

BreakThru

From Catechism to *Christ*

APOSTLES' CREED

LEARNING EVENT MAKE-UP

CATECHISM: I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER

So the eternal God of the Universe created you. So what? Don't let anyone leave this session without being confronted by this thought: There is a God who has given you everything you are and everything you have and everything you will ever know. How shall we treat the gifts? How shall we treat the giver?

The first article of the Apostles' Creed says,

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

Martin Luther asks, "WHAT IS THIS?" to which he goes on to explain the meaning of this first article, saying:

I believe that God has created me together with all creatures. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. God does all this out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

Together with your parent, read through that explanation again, underlining or circling key words and phrases that really help to explain what this first article of the Apostles' Creed means. Then, use the space below to write an explanation of the words, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth" in your own words. Use the back of the page if necessary.



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CATECHISM: I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

The eternal, all-powerful Creator of the Universe was not satisfied to abandon us to float alone out in space. So what? This God came down to earth in human form (remember God came to us!), lived among us, showed us the Creator's love in flesh, then died on a cross to take the punishment for our sins so that we could live eternally. So what?

Someone died in your place. Someone died to set you free. Someone died to buy you eternity. It was Jesus. So what does this mean?

The second article of the Apostles' Creed says,

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Martin Luther asks, "WHAT IS THIS?" to which he goes on to explain the meaning of this second article, saying:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules in eternity. This is most certainly true.

Together with your parent, read through that explanation again, underlining or circling key words and phrases that really help to explain what this second article of the Apostles' Creed means. Then, use the space below to write an explanation of the words, "I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord..." in your own words. Use the back of the page if necessary.

CATECHISM: I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Spirit, wind, breath. They are all the same word in Hebrew. Ruah. Spirit. Wind. Breath. At the beginning of time, it was the Spirit, wind, breath of God that called it all to life. When God blew into Adam the breath of life, it was the Spirit, wind, breath of God that made him a living being. When Jesus breathed his last, it was his spirit, wind, breath that returned to God. On Pentecost, the disciples were filled with the mighty Spirit, wind, breath of God. In essence, we too are enlivened, animated, brought to life by the very Spirit, wind, breath of God.

We carry a small spark of eternity within us—a living soul. We carry a small wisp of the very Spirit of the Living God. So now what?

The third article of the Apostles' Creed says,

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Martin Luther asks, "WHAT IS THIS?" to which he goes on to explain the meaning of this third article, saying:

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy, and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

Together with your parent, read through that explanation again, underlining or circling key words and phrases that really help to explain what this third article of the Apostles' Creed means. Then, use the space below to write an explanation of the words, "I believe in the Holy Spirit..." in your own words. Use the back of the page if necessary.

ACTIVITY: WRITE YOUR OWN CREED

The word Creed comes from the Latin word Credo, meaning "I believe!" The word apostle means "to send away from." Use the space below to write your own creed based on what you believe and value about your faith. You can use the Apostles' Creed as a guide, or start by brainstorming a list of what you believe about: God the Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Church, community, etc. **Write your final creed on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to this assignment when you turn it in.**