

YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 2: INTRODUCTION TO CREEDS

Opening

Review	-	Books of the Bible
	-	OT/NT differences
	-	Law and Gospel

Bible History

1 Kings 18:19-39



Elijah and the Prophets of Baal.
Listen to the account on the recording.
Follow along in your Bibles.

How did Elijah set out to show the people there was one true God?

What did Elijah do that showed his *confidence* in God?

Another word for *confidence in God* is _____ .

Creeds

Christians sometimes *express their faith* in God using *creeds*. A creed is a statement of what a person believes. There are examples of creeds in the Bible:

John 6:66-69

John 11:25-27

What do these creeds say?
Where were they spoken?

There are three common Christian creeds that have been used for hundreds of years. They are the *Apostles' Creed*, the *Nicene Creed*, and the *Athanasian Creed*.

- Find these creeds in the *Lutheran Hymnal* on pages 12, 22, and 53.

The Apostles' Creed (*The Lutheran Hymnal*, p. 12)

We don't know much about who wrote this creed (probably no one person is responsible), but we know that it has been around a long time. It summarizes what we believe about our God. The creed was not originally written in English. Early appearances are in the Greek language. We use a translation. It was also not written by the apostles. We call it the *Apostles' Creed* because it expresses what the apostles taught.

- The Apostles' Creed has three *articles* (or sections). Why do you think this is the case?
- Look at the three articles. What is the first article about? The second? The third?

The first article:

The second article:

The third article:

The Bible describes God as *triune*.

One God in three persons.

Three persons in one God.

Father	=	God
Son (Jesus)	=	God
Holy Spirit	=	God
Father	≠	Son
Son	≠	Spirit
Spirit	≠	Father

The Nicene Creed (*The Lutheran Hymnal*, p. 22)

This creed was adopted by church conventions in Nicaea and Bithynia in 325 and in Constantinople in 381. This creed was written as Christian response to the false teaching of a man named Arius who claimed that Jesus was not truly God.

- Where does the Nicene Creed emphasize the fact that we believe Jesus to be true God?

The Athanasian Creed (*The Lutheran Hymnal*, p. 53)

This creed was named after a man named Athanasius, even though he did not write it. It seems to have been written in Spain or France somewhere between 450 and 600.

- Can you find where in this creed the concept of the *trinity* is explained?

The creeds are **not** inspired by God. They are statements of belief written by men. We find them useful because they agree with what Scripture says.

"I Believe"

- Return to the *Apostles' Creed* on p. 12 of the *Lutheran Hymnal* or pp. 7-8 of the catechism. How does this creed begin? Remembering back to the discussion of faith at the beginning of this lesson, what are we saying when we say, "I believe . . ."?

What else can we say about faith?

Romans 10:17 (465)

Hebrews 11:1 (469)

Can you think of men or women from the Bible who believed in God the Father and in His Son Jesus Christ?

Atheist
Says there is no God

Agnostic
Does not know what to believe and says there is no way to find out

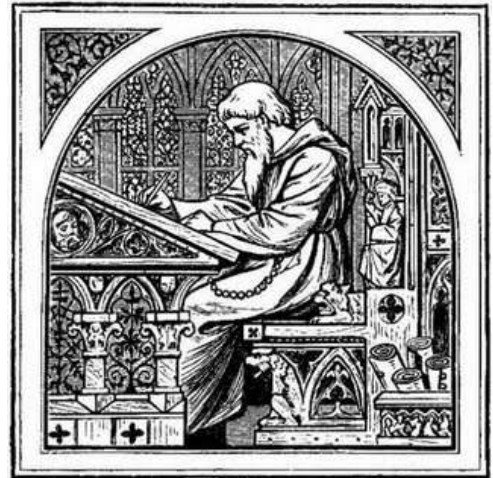
Deist
Believes in a god or supreme being, but does not believe Jesus is God's Son

Text of the Creed

Greek	Latin	Traditional English	Modern English
Πιστεύω εἰς θεὸν πατέρα παντοκράτορα, ποιητὴν οὐρανοῦ καὶ γῆς.	<i>Credo in Deum Patrem omnipotentem, Creatorem caeli et terrae.</i>	I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.	I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
Καὶ εἰς Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν, υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ, τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν, τὸν συλληφθέντα ἐκ πνεύματος ἁγίου, γεννηθέντα ἐκ Μαρίας τῆς παρθένου, παθόντα ὑπὸ Ποντίου Πιλάτου, σταυρωθέντα, θανόντα, καὶ ταφέντα, κατελθόντα εἰς τὰ κατώτατα, τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἀναστάντα ἀπὸ τῶν νεκρῶν, ἀνελθόντα εἰς τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, καθεζόμενον ἐν δεξιᾷ θεοῦ πατρὸς παντοδυνάμου, ἐκεῖθεν ἐρχόμενον κρῖναι ζῶντας καὶ νεκρούς.	<i>Et in Iesum Christum, Filium Eius unicum, Dominum nostrum, qui conceptus est de Spiritu Sancto, natus ex Maria Virgine, passus sub Pontio Pilato, crucifixus, mortuus, et sepultus, descendit ad inferos, tertia die resurrexit a mortuis, ascendit ad caelos, sedet ad dexteram Dei Patris omnipotentis, inde venturus est iudicare vivos et mortuos.</i>	And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.	I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
Πιστεύω εἰς τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον, ἁγίαν καθολικὴν ἐκκλησίαν, ἁγίων κοινωνίαν, ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν, σαρκὸς ἀνάστασιν, ζωὴν αἰώνιον. Ἀμήν.	<i>Credo in Spiritum Sanctum, sanctam Ecclesiam catholicam, sanctorum communionem, remissionem peccatorum, carnis resurrectionem, vitam aeternam. Amen.</i>	I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.	I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

For Further Thought

1. Why would a person write a creed?
2. If you were to write a religious creed, what would you include?
3. Some people think that creeds are not very important. What do you think? What are creeds good for? What are they not good for?



Assignment

- Memorize the books of the Old Testament in order (Catechism, p. 31)