

The Creed for Kids

A Pre-Catechism Curriculum

By Rev. JP Franklin. ©January 2007. All rights reserved. franklin@thewaterscommunity.org (281) 256-0567

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.3:

“Who Made God???”

Memory Verse for the Month

Genesis 1:1

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

THEME FOR THE DAY: GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE!

Teacher’s Notes:

Do you remember when you were born? Well, to be fair, can you find evidence of being born? Of course you can! Some of these records are listed in family Bibles, some at County Courthouses, and some through the various forms of history keeping found in different cultures.

The point is this...you were born! It may not seem like that fabulous or extraordinary of revelations, but let’s consider this just for a moment. You were created. You were formed by something other than yourself. You began.

One of the Bible's most basic teachings about God is that He is without beginning and without end. In fact, the very name of God, Yahweh, means, "I AM THAT I AM". And while there is deeper meaning even still to be drawn from that name, the surface statement proclaims an important truth about God.

In the wilderness, while Moses was tending sheep for Jethro his Father-in-Law, God revealed Himself as "Yahweh". "I AM THAT I AM" has sent you, was the charge God gave to Moses! God, in proclaiming Himself to His people who were in great distress, reassures them by reminding them that He has always been and always will be.

STEP ONE (BUILDING INTEREST):

Supplies Needed: Something you have personally made.

Gather the whole class together for the following discussion:

First: Ask: "Can anyone tell me about something you've made? It can be anything, really, a sling-shot, a bird-feeder, a sock puppet...what is something you have made?"

Second: Ask the kids, "Where did you get the materials to make the things you made...tell me about where you found the stuff?" (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 God made everything? (Let them answer.) And you know now that God made all the stuff you needed to make whatever you just told me about...but I have a question, "Who made God?"

Fourth: Tell the kids, "Today we are going to talk about a pretty wild idea! Nobody ever made God!!! Can you believe it?! What do you think about that?! (Let them talk about that as much as they will.)

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: “If God is God, then who do you think made Him?!” (Let them answer and have fun with their answers.)

STEP THREE (THE LESSON):

Supplies Needed: A Bible.

Say: “One of the things God tells us by calling himself God is that He has always been.”

Say: “the Bible says that God is:”

Read Hebrews 7:3a

Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life;

Say: “Can anyone tell me your birth-date?” (let them answer. If anyone has a birthday this month, take this opportunity sing “Happy Birthday” to that child.)

Ask: “How old will you be on your next birthday?” (Let them answer and celebrate how old they are becoming!) “How old do you think your Mom or Dad is? (This should be rich!) “How old do you think your Grandmother or Grandfather is? (Should be even better!) “How old do you think God is?!”(Let them have some fun thinking about this one and giving their best guesses. Don’t commit yourself to any child’s answer yet; just celebrate the fact that they are thinking it through with you.)

Say: “The Bible tells us that God never had a birthday! Even though Jesus was born here on Earth, did you know that He has always existed?!” (Read John 1:1)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Say: “This verse says that God was before everything was made! Nobody made God!”

Ask: “Do you know who made you?” (you may get ‘Mommy or Daddy’ from some of your older kids...don’t get thrown by this, *just say*, “That’s right, but who really made you, and for that matter, who made Mommy or Daddy?”)

Say: “That’s right, God made you and me and our Mom’s and Dad’s and everything else that is!!! In fact, our verse in Hebrew tells us that God has no Mom or Dad; let’s read it again together:

Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life;

Hebrew 7:3

Say: “Well, if God made everything, and even made me, then I think I want to know His name, don’t you?! I mean, you have a name, and I have a name, don’t you think God has a name?”

Ask: “Does anyone know the name of God?” (Let them answer with as many names as they think are right. Some will be, some won’t be. Jesus is a right answer; God is a right answer; etc.)

Say: “Well, God actually tells us several names for Himself, but one of them helps us understand how God was never created...that no-one ever made Him.” (Read Exodus 3:13-14)

And Moses said unto God, Behold, [when] I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What [is] his name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, Yahweh: and he said, Thus shall thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Say: “God has the coolest name ever!!! His name, ‘Yahweh’ simply means ‘I AM’. God is saying about Himself that he always is, he always has been, and that he always will be...he is ‘I AM’. Man, that’s a really long time to live!!!”

Ask: “We are going to practice saying the name of God together today. God’s name is Yahweh...can you say that with me? All together now, Yahweh! Come on now, say it loud say it proud, ‘Yahweh’!”

STEP FOUR (THE CRAFT):

Supplies Needed: Play-do. Card Board Tubes cut into 2” lengths.

Say: “You know, maybe the best way to explain how God was never created is to form a circle out of clay. (At this point, you should pull out your own play-do and start rolling play-do about 1/3” thick around a piece of the card-board tubing...i.e. toilet paper tubing, gift wrap tubing, etc.)

Say: “Just like the circle I’m forming around this tube doesn’t have a place where it begins or it ends, so God is like the circle; He always has been, always is, and always will be! Until the very end of the world, there will never be a time when God isn’t there for you to help you! That’s an amazing thing, isn’t it!”

Ask: “Can anyone think of something you might need or want God to help you with?” (Let them answer and really look at life from their perspectives.)

Break Out Into Groups of three or four per Group and guide the children to form their own circles of clay around the cardboard tubes.

Craft: Each child should get a sufficient piece of play-do, a piece of tubing, and a pencil. After they form the clay around the tube, help the children to write God’s name in the

clay with the pencil. On one side write “Yawheh”, and on the other side write “God Loves (insert the child’s name)” and carve the date somewhere tastefully. Tell the kids to let the circle dry in a window, and that Mom can put the finished circle in the kitchen window or Dad on his desk, or they can keep it in their rooms...where-ever is OK with their parents.

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 circle. 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: “Isn’t it amazing that God loves us so much that he bothered to make us in the first place, and that He will always be there for us to love us, to help us, to guide us to have a good life?!”

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!