

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, “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.

Toddler's see things in a bit more beautiful way than we often do, in a simpler, more pristine fashion. The point for them is that God will always be. He is the constant, the may-pole, the standard and the care giver against whom all others may be and must be held to account.

Today, see God through their eyes, and let us explain Him from our knowledge, engaging their magical and beautifully simple understanding.

STEP ONE (BUILDING INTEREST):

Supplies Needed: Paper, Paints.

Gather the whole class together for the following discussion:

First: Ask: "Can anyone tell me about something you've made or painted? It can be anything? Have you ever painted a bird, or a frog, or your hand. Maybe you've even made a sock puppet...what is something you have made or drawn?"

Second: Ask the kids, "Can you tell me what I am painting here on the paper?" (draw a bird (let them answer), then a hand (let them answer), then a stick figure man (let them answer), then a stick figure woman (let them answer).)

Third: Ask the kids, "Do you remember how we talked about the fact that God made everything? (Let them answer.) Did God make you? (Let them answer)"

Fourth: Tell the kids, "Today, I want to tell you something amazing! 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: “Do you guys have a birth-date?” (let them answer.) “When its your birthday, do you get to have a party, and cake, and presents? Can you tell me about your last birthday party?” (Let them talk about their birthday parties if they will. If anyone has a birthday this month, take this opportunity sing “Happy Birthday” to that child.)

Ask: “Does anyone know old you are?” (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, the Bible tells us that God has no Mom or Dad; it says that God is:”

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: “On the count of three, I want everyone to shout your name as loud as you can say it! OK, ready? One, two, three: (shout!!!). Again, again and louder! One, two, three: (SHOUT!!!) Wow! That was great!!! But 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) (Toddlers will probably not get the depth of this kind of verse, but it is a wonderful thing to read the Word of God over little children. I encourage you to never underestimate their ability to perceive the heart of God in His Word.)

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’! One more time, and louder than ever, ‘YAHWEH!’”

STEP FOUR (THE CRAFT):

Supplies Needed: White tube socks. Magic Markers.

(As you begin this section, be making your own sock puppet as an example to the children. Do this as you speak, and once you are finished, even speak through the sock puppet for part of the lesson. Make your sock puppet to look like yourself.)

Say: “Well just like God created you to look like Him, ‘in His own image’, today we are going to make sock-puppets to look like us! So, we are making our sock puppets, God

made us, but who made God??? (see if they can remember) That's right! Nobody made God.


Say: "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 color their sock puppets. You might need to outline the space where the face should go and help them get the basics like the eyes, hair, and mouth.

Craft: Each child should get a white tube sock and be able to share several colors of magic markers with the other children. I don't need to tell you to carefully watch out for marker wars, creatively painting friends arms, etc. Help the toddlers through the basics of the puppets to look like them and then write their name on the bottom (ankle) of the puppet. On the back of the ankle write, "Yahweh. God is always."

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 sock-puppet. 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!