible says.

What does the Apostles' Creed tell us? It has three basic paragraphs relating to belief and trust in God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The God we believe in is not three gods, but Three-in-One – the Holy Trinity, three distinct persons, yet one in being, purpose and love.

When we say "I believe in", it does not simply mean agreement with the words; it also expresses trust in the person the words describe. It might be better to think of the phrase as saying, "I believe and trust in . . ."

### God the Father

The first paragraph of the Apostles' Creed deals with the Father and the activity we primarily associate with him, the creation of the world. We call him Father, because this is how Jesus addressed him, and also how he taught his followers to call upon him. (Think of the Lord's Prayer – Luke 11:2). Since he is also Almighty, God is not only the one who cares for us as a Father, he is also the one who is able to answer prayer and meet our needs. God is the Creator but also the Sustainer, that is, that he still supports and cares for the world he has made. While we think of God the Father's work in creating the world, we recognise that the Son and the Spirit of God were involved also (John 1:1-3; Genesis 1:2).

### God the Son – who he is

The early Christians recognised that Jesus Christ was God in their midst, and the Creeds attempt to describe that mystery. His life, his ministry, his miracles and his teaching left people wondering who it was who could perform such wonders by the

power of God – a man, and yet more than a man (for examples, see Mark 1:27; 2:7; 4:41).

The Creed uses a number of terms to describe Jesus' divinity:

- he is the **Christ**, God's chosen King to rule over God's kingdom,
- he is **God's only Son**, from God and of the same being as the Father,
- he is the **Lord**, a word used of God in the Old Testament – Jehovah/Yahweh.
- it reflects the language of the Bible to explain how the Son of God entered into the human race – conceived by the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35).

The Creed also describes his humanity:

- he was born of a human mother, as we are,
- he suffered, experiencing pain and sadness, as we sometimes do,
- he was tempted, yet never sinned (Hebrew 4:15),
- he died and was buried.

Jesus was a real man who existed in human history. The reference to Pontius Pilate links the life story of Jesus to the secular history of the Roman Empire.

## **God the Son – what he did**

The second part of this paragraph about Jesus describes how he died on the cross and rose again for our salvation. There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin, except for Jesus, who does so by dying that we might be forgiven and have new life from God. 1 Peter 3:18 gives us three reasons Jesus died – he died for sins (for our forgiveness), he died as the righteous (one) in place of unrighteous (people, i.e. us), and he died to bring us to God.

The Creed tells us he descended to the dead (or to hell = *Hades*, the place of the dead). In other words, Jesus truly died – the experienced Roman officer on duty at his crucifixion was able to confirm this (Mark 15:45). Jesus did not merely swoon or faint on the cross – the everlasting Son experienced actual death on Good Friday! Jesus' death on the cross was inevitably followed by his burial.

His resurrection, or the raising of his body back to life, took place on the third day (counting inclusively from Good Friday) = Sunday. That is why Christians celebrate Sunday every week as the Lord's Day or Day of Resurrection. After forty days, during which he appeared to his followers (even to 500 of them at once – 1 Corinthians 15:3-6!), he returned to his Father in heaven, being received to the place of honour and authority as the Father's 'right hand man'. His second coming to the earth will be different from his first; he will not come to bring salvation, but judgement at the end of time.

## God the Holy Spirit

The third paragraph of the Creed looks at the Holy Spirit and his blessings to us to help us in the Christian life.

The Holy Spirit is not an invisible 'force' like the wind or electricity. He is a person with a mind and a will, who, according to the Bible, can be grieved and lied to (Ephesians 4:30; Acts 5:3,4), who can lead and pray (Romans 8:14,26), and who guides and helps us in living for Jesus. He is also God, called the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9, Philippians 1:19), who is to be worshipped with the Father and the Son. Jesus commanded his disciples to baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20), thus from the earliest days of the Christian faith, the Spirit was linked with other persons of the Holy Trinity.

The paragraph then lists some of the blessings the Holy Spirit brings to the Christian's life – membership of the worldwide church and a sharing in fellowship with Christians today, and encouragement from the examples of those who have gone before us. The word Catholic here does not mean 'Roman Catholic', it means worldwide or universal – the Church of Ireland is part of the worldwide church, which includes many other nations and denominations. A saint is not necessarily a dead Christian. In many of his letters, the Apostle Paul addressed his (living) Christian readers as 'saints', so a saint can be a term to describe any follower of Jesus, whether living or dead.

Another blessing that the Holy Spirit makes real to us is the forgiveness that was won for us by Jesus' death on the cross. If we are forgiven people, we can with the Spirit's help, show forgiveness to others. The Holy Spirit gives us the hope of heaven – the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Because Jesus was raised, we also hope to be raised (1 Thessalonians 4:14), and we experience the beginning of eternal life here and now, by knowing God through faith in Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit (John 17:3). Eternal life is life with God now that continues into the world to come.



# **Section 7**

## **Introduction**

# SECTION 1 – Introduction

**Aims:** to find out why we need a Creed  
to introduce the Creed  
to think about words and ideas in the Creed that we want to learn more about

**READ:** The first five paragraphs of the Introductory notes for Teachers before teaching this section.

## What you need:

- 20 or 30 items for Kim's game
- cartoon DVD
- paper
- pens
- Bible
- large copy of the Creed

## A: Introduction

*How do we remember things?*

Memory Games

- Kim's game (lay out 20 or 30 items on a tray and look at them for 30 seconds. Cover the tray and everyone has to list as many as they can remember)
- I went shopping and I bought.....

**TEACHING POINT: Repetition helps us to remember important things.**

*Does everyone remember the same thing?*

Watch a 2 minute clip from a cartoon.

Ask the children to write down two things that happened in the cartoon.

Did everyone write down the same thing?

**TEACHING POINT: After Jesus had gone back to heaven everyone remembered something different about him. It was decided that the most important things about Jesus should be written down in a Creed so that everyone would remember them clearly.**

## B: Moving On

*What is a Creed?*

Ask the children to write down what they believe about a person or place near to them. (For example I believe that my Mum's name is Gill and that she was born in August in Suffolk, England, and that she married Matthew,.....)

**TEACHING POINT: A creed lists clearly what someone believes about something. (You can have a creed about anything!!)**

*What is the Apostles' Creed?*

As we said before everyone remembered different things about Jesus.

Ask the children to answer one or two of the following questions. (They should write down their answers without showing anyone else, so that you can compare answers afterwards.)

- When I think of God I imagine . . .
- The three words I would use to describe God are . . .
- The best thing about God is . . .
- When I get to heaven I will ask God . . .
- Jesus reminds me of . . .

**TEACHING POINT: Compare everyone's answers. They are all very different. Everyone has a different idea of God. The Creed was written to help us all understand the same things about God.**

*Who are the Apostles?*

Can the children name any of Jesus' friends? Make a list together.

Do the children know any of the Apostles? Show that the Apostles include Paul (Galatians), and not Judas (Acts 1:).

**TEACHING POINT: This Creed is called the Apostles' Creed because it is based on what the Apostles taught the early Church. (We are learning the same things as people 2,000 years ago!!!)**

The things that Jesus did and taught were written down in the New Testament. When people were baptised as Christians, they needed a handy summary of this teaching to explain what they believed, and in the early centuries of the church, the Apostles' Creed came to be used in this way. The Apostles' Creed is not the Bible and not in the Bible, but it tells us simply what the Bible tells us about God. That is why it is called the Apostles' Creed; it gives us the message of Jesus' disciples simply.

## **C: Finishing Off**

*Other Creeds*

The Apostles' Creed is not the only creed used by the Church of Ireland. What are the others in the Prayer Book?

**TEACHING POINT: Early Creed-like statements appear in the New Testament (e.g. Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5; Romans 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:8; 1 Timothy 3:16). Look up Philippians 2: 6-11. What does this tell us about Jesus? Can you write a creed about God together?**

*Looking at the Apostles' Creed*

Look at the large copy of the Creed (page 39)

Read it through together. Let the children draw a circle in red around any of the words that they do not understand. Let the children underline in green the bits that they know and believe are true already.

## **Song Ideas**

*Father, we adore you* – Church Hymnal 568

*Father, we love you, we worship and adore you* – Church Hymnal 348

*I believe in Jesus* – Kidsource 122

*Lord, I lift your name on high* – Kidsource 234



# **section 2**

## **God the Father**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

## SECTION 2 – God the Father

**Aims:** to learn the first part of the Creed  
to learn that God is our creator  
to learn that God is our Father

**READ:** The section "God the Father" in the Introductory notes for Teachers before teaching this section.

### What you need:

- Play dough
- collage materials
- paper
- pens
- Bibles

### A: Introduction

#### *Creation Craft*

Choose from the following ideas:

- Give everyone a piece of playdough (or similar) and ask them to make something from it. Give a time limit and admire everyone's creations at the end.
- Make a creation collage – either looking at what was made on each of the seven days, or making a general creation picture showing sea, mountains, sky fish and animals. (Use paper, sticks, magazine pictures.....)
- Have a doodle competition – everyone doodles on a page. Swap pages, and try to draw extra things on to make something out of the doodle you have been given.

We have great imagination, and can make and imagine amazing things.

**TEACHING POINT: God has given us this imagination – God made us in his image. God has a great imagination, and made amazing things (the whole world).**

### B: Moving on

#### *Creation*

Read Genesis 1 together. Can the children, list or draw what was made on each day?

In the Creed we say that God is the maker of heaven and earth, just as it says in Genesis. Christians believe this and that God keeps the world moving and living each and every day.

#### *God is our Father*

If God made us, then we must belong to him – he is our maker and cares for us as a father.

*Almighty*

Read Jeremiah 32:17. Ask:

- If God did not care would there be any point in praying to him?
- If God could not do anything would there be any point praying to him?

But God does care, he is our Father, and he is Almighty. He can do anything. He made the earth, and us, and God has control over all of creation.

## **C: Finishing off**

Use any or none of the following discussion questions, depending on the time you have available:

Read Isaiah 40:1-31

What verses speak of God as our creator?

What verses speak of God acting as our Father?

Read Roman 1:18-25

How does God feel about those who do not worship him as creator?

Read Galatians 4:4-7

Who is God a Father to?

Read John 1:12

How do we enter God's family with God as our Father?

Look together at the first part of the Creed and read it out loud.

Today we have learnt that God is our Father and our Creator, and this is what the first part of the Creed asserts.

### **Pray together**

Pray to God our Father and Creator and thank Him for all that he has given us and all that He does for us.

## **Song Ideas**

*Father God I wonder* – Kidsource 52

*Father, I place into your hands* – Church Hymnal 565

*God is our Father* – Kidsource 77

*He's got the whole world* – Junior Praise 78

*How deep the Father's love for us* – Church Hymnal 224



# **Section 3**

## **Jesus - Who he is**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our  
Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he arose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living  
and the dead.

## SECTION 3: Jesus - Who he is

**Aims:** to learn the second part of the creed  
to learn that Jesus is both God and man  
to help children separate fact from fiction using the bible as a reference

**READ:** The paragraph "God the Son – who he is" of the Introductory Notes for Teachers before teaching this section.

### What you need:

- Post-it notes
- Pens/pencils
- Large copy/individual copies of the Apostles' Creed
- Bibles
- Large label 'Jesus as man' and a large label 'Jesus as God' or individual 'Jesus as man/Jesus as God' cards, one for each child.
- A selection of 'facts' about Jesus – some showing him as God, some showing him as man.

### A: Introduction

Ask each child to write four 'facts' about themselves, three must be true and one must be false. Encourage the children to consider things that are not obvious or well known about them e.g. the name of their favourite teddy as a young child, how many aunts/uncles they have.

Ask each child in turn to read their four statements to the rest of the group. The other members of the group must then discuss these to decide which one fact is false.

If you have a large group and/or time is limited, you could pair the children and ask them to read their statements to each other in turn and decide which statement is false. Ask a few children to share their findings e.g. what did you find out about your partner? What did they make up about themselves?

Ask the children to state how they found out which statements were false. Draw out that they asked the person who the information was about.

**TEACHING POINT: Although we cannot physically ask Jesus details about his life we can find out about it by reading God's Word, the Bible.**

### B: Moving On

Ask the children to think of anything they know about Jesus – things he said, things he did, things people believed about him.

Give each child some post-it notes. Ask them to write down their thoughts, one on each post-it. Give them a time limit to complete this task e.g. 3-5 minutes depending on progress being made.

Ask each child in turn to share one of their post-its. Discuss if what they have written is true about Jesus. Look at the large copy of the Apostles' Creed to compare if it is

mentioned in the creed. (Ask other children if they have written the same/similar thought and stick all these post-its on top of each other.) Display the pile of post-its beside the relevant part of the creed if appropriate or on a separate piece of paper if it is a true statement but not in the creed, e.g. 'Jesus had 12 disciples'. This is a true statement but is not part of the creed. False statements could be displayed under a 'false/untrue' title.

Continue this process until all the children's responses have been considered and displayed as appropriate.

If a child produces a 'fact' about Jesus and you are unsure whether or not it is true, do not guess – don't be afraid to tell the children you're not sure but you'll try to find out for them for the next session.

## C: Finishing Off

Play a 'Jesus as God'/'Jesus as man' walking debate:

Stick the large 'Jesus as God' label at one side of the room and the large 'Jesus as man' label at the opposite side. Read a statement about Jesus. Ask children to think about it and walk to the appropriate label depending on whether they believe the statement to show Jesus as God or Jesus as man. Either use the statements the children produced in part B: Moving on, your own statements and/or these examples:

- Jesus was born (Jesus as man)
- Jesus cried (Jesus as man)
- Jesus died (Jesus as man)
- Jesus forgave sins (Jesus as God) see Mark 2 v 1-12
- Jesus made the wind and waves obey him (Jesus as God) see Mark 4 v 37-41

(mix up the order of these so that the children have to move more)

If space is limited, give each pupil a card labelled 'Jesus as God' on one side and 'Jesus as man' on the reverse. Ask them to hold up their card showing their response. Inform the children whether they are correct or not.

**TEACHING POINT: Some people saw Jesus as just a teacher, healer or good man. The disciples and Christians today know he was more than that – he was a man but he was also God.**

## Song Ideas

*I believe in Jesus* - Kidsource 122

*From heaven you came (The Servant King)* - Kidsource 62

*He must be God* – Meet the King CD from [www.thegoodbook.co.uk](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk)

*Who's the king of the jungle* - Junior Praise 289

*Lord we lift your name on high* – Kidsource 234

**Jesus  
as God**

**Jesus  
as man**

For use with Section 3 - Part C: Finishing Off

# **section 4**

## **Jesus – What he came to do**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he arose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living  
and the dead.

## SECTION 4: Jesus - What he came to do

**Aims:** to examine further the second article of the Apostles' Creed.  
to help the children understand that Jesus knows our thoughts and feelings  
to help the children realise that when Jesus returns he will judge everyone

**READ:** The paragraph "God the Son – what he came to do" of the Introductory Notes for Teachers before teaching this section.

### What you need

- two mugs
  - one very clean and shiny on the outside, perhaps with a decorative pattern on it but very stained on the inside (this is easily done by wiping a wet teabag round the inside of the mug and allowing it to dry)
  - another mug very plain on the outside, maybe even a bit dirty but shiny and clean on the inside
- or pictures of x-rays
- copies of some obituaries (treat this sensitively – use the local paper if appropriate or use some of famous people)
- paper and pens/pencils
- copies of the life of Jesus pictures
- scissors
- glue

### A: Introduction

Show the children the two mugs, being careful to let them see the exterior only. Ask them which mug they would prefer to use and why. Most children will respond by saying the colourful decorative one because it 'looks prettier'. Show the children the inside of the mugs and ask if they have changed their minds and why.

Use this to explain that Jesus looks at our 'insides' – he looks at our thoughts. He sees more than the image we present to our friends or people around us. He knows what we really do, say and think even when no one is around to see us.

Lead in to the part of the creed 'he will come to judge the living and the dead' – Jesus will judge us by our thoughts and feelings towards God and others as well as our actions. Emphasise that Jesus said "I am the Way ...." and that 'being good' is not enough to get in to heaven.

### OR

Using the x-rays: Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16: 7 Sometimes when we visit the doctor, he cannot tell if we have something wrong just by looking at us. We may look just fine on the outside, but there might be something wrong on the inside. To see what is on the inside, the doctor takes an x-ray. By looking at the x-ray, he can see what's on the inside and helps us to get well. You can't always tell by looking at the outside.

The Bible tells us that man looks at outward appearance, but God looks on the inside. You can't always tell what a person is really like by looking at the outside.

Some people may be beautiful on the outside, but they may be very mean, selfish, and hateful on the inside. Some people may be "less beautiful" to look at, but they are beautiful on the inside - they are loving, gentle, kind and love God.

**TEACHING POINT: Jesus will return to judge everyone, not by looking at our appearance or the good things that we do but by the contents of our hearts.**

## **B: Moving On**

*Older Children* – examine some obituaries. Help the children to understand that an obituary tries to give an account of the characteristics and significance of the life of someone who has recently died. It often includes a short biography.

As the children to consider their own lives, what kind of things they have done, how people would describe their character. Give them time to write their own obituary. Alternatively put the children in pairs and ask them to write an obituary about their partner. This subject obviously needs to be treated sensitively but a little humour could lighten the mood. Invite the children to share what they have written.

## **OR**

Look up 1 Peter 3 v 18. Ask what 2 reasons are given for Jesus dying?

Answer (any two):

1. for our sins
2. in place of unrighteous people
3. to bring us to God

Show the illustration of a canyon which separates us from God. The cross of Jesus is the bridge between us and God (page 26).



*Younger Children* – cut out and sequence pictures of Jesus' life.

Distribute copies of the pictures of Jesus' life. Read the captions and discuss which picture would come first and why, which picture would come next and so on. The Apostles' Creed does not mention anything of the work of Jesus and moves from his birth to his death. However pictures 3, 4 and 5 (Jesus grew up, Jesus healed people and Jesus taught people about God) have been included to help younger children understand that it was not the baby Jesus who was nailed to a cross. The border on the outline sheet has been broken around these pictures to highlight that they are not part of the Apostles' Creed but are part of Jesus' life on earth.

Either ask the children to complete the task individually or complete one as a group, depending on their ability.

## **C: Finishing Off**

Read the second article of the Apostles' Creed as an obituary to Jesus. Remind children that although Jesus died he is now alive and will come back to earth. Ask children to consider would they be ready to meet Jesus if he was standing outside the door right now! Explain to those who feel they are not ready that they need to consider making a commitment to Jesus. Explain how this is done and help/guide them as necessary.

**TEACHING POINT: We can only be ready for Jesus' return if we have become his follower.**

## **Song Ideas**

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord* – Church Hymnal 251

*I am the way, the truth and the life* - Junior Praise 89

*I'm special* - Junior Praise 106

*Thank you, Jesus* - Kidsource 313

*There is a green hill far away* – Church Hymnal 244

*There is a Redeemer* – Church Hymnal 112

*We want to see Jesus lifted high* - Kidsource 365

Examples of x-rays



foot and leg



snake



hand and arm



fun penguin!



Full skeleton



ribs



cow

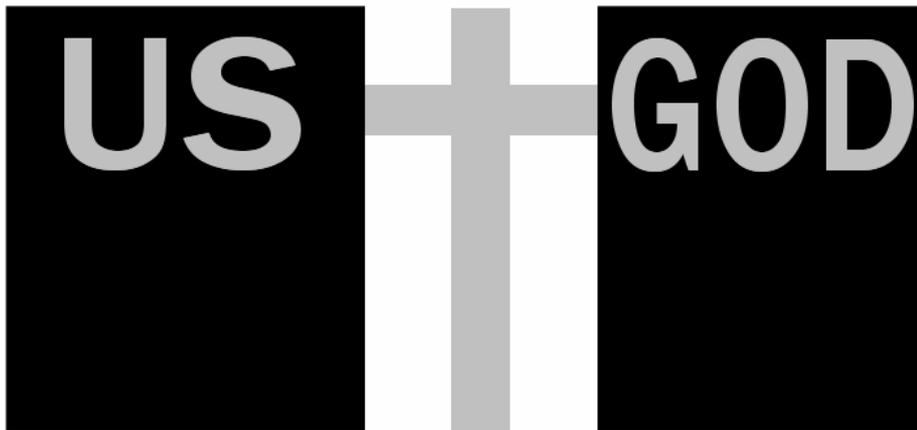


fish



neck

For use with Section 4 - Part A: Introduction



For use with Section 4 - Part B: Moving On

# The Life of Jesus

*Cut out these pictures and put them in the correct order on the outline page.*



The risen Jesus went back to heaven.



Jesus died on a cross.



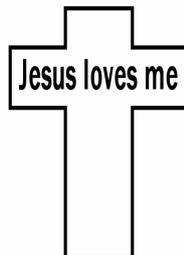
The angel Gabriel told Mary she would have a special baby.



The tomb was empty because Jesus had risen.



Jesus was born in a stable.



Jesus is alive today and will come back to earth.



Jesus taught people about God.



Jesus grew up.



Jesus healed some people.



Jesus suffered great pain.

For use with Section 4 - Part B: Moving On

<b>The life of Jesus</b>	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8
9	10	

# The Life of Jesus



1. The angel Gabriel told Mary she would have a special baby.



2. The baby Jesus was born in a stable.



3. Jesus grew up.



4. Jesus healed some people.



5. Jesus taught people about God.



6. Jesus suffered great pain.



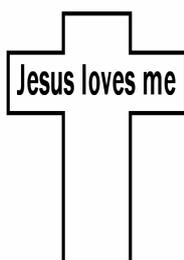
7. Jesus died on a cross.



8. The tomb was empty because Jesus had risen.



9. The risen Jesus went back to heaven.



10. Jesus is alive today and will come back to earth.



# **Section 5**

## **The Holy Spirit and the Church**

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.

# SECTION 5: The Holy Spirit and the Church

**Aims:** to help children remember the third section of the Apostles' Creed  
to facilitate their learning about the Holy Spirit

**READ:** The paragraph "God the Holy Spirit" of the Introductory Notes for Teachers before teaching this section.

## What you need:

- copy of The Apostles' Creed
- one or more of these - picture of a tree, candle and glass or a spiral
- Bible
- tissue paper
- template of flame
- shamrock – either the real plant or a picture of it

## A: Introduction

Choose one of the following to demonstrate how we know something is there even if we can't see it. (A picture of a tree blowing in wind, have a spiral snake hanging over warm radiator or show lit candle, put glass upside down over the candle, watch it go out).

Discuss how what moves the leaves on tree, moves spiral or why does candle go out? (air moving or lack of air/oxygen). How do we know if it is there if we can't see it?

Remember we were talking about God the Father and God the Son now we are learning about God the Holy Spirit (show shamrock), the third person of the Trinity. He is a person not a force or an 'it'. We can't see Him but we know He is there, we can see his effect in the world. Remind children we are looking at The Apostles' Creed and this is the next part which says: I believe in The Holy Spirit.....

Let's look at what the Bible says about The Holy Spirit.

## B: Moving On

*I believe in The Holy Spirit*

Do a Sword Drill or teacher reads from the Bible:

Bible Reading: Acts 2

So how do we know The Holy Spirit was there on the day of Pentecost? (Like wind, flame) The people could speak in tongues. The Holy Spirit is often described like a wind, flame or a dove and Jesus called him the comforter. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit from heaven to live inside everyone who believes in Jesus.

Why do we need the Holy Spirit to live inside of us? - To give us the power to live for God. Without the Holy Spirit we're like a car without gas or a flashlight without batteries. We don't have any power to live for God. Without the Holy Spirit we don't even want to live for God. Without the Holy Spirit we don't have any power to tell

others about Jesus. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to live for God and to tell others about Jesus.

### *The holy, catholic Church*

Explain Acts 2 was the start of the church. In the next part of The Apostles' Creed we say; 'The Holy catholic church.' What is the church?

Give everyone one minute to draw the church. Teacher draws too – a picture of lots of people. (Stick men are sufficient). All show their picture. Compare. Teacher shows the picture s/he drew. Explain the church is not the building but the people are the church. Emphasise this is what the church is, the body of Christ. The Apostles' Creed says the church is holy; it belongs to God and should be like God. It calls it the catholic Church which doesn't mean the Roman Catholic Church but actually the worldwide church. See BCP Guide (published by the CDBRE), page 13.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-18

When a band plays, does everyone play the same instrument? No. Different people play different instruments as well as different notes at different times to create a beautiful song. The children of God are like a band. We all have different parts to play. Nobody plays a solo.

Paul compared the church to a body. If you had feet but no hands, would you have a whole body? No. Could your feet say they don't need your hands? No. How would you wash them or tie your shoelaces? But your hands aren't better than your feet. Your hands can't get anywhere unless your feet take them there. They need each other to be a fully functioning body.

The church is like a body. Can you tie your laces with one hand? Tie a bow? If a body was made all of arms, what would it not be able to do? Not all the people do the same thing in church, but all are necessary. We all have a part to play that contributes to the work God wants us to do. The church is worldwide. And when The Apostles' Creed talks about . . .

### *The communion of saints*

It talks about all the Christians together, those in this church, in this country, and those in other countries, all Christians, living and dead.

**Prayer:** Thank you Heavenly Father  
for giving us the Holy Spirit, the comforter.  
Help us to become more like Jesus  
and give us the power to tell other people about you.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **C: Finishing Off**

Choose an option most suitable for your group –

*Quiz:* Divide your group into two or more teams. Set up 2 chairs at one end of the room. On one chair place the word 'true', on the other place the word 'false'. Have one set of true/false cards for each team. When the teacher reads out a question, one child from each team runs to the chairs and pick up the word true or false. Bring back the answer. A point is awarded for each team with the correct answer.

Sample questions (True/False):

1. The Holy Spirit is a comforter.
2. The church is not the people.
3. We don't need anyone else in the church.
4. The catholic church means the worldwide church.
5. Some church members are more important than others.

*Make stained glass window*

Draw the outline of an arched window and at the bottom of the window draw flames (a symbol of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost) and colour them black. Stick small squares of coloured or crepe paper around the rest of the window.

*Spiral snake for radiator*

Make a spiral snake to hang over a warm radiator. Start with one dot on paper go around and around until reach outside. Cut along line until centre and have spiral.

*Worldwide church*

Show pictures of church buildings in different countries. Draw/use photos of people and put them on the outline of a church building to show people are the church, not in the church.

## **Song Ideas**

*All over the world, the Spirit is moving* – Junior Praise 5

*The Spirit lives to set us free* – Church Hymnal 490

*For I'm building a people of power* – Junior Praise 47

# **section 6**

## **The Holy Spirit and the Christian**

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.

## SECTION 6: The Holy Spirit and the Christian

**Aims:** to help children remember the final section of the Apostles' Creed  
to recap on parts learned already

**READ:** The paragraph "God the Holy Spirit" of the Introductory Notes for Teachers before teaching this section.

### What you need:

- The Apostles' Creed
- Bible
- eggs
- pictures of celebrities
- shamrock – either the real plant or a picture of it

### A: Introduction

Recap on what has already been studied. Can anyone say the Apostles' Creed so far?

**OR** Go around the group saying one line at a time. Show the shamrock picture again, the three persons of the Trinity. Who can name them? Remind children we are looking at The Apostles' Creed and this is the next part which speaks about "the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting."

### B: Moving On

#### *The forgiveness of sins*

Get each child to write down or draw all the times people hurt them by doing something or saying something nasty. Explain that they have 1 minute. Ask for a few examples, how did you feel? (angry, hurt, sad) What could you do in response? (Forgive or get revenge). Now on a second piece of paper write down all the times you hurt someone by saying or doing something. You have 1 minute. Let's look at what the Bible says about forgiveness.

Read Mark 2 v 1-12. What was the first thing Jesus said to the man? Not get up and walk but your sins are forgiven. Jesus has the power to forgive sins. What will God do about our bad things if we ask him? Explain how we can be forgiven if we ask. Get everyone to tear up their second piece of paper (their bad things). How do we feel about the first page? Can we forgive others as God has forgiven us?

#### *The resurrection of the body*

Recap on Jesus' death and burial. When did Jesus come back alive? How do we know he was really alive and not just a ghost? (He could eat, they could touch him, etc.) Explain how we know that those who die trusting in Jesus will also be raised on the last day. They will have bodies too, not just like ghosts. We know because Jesus came back that we will be raised too.

#### *The life everlasting*

Show children pictures of famous people through the ages. Name as many as they can.

Read Revelation 7 v 9-10. This is a picture of everyone at the end of the age, from every tribe and every age. These are the ones with Jesus and they will live forever with him.

### **C: Finishing Off**

Dye or paint hard boiled or drained eggs. Remind the children of the message of Easter, and that eggs are source, and have been linked with the good news of Jesus rising from the dead.

### **Song Ideas**

*Be still, for the presence of the Lord the Holy One is here* – Church Hymnal 325

*God forgave my sin* – Church Hymnal 480

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind* – Church Hymnal 386

*Spirit of the living God* – Church Hymnal 210

# The Apostles' Creed - Useful Resources

## For teachers/leaders:

*Affirming Your Faith, Exploring the Apostles' Creed*, Alister McGrath ISBN 0851108547

*The Apostles' Creed, A Faith to Live By*, C.E.B. Cranfield ISBN 0567292274

*Growing in Christ*, J I Packer ISBN 0891077944

*I Believe*, Tim Chester ISBN 9781905564415  
Available from [www.thegoodbook.co.uk](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk)

*Your Confirmation*, John Stott ISBN 0340521805

Introductory Notes for Teachers in this pack

## For children:

*I believe! Apostles' Creed Wordplays*, Anita Reith Stohs ISBN 0570071232

*The Miracle Maker* on video/DVD

Selection of worksheets included in this pack

## Other Resources used to produce this pack:

*I Believe* Published by CPAS

*Favourite Bible Stories Activities for Grades 3 & 4* Published by Rainbow Books

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he arose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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.**

