

# The Creed for Kids

## A Pre-Catechism Curriculum

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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, "I 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.2:**

### **"He is God and He sees me!"**

#### Memory Verse for the Month

Genesis 1:1

*"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth..."*

**THEME FOR THE DAY: GOD KNOWS WHEN WE ARE HURTING!**

#### **Teacher's Notes:**

Have you ever found yourself adrift in feelings of despair and aloneness? Have you ever thought, "no-one has a clue about the trouble I'm in!"? Well, those sort of feelings are commonly addressed in the Christian Scriptures.

Children can feel lonely, too. Sometimes my little girl will get into trouble and she will ask, “What did I do?”. Now, this is often just a stalling mechanism in an effort to stave off punishment, but sometimes, she just doesn’t understand what she did wrong. It is in those times that Penny & I are careful to explain to her the mis-step of her actions, and to lay out the consequences in life if she were to continue to act that way.

What she needs as much as anything, almost as much as the discipline itself, is to know that her Mommy and I hear and understand her confusion.

Even after punishment is given, or if she just falls and scrapes her hands, it is crucially important that she find understanding in our eyes. The children of Israel were crying out to God much like my little girl cries out to me and Penny when she falls down. And they found out that God heard them, that God understood their pains, and that God was determined to rescue them...even though they didn’t always enjoy the actual process of that rescue!

Today, teach your kids that God being “God the Father Almighty” means that he loves them, each one. Teach them that he loves his children like a GOOD FATHER loves his own kids here on Earth, only more. Teach them that God always has a plan to give us hope, to heal our hearts, and that he never leaves us alone.

### **STEP ONE (BUILDING THE IDEA):**

*Gather the whole class together for the following discussion:*

**First:** Tell the kids that, “Today, we are talking about how much God loves us! Did you know that God loves you?! In fact, he loves you so much that he let his only Son die to pay for our sins!”

**Second:** Ask the kids, “Can anyone tell me how much God loves us? Does he love us as much as you love your brother or sister? Does he love us as much as you love your puppy dog? Does he love us as much as you love your Mommy or Daddy?” (Let them answer and enjoy their creative minds).

**Third:** Ask the kids, “Does anyone here ever fall down and hurt themselves?” (Let them answer) “When you do, who do you want to come and pick you up and kiss your scrapes and make you feel better?” (once again, celebrate their creativity...we’ll teach the right answers in a minute whether or not they happen to give them now.)

**Fourth:** Tell the kids, “Just like your Mommy or your Daddy or your brother or sister, or aunt or uncle, or Grandma or Grandpa always hear you and come to help you, so God always hears you when you cry out to him for help! So maybe God loves you just as much as your Mom or Dad love you!!! Wow...now that’s a lot of love!!!” (same deal.)

**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 its time to say our phrase from the Creed! And today, we are doing something new with that first phrase. Last week we said, *we* believe in God; but this week we are making all about what *you* believe! So we’re going to say, “*I* believe...” Are you ready? Stand up and say it loud and proud!”

**Say:** “Here we go, ‘I believe (children repeat)

**Say:** in God the Father (children repeat)

**Say:** Almighty” (children repeat)

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 calls himself our ‘Father’, then how much do you think he loves us?” (Let the class answer...celebrate their answers.)

## **STEP THREE (THE LESSON):**

**Supplies Needed:** A Bible. Clay, Straw/Grass, and a Square Mold to put it in.

**Say:** “One of the things God tells us by calling himself our Father is that he loves and protects us!”

### **Read Genesis 3:7-8a**

***And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which [are] in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey;***

**Say:** “There was a group of people called the Israelites, can you say ‘Israelites’ (help them sound it out...they can probably do better than you think!), who were God’s own chosen people...He called them his children! But there was a king where the Israelites lived who hated God’s children because he was scared of them. He was making them do all sorts of things that hurt them, and do you know what, God heard the crying of his people, the Israelites!”

**Ask:** “How do you think that God managed to hear their hurt crying?” (There’s no right answer here, so just let them have some fun thinking about it. In the end, tell the kids that God is always close to those who love him, and always hears our hurts and our happiness.)

**Ask:** “When you cry because you’re hurt, do you like for your Mommy or Daddy to hear you and to come pick you up? Of course you do, and that is just what God decided to do for the Israelites, his children.”

**Say:** “What does the Bible say God decide to do for the Israelites?” (Let them answer.) “Let’s read on and see if God had a good thing or a bad thing planned for them.” (Read Exodus 3:8)

***And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites***

**Say:** “The Bible says that God came down to take the Israelites out of Egypt to a place that flowed with milk and honey! Man, who likes honey?! Who likes milk?! Me too!!! Can you imagine an endless supply of all the good things you like to eat?!”

**Ask:** “Tell me, what are your favorite foods in the whole world?”(let them have fun with this one!) “God picked two of the Israelites favorites and came down from Heaven to take them to live in a place that had plenty of everything!”

**Ask:** “But why do you think the Israelites wanted to leave a pretty place like Egypt...because way back then, it was beautiful!” (let the kids talk this one out)

**Say:** “Well, at first, life had been really good for the Israelites in Egypt. They had big fields with lots of cows and animals just like we have here in Texas. They grew food in huge gardens like corn and wheat and had a good life. But then, there was a king who made them become slaves! They had to work at whatever the king decided they would do that day or night. And the king of Egypt made them make bricks and build cities for him out of those bricks in the hot, hot sun. And it was very, very, very hard!”

**Now, ask them** how they would make a brick if all they had was some mud, some straw, and a box?! (as you ask this, pull out your clay mud, your straw, and your box/mold)(Let them try to figure it out as much as they want to, and once again, celebrate their initiative and creativity!)

**Say:** “Well, that’s what the Israelites had to do all the time!” (Read Exodus 1:13-14)  
***And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve vigorously (that means it was very, very hard): And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them.***

Ask: "If you were getting hurt by someone every day, wouldn't you want to leave?" (let the kids answer) "...well, kids, God was coming to get his kids...because God loves his children!"

#### **STEP FOUR (THE CRAFT):**

*Supplies Needed:* Clay, Straw/Grass, Square or Rectangular Molds.

*Say:* "Now we're going to try to do what the Israelites had to do every day in Egypt...we're going to make bricks!"

*Break Out* Into Groups of three or four per Group and guide their projects.

*Craft:* Each child should get a sufficient piece of clay/mud, some straw or grass, and a square or rectangular mold or box (small ones) in which to form their brick. They should mix the straw into the clay carefully, making sure that it is evenly distributed throughout their piece of clay. They can fold it like bread dough, over and over again and then push their clay/straw mixture into their mold. ***This should be really fun and funny to watch with toddlers...let them have fun, it doesn't have to even be close to perfect! After all, if Pharaoh used toddlers he would have gotten wobbly bricks, too!*** They can take these home at the end of the day and set them in a window to be dried by the sun until the clay begins to slightly draw away from the sides of the mold, then they can let it drop out of the mold, but leave it in the sunlight until it is completely dry. ***(BE SURE TO SEND THESE INSTRUCTIONS HOME WITH THE PARENTS)*** Interestingly enough, this is just how archeologists tell us the ancient Egyptians/and Israelites made their bricks. Tell the kids that Mom can put the finished brick 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. Draw these figures above the written verse: Above "In the beginning", draw an arrow pointing backwards ←, above "God created" draw a great big clown hand, and above "the heavens and the Earth", draw a planet and stars.

Call the groups back together into one big group and ask one child from each group to show their brick. Clap for each one and celebrate what they have done. Have the group show their hands and talk to them about how gooey the clay felt in between their fingers.

*Say:* "Isn't it great that God our Father Almighty didn't just leave his children making bricks in Egypt?! Just like God loved the children Israel, God Loves You!!! And God knows when you are hurting, when you are lonely, when you are happy and sad...and he always has a plan for your life to go from hurting to happiness!"

*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!