

The Creed for Kids

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TODDLER'S EDITION

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:

“Who and What is God...Our Father-Creator”

Memory Verse for the Month

Genesis 1:1

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

THEME FOR THE DAY: GOD MADE EVERYTHING!

Teacher's Notes:

Have you ever made something with your own two hands? It might be a sling shot made from a tree branch and a rubber band, or a soap sculpture (I still have one I made of Noah's ark when I was about seven), or any variety of things.)

God made everything. But there is one big, BIG difference...God didn't have to use his hands! The Bible tells us that God simply “spoke” things into existence! It doesn't mean

that he couldn't use his hands, but it makes a strong point about his ability to create from absolutely nothing.

Toddler's have an amazing ability to understand complex ideas in more simple ways than we might normally see. In these lessons, allow your mind to consider the things of God in a more foundational perspective...truly as a *little* child.

Take the time as you prepare this week to read through the entire first chapter of Genesis and ask God to help you explain his creation of us and all that is clearly to this week's kids!

STEP ONE (BUILDING THE IDEA):

Gather the whole class together for the following discussion:

First: Tell the kids that we are starting a new and exciting lesson about who God is. Tell them that for over two thousand years, Christians have been teaching their kids about God by learning some simple things about him, and we are going to do that together!

Second: Ask the kids, "How do we pray to Jesus?" or "Can anyone tell me how you pray/say the blessing before you eat your dinner?"(Let them answer and enjoy their creative minds).

Third: Ask the kids, "Where do you think God lives?" (Let them answer and once again, celebrate their creativity...when one of them says Heaven, say, "That's Right!" and ask the kids where Heaven is...yes, "up there" is a great theologically sound answer for toddlers.

Fourth: Ask the kids, "What does God do every day?" (Again, celebrate any ideas they have within obvious boundaries...i.e. "he's up there beating up the angels" would need to be corrected, short of something of that nature, its probably OK.)

Fifth: Thank the kids for their wonderful ideas.

STEP TWO (THE NEW PHRASE):

Supplies Needed: A Fun Spirit.

Say: "I want to teach you a phrase that says something about who God is today. We're going to say this phrase together each time we get together for the next four weeks. This phrase has been taught to children in church for thousands of years. Would you like to learn it with me?!"

Say: "Here we go, 'I believe (children repeat)

Say: in God the Father (children repeat)

Say: “Almighty” (children repeat)

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: “What is another way to say ‘Father’?” (Let the class answer...celebrate their answers. Look for answers like ‘Daddy’, ‘Dad’, etc.)

Ask: “What do you call your Grandfather?”

Say: “Jesus told us a special name we can call God that kind of means, ‘Daddy’. That name is ‘Abba’!”

Ask: “Can you say ‘Abba’ with me?” (Have the class repeat this word in increasing volume two or three times. Giggle together about how funny it might sound.)

STEP THREE (THE LESSON):

Supplies Needed: A Globe. Several Stuffed Animals.

Say: “One of the things God tells us by calling himself our Father is that he made us and everything that is. Have you ever seen a globe before? (Let them look but don’t touch...little fingers can get caught in a turning globe and that’s not fun for anybody.) A globe is a little model of the whole Earth that God created. Can anyone show me where we are on this globe? (Guide them to find their place on the globe...this is a lot of fun.)

Read Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Ask: “Who made the Earth?”

Ask: “Who made the sun?”

Ask: “Who made the moon?”

Say: “Did you know that God created everything that is...even you and me?!” Genesis 1:27 (man and woman) “The Bible says that,”

So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them

Ask: “What else do you think God created?”

(Guide the toddlers to talk about animals and trees, water and rain, clouds and stars, the sun and the moon, etc...even little/big brothers and sisters).

As they tell you all the things God made, ***pull out several stuffed animals, one at a time, and ask, “Did God make the _____(whatever animal it is)?” This should become a fun and giggly time as you might make funny animal sounds for each animal.***

Say: “You see, God our Father made everything; all of the animals, the trees and the plants, the grass in your backyard, even you and me!!! And do you know what else...GOD LOVES YOU VERY, VERY MUCH!!!”

Say: “The Bible says”

Read: Genesis 1:16-17 (The sun and the moon and stars.)

And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: [he made] the stars also.

And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

Genesis 1:21 (fishes, whales, animals and birds)

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good.

STEP FOUR (THE CRAFT):

Supplies Needed: Foam cut in the shapes of fishes. Water Color Paints.

Strategically place construction paper in front of each child and give each child a piece of foam in the shape of a fish. Mix water colors (make sure you get the non-permanent type) in the middle of the table for the kids to dip their foam fish into and stamp on their pieces of paper.

Say: “Now we’re going to paint something that God made that first week of creation with our foam fishes. I want you to dip your foam fish into the paint in front of you and stamp it on your paper.”

Let them have fun for a while.

Once they have stamped all the fish possible on the sheet, or at the point just before mayhem might break out, put away the water color paints, and clean the foam fish with paper towels.

On the bottom of each sheet of paper, write “Genesis 1:21 And god created great whales, and every living creature that moves”, along with the child’s name and after they have a chance to show their pictures to the group, put the papers up to dry so the kids can give them to Mommy or Daddy when the class is over.

Say: “Would anyone like to show me your new picture?” (Celebrate the toddler’s artistry no-matter how cubist, abstract, or twentieth century modern art-like they might be.)

STEP FIVE (THE MEMORY VERSE):

Supplies Needed: Stamina.

Say: “Just like you made fishes on the paper, God our Father created you and me and the whole world!!! Isn’t that amazing!!!”

Say: “Now I want you to stand up and we are going to learn our memory verse together!”

Say Together: “GENESIS 1:1, ‘IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH’” (First say the verse for the kids twice, and then have them repeat one part at a time until they can put it all together with you.)

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