

# Lesson 1

## This I Believe

**Bible Lesson:** II Timothy 3:14-17

**Memory Verse:** You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them. *II Timothy 3:14*

**Enrichment Memory Verse:** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. *I John 5:13*

### TEACHER PREPARATION

#### Prepare to Teach...

- ✚ That a creed is a statement of what a person believes; and that the Apostles' Creed is a summary of what the Bible teaches about the Triune God.
- ✚ That God the Father is our Creator; God the Son is our Redeemer; and God the Holy Spirit calls us through the Gospel, enlightens with His gifts, sanctifies and preserves us in the true faith.
- ✚ That the students can make the Apostles' Creed their own statement of faith and that they will be able to boldly confess it.

#### Prepare Materials:

1. Bible
2. A copy of *Luther's Small Catechism*. Available from Ambassador Publications
3. Wall poster of The Apostles' Creed available from Ambassador Publications
4. Colorful name tag for each student
5. Prepare prayer cards. On PRAISE CARD write: *Dear God, I praise You for being all powerful.*  
On THANK CARD write: *Dear God, I thank You for creating such a beautiful world.*  
On REQUEST CARD write: *Dear God, please help [insert name] to feel better.*

### BIBLE BACKGROUND

#### A. Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work through God's Word to teach you the truths of Scripture that you need to effectively teach this year's lessons on the Apostles' Creed. Pray that you will understand from the heart what God would have you know and teach.
2. Pray for each of your students by name. Pray that God will prepare each one for the study of this important statement of faith. Pray also that the Holy Spirit would give them understanding and receptive hearts.

#### B. Bible Study

In this lesson we are told that the Apostles' Creed is centuries old. What this means is that this brief and precise summary of the truths of Scripture has been handed down to the next generation over and over again. This brings to mind Jude 1:3 which says, "Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints." In this verse we are reminded that "the faith" has been delivered to us and the Creed confesses the objective realities revealed to us in the Scripture.

This lesson presents a father and grandfather encouraging a young student to cling to the truths of the Scriptures. You see, we call the creed we are studying, the Apostles' Creed, not because we say that the Apostles wrote it but because it contains the teachings of the Apostles. We have no evidence for this, but for many years it was taught that the Apostles' Creed was made of twelve parts in which each Apostle contributed a portion.

In our study of the Creed, it is divided into three articles making clear the confession that God is Triune. We do this, as is mentioned in the lesson, because of false teachers that deny the nature of God as revealed to us in the Bible. The reality is that everyone has a creed. Some are based simply on their own thoughts or feelings. We have the great benefit of having our creed, not as a newly written document, but as a well-considered ancient confession. Because of this we can carefully weigh what we are confessing in the creed with what God has revealed to us in His Word. This makes the Creed useful to us in fighting error, passing down the faith, and giving comfort to each one of us.

This is true in our study of the 1<sup>st</sup> Article. The 1<sup>st</sup> Article especially speaks of the physical and tangible gifts that God gives to us that will be easier to the students. Students in our country today are not often suffering from the basic needs; food and clothing, etc. This then provides a wonderful time to remind them of the mercy and grace of God in providing so abundantly for each one of us. At the same time, the students will often be hearing from many avenues that they came to be by chance; through the evolutionary process. The 1<sup>st</sup> Article gives us the Biblical teaching that God is our maker and the maker of all things. Indeed He has created us out of His divine goodness and mercy.

The Apostles' Creed has been and will continue to be a wonderful tool for the Christian Church to pass on the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3). By God's grace that means more individuals like the father and grandfather in this lesson will be able to declare the words John spoke in 3 John 1:4, "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth."

## BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Welcome

1. Introduce yourself to the students. Let them know how they should address you—by your first name; or as Mr., Miss, or Mrs.; or whatever is appropriate. Displaying your name in the classroom will help them remember who you are.
2. Welcome each student to class. Have each student write their name on a name tag and wear the tag to help everyone know each other by name.
3. Distribute books to students. Have each student write their name on their book.

### Open with Prayer

1. Thank God for each of your students.
2. Thank God for the chance to study His Word.
3. Ask God to help each one learn more about Him and His Word.

### Introduce Wall Words:

**The Apostles' Creed**—The creed most churches recite on Sunday morning is called the Apostles' Creed because it is made up of what Jesus' apostles believed and taught about God. The apostles' were men who had followed Jesus and learned from Him and then taught other people.

**articles**—The Apostles' Creed is divided into three parts called articles.

**century**—100 years

**Christians**—People who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Christians believe what the Bible says

about who Jesus is and that He died on the cross to save them from their sins.

**Christian Church**—All people who trust in Jesus as their Savior from sin are members of the Christian Church.

**confess**—In this lesson, *confess* is used in two different ways. 1. The first way means to declare or acknowledge what you believe, like when you confess our faith. 2. The second way means to admit you have sinned. When you confess your sin you are agreeing with God that you have broken His law.

**confessing faith**—Confessing your faith is telling others that you believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Saying the Apostles' Creed on Sunday morning during worship service is also a time when you confess your faith. Christians have confessed their faith in this way for many, many years.

**confessing sin**—Admitting to God that you have broken His law.

**Creator**—God is the One who created or made everything, so He is the Creator

**creed**—a statement telling what is believed

**faith**—Faith is trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. When you have faith in Jesus, you believe that His death on the cross paid the price for your sin. God uses His Word to create faith in our hearts. Faith is a gift from God.

**First Article**—The first article of The Apostles' Creed focuses on the nature, will, and work of God the Father. It consists of the sentence: *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

**Redeemer**—Redeemed means to be bought back. After God created Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, they disobeyed God and sinned. This sin separated them from God. Since then, sin separates everyone from God, so everyone needs to be brought back to God. Jesus redeemed us or bought us back from sin and death. By His death on the cross, Jesus redeemed us. He is our Redeemer.

**Sanctifier**—Sanctify means *to make holy*. The Holy Spirit is called the Sanctifier because it is His ongoing work in the life of the Believer that makes the Believer holy or sanctifies him.

**Timothy**—Timothy was a young man who learned God's Word from his mother and grandmother. Later he came to know Paul and became a Christian. He became a helper to Paul as he traveled to teach God's word to people.

**triune**—three in one; The Triune God is three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of these three persons are equal in power, in honor, and in glory. A symbol for the trinity can be found at the end of this lesson and on the cover of the student book. An explanation of the symbol is included below.

## Teach the Lesson

**BEGIN** the lesson by reciting or reading The Apostles' Creed with the students. If reading the Creed, using the wall poster available from Ambassador Publications would be ideal. The Apostles' Creed can also be found in the catechism or the *Ambassador Hymnal* on page 32.

**SAY** In today's lesson we will join Colton and his family for Sunday dinner and listen in as they talk about The Apostles' Creed, its meaning and importance.

**READ** paragraphs 1-6 with the students. You may want to read them as the students follow along, or have the students read in unison with you.

**DISCUSS** the concepts in paragraphs 1-6.

**ASK** the students to find:

1. A word that means a statement of what a person believes (*creed*).
2. The name of the creed that Colton is studying in Sunday school (*The Apostles' Creed*).

**TELL** the students that they, too, will be studying The Apostles' Creed this year in Sunday school.

**READ** paragraphs 7-9 to learn more about The Apostles' Creed. The lesson says, "Some of the

things we confess in the Apostles' Creed aren't things we can see or touch."

**ASK** the students to name some things they cannot see or touch but that they know are real or true. Answers could include: *wind, love, gravity, trust, air, time, joy, fear, God*. Even though these things cannot be seen, we know they are real. Even though we cannot see God or His love or His forgiveness, the Holy Spirit through the Word, gives us faith to believe they are real.

**DISCUSS** the concepts in paragraphs 7-9.

**ASK** the students to find:

1. A phrase that means to talk about what we believe (*confessing our faith*).
2. The name of a young man in the Bible who talked to other people about what he believed (*Timothy*).
3. The three things we need to believe so we can truly confess The Apostles' Creed (*a. God is the creator of all things; b. Jesus is our Savior; c. The Holy Spirit gives faith to believe*).

**READ** paragraphs 10-11 to learn about the three persons of the God-head and the three articles of The Apostles' Creed.

**ASK** the students to find:

1. The word that means three persons in one (*triune*).
2. The word that describes God the Father (*Creator*).
3. The word that describes God the Son (*Redeemer*).
4. The word that describes God the Holy Spirit (*Sanctifier*).
5. A word for the three parts of The Apostles' Creed (*articles*).

**DIRECT** students to look at the front cover of their book and notice the symbol of the Triune God. Explain that the three sections represent the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The hand represents the Father, the Creator and giver of all life; the cross represents the Son, the Redeemer whose death on the cross paid the price for sin; the dove represents the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier who teaches and guides, corrects and comforts the Believer. The unbroken green circle represents eternal life. The interwoven sections of the symbol represent the unity and equality of the Triune God. It symbolizes that the Triune God is three persons of equal power, honor, and glory.

## APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

### The Memory Verse

**READ** II Timothy 3:14 from the Bible.

*You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them. II Timothy 3:14*

**EXPLAIN** that “become convinced of” means that you come to know that they are true. The Apostle Paul told Timothy, his helper, to keep on reading and learning and thinking about the things he is sure are true. He should remember that he learned them from his mother, his grandmother, and from Paul who also taught him about Jesus, his Savior.

### The Activity Pages

Be sure each student has a copy of the activity pages. If time allows, do the Activity Pages together. These pages may also be sent home for the students to do at home and bring back to class next week

**Activity 1 ANSWERS** to the **I BELIEVE** puzzle:  
The faith taught in The Apostles’ Cree is the faith God gives us when we are baptized.

1. Bible
2. Father
3. Apostles
4. Holy Spirit
5. Triune
6. Believe
7. Creed

### Activity 2:

1. C
2. D
3. E
4. A
5. F
6. B

### The Review Questions

1. What is a creed? (*a statement of what we believe about God*)
2. What is the name of the creed we will study in this book? (*The Apostles’ Creed*)
3. Where did this creed come from? (*from what the Bible teaches about God. Many of the words come right from the Bible.*)
4. What does it mean to believe? (*to be sure that what God has said is real and true*)
5. When we confess our faith, what are we doing? (*telling others what we believe*)
6. What should I do with the faith God gave me when I was baptized? (*read and study the Bible so my faith will grow; learn and believe the words of The Apostles’ Creed so I can use its words to boldly confess my faith*)
7. What are the parts of The Apostles’ Creed called? (*articles*)
8. What does The Apostles’ Creed teach about God? (*God the Father created me, God the Son (Jesus) died on the cross to redeem or save me, God the Holy Spirit leads me to faith and sanctifies me by God’s Word.*)

## CLOSING THE LESSON

1. **REMIN**D students to practice saying II Timothy 3:14 every day this week so by next Sunday they will know the verse by heart.
2. **SEND** the Activity pages home with the students. If they were completed in class, encourage them to use the activities to tell their families about what they learned today. If the students are to do the activity pages at home, have them ask a family member to do the page with them. Then they can talk about the lesson together.
3. **SEND** home parent letter (signed). Perhaps include a personal note.

4. **SEND** home the Overview of Lessons. **EXPLAIN** to the students that this can be used to help them learn their memory work and to review their Bible lesson. Suggest that they may want to find the Bible text during the week and read it at family devotions or by themselves. **REMIN**D them to pray for God to give them understand of His Word.

### Closing Prayer

**ENCOURAGE** students to pray by using the prepared Prayer Cards. Then teacher can close with the following prayer:

*Heavenly Father, thank You for the Bible, Your Word, that teaches us what we should believe about You. We know that we need Your Holy Spirit to help*

*us understand Your Word and apply it to our lives. Thank You that we have the catechism and The Apostles' Creed which also help us understand*

*what Your Word teaches. Thank You for giving us faith when we were baptized. Help our faith in You to grow. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

