

The Creed for Kids

A Pre-Catechism Curriculum

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I believe in God the Father Almighty

This Month, the following Basic Questions will be answered through the stories, proclamations, and poetry of the Old & New Testaments of the Christian Bible:

Who and What is God?

Why is He called our Father?

What does it mean that He is Almighty?

The class will learn the first phrase of The Old Roman Creed, “We believe in God the Father Almighty” by reciting it together, exploring Biblical stories about God as Father, and by creating keepsakes to take home each week which will help them to remember God as Creator/Father.

Section I.4: “God Can Do Anything!”

Memory Verse for the Month

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth...”

THEME FOR THE DAY: GOD CAN DO ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING!

Teacher’s Notes:

I think I was in the third grade when I first tried to wrap my head around that age old question, “Can God make a rock so big that He can’t pick it up?”

I must have wrestled with the cunundrum for about a month until I finally asked the natural response which is, “Why would He want to do that?”

The fact is, God is able to do whatever He wants to do. There is no limit to His power. What’s more, He is bigger than I am, than you are, and than any combination of powers we might ever even conceive of uniting compared to Him. God can do absolutely anything!

So what does that mean to you, to me, or to the children we lead and teach?

In short, that God is able to do what He has set out to accomplish...to save us! Can you imagine a God who could not save us?! What a ridiculous notion! God is able to save because there is no limit to His power.

No-matter what ever happens in the world, to us, against Him, He is able to save us!

Remember this week to bring the knowledge and understanding of your adult mind and look afresh at God through the simplicity of a child's mind. Describe God for these children the way God describes himself to be in His holy Word. Paint the picture of His salvation for them each week, understanding their understanding of Him.

STEP ONE (BUILDING INTEREST):

Supplies Needed:

Gather the whole class together for the following discussion:

First: Ask: "When was the last time you needed help? It may have been with your school-work, or with a friendship, or with a chore or task that your Mom or Dad had told you to do...tell me about when you need help." (Let them talk. This is foundational to the entire lesson, so let them go with it as much as they will.)

Second: Ask the kids, "Have you ever needed help from someone who was bigger and stronger than you are?" (Once again, let them talk about this as much as they want to.)

Third: Ask the kids, "Do you remember how we talked about the fact that no-one ever made God?"(let them answer) "Well, there is something else you should know about God our Father...Almighty...and that is the fact that He can do ANYTHING!"

Fourth: Tell the kids, "In all of our lives, there will be things that only God can help us with. Just like you might need your Mom or Dad or your friends to help you with the things we talked about from time to time, we all need God to help us, to save us from our sins, and to help us serve him."

Fifth: Thank the kids for their wonderful ideas and input.

STEP TWO (THE NEW PHRASE):

Supplies Needed: Marker Board with the phrase, "I believe in God the Father Almighty" written clearly so that children can read it.

Say: "All-right now, before we dive into today's lesson, its time to say our phrase from the Creed!"

Say: “OK, let’s stand up and say it loud and proud, ‘I believe in God the Father Almighty’”

Just like last week, have the class repeat it with you two or three times, increasing in volume each time until finally you have them shout it out at the top of their lungs. Laugh with them at the immense amount of noise!

Ask: “OK, since we know that God is ALMIGHTY, what are some things that only God is strong enough to do?” (Let them answer and have fun with their answers.)

STEP THREE (THE LESSON):

Supplies Needed: A Mason, Water, Sand, Little Green Army Man.

Say: “In the Bible, we find a lot of things that only God was strong enough to do! Do you remember what we studied about the children of Israel making bricks as slaves in Egypt?”

Ask: “Can anyone tell me about that story?” (let them if they can, if not summarize it for them again.)

Say: (As you begin this section, pour your water into the Mason Jar, followed by the sand, and finally the army man. Eventually, the sand should settle to the bottom. Do this slowly over the course of this section.) “Well, in the end, God led the children of Israel to escape from Egypt. He led them through the wilderness and all the way to the edge of a sea that they called the ‘Red Sea’. But once they got to the edge of the sea, the Egyptian army began to catch up to them, and they had no boats to use to cross to the other side and get away from the Egyptians...they really needed God to do something. Does anyone know what God did for the Israelites? (Let them answer if they will.) Let’s read about what happened.”

Read Exodus 14:9-ff

But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses [and] chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon. And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

(14:13) And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you shall see them again no more forever. The LORD shall fight for you, and you shall hold your peace. And the LORD said unto Moses, ‘Why do you cry unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift thou up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the

sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry [ground] through the midst of the sea.

(14:21) And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go [back] by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry [land], and the waters were divided

Say: “How did God get the Israelites across the sea and away from the Egyptians who wanted to defeat them?” (let them answer.)

Ask: “Can anyone here make water separate from itself like God did at the Red Sea?” “No? How about trying! Here is a bottle that is a very small model of the Red Sea and the Sand beneath the water and a little army man to represent the Israelites. I’d like to have two volunteers to try to make the water separate on either side of the bottle so that the sand is dry in the middle with the army man on it...who wants to go first?” (let the first volunteer try and have fun with it.)

Ask: “Ok, who wants to go next?!” (Let the second volunteer try, and then anyone who wants to give it a shot.) “Now we can clearly see that only God could part the waters of the sea and let the Israelites walk across on dry land! Let’s read in the Bible about what the Israelites did with God’s help.”

Read Exodus 14:22

And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry [ground]: and the waters [were] a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Say: “Sometimes we have to be willing to accept God’s awesome help instead of trying to always do things by ourselves. The Israelites took the escape God provided them from the Egyptians and walked across the floor of the Red Sea on dry ground, with the waters pushed up on either side of them.”

STEP FOUR (THE CRAFT):

Supplies Needed: Mason Jars & Lids, Water, Sand, Little Green Army Men, Paint Markers.

Say: “All-right, now to help us remember what God did to help the children of Israel, and to remember that God can help us, we are all going to make a little model of the sea in our Mason Jars, whichever you have.

Break Out Into Groups of three or four per Group and guide the children in the execution of their craft.

Craft: Each child should receive a Mason Jar with its lid, about two cups of sand, 3/4 quarts of water, and a little green army man. There has to be enough water for the little

man to “drown”, and enough sand for him to stand on if the waters parted when the jar is laid on its side (like a ship in a bottle). It is important to not sabotage this experiment with too little sand or water.

After the craft is complete, write these words on the bottom (side) of the jar so that it is readable when the “Man in the Bottle” is displayed. “ God Can Do Anything! Exodus 14:21-22 (along with the child’s name and the date)”

STEP FIVE (THE MEMORY VERSE):

Supplies Needed: Marker Board with the Memory Verse Readable for the Class.

Call the groups back together into one big group and ask one child from each group to show their “man in a bottle”. Clap for each one and celebrate what they have done. Ask them to tell you what they have learned about God and celebrate their answers together with the group!

Say: “How incredibly cool is it that we serve a God who is truly Almighty?! Always remember, ‘God can do anything!’ In fact, everyone say it with me, ‘GOD CAN DO ANYTHING!’ Great job!!!”

Say: “Now I want you to stand up and say our memory verse with me loud and proud! Say it as loud as you can (point to the marker board in front of the kids)!”

Say Together: “GENESIS 1:1, ‘IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH’”

Tell the kids what a great job they’ve done today and prepare them to come back next time to learn more about God our Father Almighty!