



# His Story: The Apostles' Creed

## LEADER'S Review

### SUPPLIES Needed



#### TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)\*
- Letter to Parents (1 copy/ family)

#### TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs\* (*Optional: guitar or music to sing along with*)
- Basket for offering\*
- American Flag (or printout of flag to hold up)
- "History of God's People" coloring sheets; crayons/ markers

#### OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheet (1 copy/ child)
- Elements of Worship Icons\* (*Found in the introduction section.*)

\*These items will be needed every week.

History brings such depth to our world. It provides perspective to our situations when they seem to only happen to us. It gives us fulfillment to see that we are continuing the good fight that others have pursued before us. It creates a unity with our fellow man to know we have all dealt with life together.

Today, however, current culture wants to think only of the present. Whatever a writer really wanted to say is mute; your own interpretation of the material is all that matters. The supposed benefit of history is left by the wayside. Instead, you can create for yourself your own idea of history and have it explain away any issue or benefit that doesn't fit your worldview.

Our covenant children have a right to know the true history of their faith, their God, and their people. Through these weeks we want to begin laying an historical foundation in their minds. To know that men throughout history have stated the same words we recite today provides solidity to their faith. Our children aren't the first to believe the Good News, nor will they be the last.

This Good News will remain with these children for the rest of their lives. While the words of a creed might fall from their memory, the words of our Savior will forever be with them.

*The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.*

— "How Firm a Foundation"



# THE Lesson

## Call to Worship – “O Worship the King”

*Sing the first verse of “O Worship the King” that we learned in Unit 1. (1 minute)*

*O worship the King all glorious above,  
O gratefully sing His power and His love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.*

## Praise

*Sing a worship song with the children. (5 minutes)*

- “I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord”

## Tithes and Offerings

*Recite the following prayer before passing around the offering basket. (2 minutes)*

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He’s given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.

## Confession of Faith

*Lead the children in confessing their faith by teaching **The Apostles’ Creed**. The bold section is the memory work for this week. (3 minutes)*

“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will judge the living and the dead. 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.”





## Reading of the Word

*Read Scripture. (3-5 minutes)*

Acts 13:14–39

On the Sabbath they went to the meeting place and took their places. After the reading of the Scriptures—God’s Law and the Prophets—the president of the meeting asked them, “Friends, do you have anything you want to say? A word of encouragement, perhaps?”

Paul stood up, paused and took a deep breath, then said, “Fellow Israelites and friends of God, listen. God took a special interest in our ancestors, pulled our people who were beaten down in Egyptian exile to their feet, and led them out of there in grand style. He took good care of them for nearly forty years in that godforsaken wilderness and then, having wiped out seven enemies who stood in the way, gave them the land of Canaan for their very own—all in a span of about 450 years.

“Up to the time of Samuel the prophet, God provided judges to lead them. But then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul, son of Kish, out of the tribe of Benjamin. After Saul had ruled forty years, God removed him from office and put King David in his place, with this commendation: ‘I’ve searched the land and found this David, son of Jesse. He’s a man whose heart beats to my heart, a man who will do what I tell him.’

“From out of David’s descendants God produced a Savior for Israel, Jesus, exactly as He promised—but only after John had thoroughly alerted the people to His arrival by preparing them for a total life-change. As John was finishing up his work, he said, ‘Did you think I was the One? No, I’m not the One. But the One you’ve been waiting for all these years is just around the corner, about to appear. And I’m about to disappear.’

“Dear brothers and sisters, children of Abraham, and friends of God, this message of salvation has been precisely targeted to you. The citizens and rulers in Jerusalem didn’t recognize who He was and condemned Him to death. They couldn’t find a good reason, but demanded that Pilate execute Him anyway. They did just what the prophets said they would do, but had no idea they were following to the letter the script of the prophets, even though those same prophets are read every Sabbath in their meeting places.

“After they had done everything the prophets said they would do, they took Him down from the cross and buried Him. And then God raised Him from death. There is no disputing that—He appeared over and over again many times and places to those who had known Him well in the Galilean years, and these same people continue to give witness that He is alive.

“And we’re here today bringing you good news: the Message that what God promised the fathers has come true for the children—for us! He raised Jesus, exactly as described in the second Psalm: *My Son! My very own Son! Today I celebrate you!*

“When He raised Him from the dead, he did it for good—no going back to that rot and decay for Him. That’s why Isaiah said, ‘I’ll give to all of you David’s guaranteed blessings.’ So also the psalmist’s prayer: ‘You’ll never let your Holy One see death’s rot and decay.’

*(Hearing the Word—Continued)*

“David, of course, having completed the work God set out for him, has been in the grave, dust and ashes, a long time now. But the One God raised up—no dust and ashes for Him! I want you to know, my very dear friends, that it is on account of this resurrected Jesus that the forgiveness of your sins can be promised. He accomplishes, in those who believe, everything that the Law of Moses could never make good on. But everyone who believes in this raised-up Jesus is declared good and right and whole before God. [*The Message*]

## Prayer

***Have a prayer of thanksgiving that God has been fulfilling His word throughout history. (1-2 minutes)***

Dear God, Father Almighty, who was and is and is to come. You have forever been faithful and true. You have kept Your promises from the beginning of time and throughout history. Thank You for giving us history so we may know what You have done and so we may have hope that You will do what You have promised. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen

## Hearing the Word

***Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (5-8 minutes for lesson; 10-15 minutes for activities)***

This month we are learning about things that help us understand our faith. Creeds and confessions of faith have been written so we can remember and tell others what and why we believe. Before we look at what Paul stated as his confession in Antioch, let’s understand why it is so important to know what we believe.

***Hold up an American flag.*** What is this? Do you know the Pledge of Allegiance? Why do we say this at school? We say this pledge as a reminder that we support our country, and we believe in the principles our nation was founded upon.

So, if someone asked you to explain exactly what you believe about the Christian faith, could you? Look how many pages are in the Bible! How could you sum up all those words to give someone a good understanding of what we believe?

Creeds, like the Pledge of Allegiance, are a great tool to help us give a short, quick explanation of what we believe. Today, the first creed we are going to study is your memory work for the month: The Apostles’ Creed. It gives a short summary of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Let’s pray together before we get started: “Dear God, we want to be able to tell others about You and what we believe. Thank You for giving us Your Word so we can read, know, and share it with others. Help us to understand what You have done for us. In Jesus’s name, amen.”



*(Hearing the Word—Continued)*

The Apostles' Creed was written early in the Church's history for new believers to publicly proclaim their faith before they were baptized. We can say the creed so others will know what we believe and be able to determine if they agree with us. Let's hear it together again. Say the part (**in italics**) that we are learning today with me.

### The Apostles' Creed:

***“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.*** He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will judge the living and the dead. 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.”

That's a lot of information for one paragraph, but in that statement, we find information from the start of the Bible to the very end. It says God is the Maker of heaven and earth. What book of the Bible is that from? (*Genesis*) And at the end it tells us about the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. What book is that from? (*Revelation*)

See, the whole creed gives us an overview of the entire Bible. It tells us about what Jesus did—He came as a baby, suffered for us on the cross, died, rose from the dead, and now rules on high. It tells us about the people of God—the ones Jesus came to save. They are His church, His saints, and His forgiven ones.

The Apostles' Creed is a great help if you want to tell someone about the whole Bible quickly. It states clearly and simply that what we believe is not something man thought of.

In the scripture passage we read today from the Book of Acts, we see the apostle Paul sharing his faith by using a summary of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. He reminded the Jews listening of all God had done for His people.

He began to share with them the information most of them would have known—the history of God's people. He wanted to make sure they noticed the importance of believing that the God who saved the Israelites was the same Jesus who could save them. Paul touched on some of the well-known events in Jewish history beginning with the exodus, and then he moved on to the days of Samuel the prophet, King Saul, and King David, and he reminded them of the promise of the Savior who would be a descendant of David.

Then Paul began to tie in more recent events with history and explained that John the Baptist's role had been to announce the coming of the Messiah. John had pointed out that Jesus was the Promised One who had come to save His people from their sins. Paul told



*(Hearing the Word—Continued)*

about Jesus's trial and death. He also shared about Jesus being raised from the dead and being with His people for 40 days afterwards. After explaining this, Paul and Barnabas were able to preach the Word of God in that city.

The Apostles' Creed talks about a lot of the same things Paul used to preach the good news of Jesus. If one of the greatest apostles used those kinds of methods to preach the gospel, doesn't it make sense for us to do the same?

**ACTIVITY: History of God's People.** In the "Reading of the Word" today, we find a history lesson of what happened to God's people throughout the ages. Each of you can color a picture that shows the things Paul talked about in the city of Pisidian Antioch. Once you've colored the pictures, we are going to put them in order. (Use this time to help the students learn the first part of the Apostles' Creed.) So, can you put the pictures in order?

1. God's People Living in Egypt
2. God's People Traveling Through the Desert
3. Conquering Canaan – Jericho
4. The Judges Rule – Gideon
5. Samuel Is the Prophet
6. King Saul Rules
7. King David Rules
8. Jesus the Savior Is Born
9. John Baptizes and Leads the Way
10. Jesus Is Baptized
11. Jesus Is Put on Trial
12. Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb
13. Jesus Has Risen from the Dead
14. People See the Resurrected Jesus
15. Paul and Barnabas Preach the Good News

These are just a few things which happened in the Bible. We have a lot of information about Jesus at our fingertips in the Bible, but sometimes, we only have a few seconds to share with friends what we believe. The creeds we will learn this month will help us share with others when they want to know what we believe about God. When we worship together, we share our creeds to remind each other what we believe.