

Help Spread the Gospel: *We The People*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

I wonder...

- What is a creed?
- How are we like other Christian denominations?

I believe...

- A creed contains all the beliefs which the members of a particular religious denomination profess. It is by way of a creed that a religious denomination distinguishes itself from another. (Catechism Q&A question 29)
- Articles of faith 1-3 constitute a binding element among all Christian denominations. (Catechism Q&A question 36)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Chart paper or whiteboard and markers (optional)
- Something to play a video clip with (computer, TV, tablet, phone, etc.)

References:

- Catechism Q&A questions 29, 31, 34-40, 366, 371, 407
- The Articles of Faith are on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A book

PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

This week we'll be discussing the elements of Christianity that tie us all together. What do you think those are? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder...." questions were about creeds. What defines Christians and the New Apostolic church? We defined a creed as a set of fundamental beliefs or guiding principles. Does your family have a set of belief or value statements for your home? For instance, "In our home, we believe in being motivated by love." Or, "In our home, we believe cell phones don't belong at the dinner table." This week, if you haven't already, consider developing some belief statements that your family and home can subscribe to. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)	
Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon? ➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn? ➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday? ➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
HOOK (up to 10 minutes)	
Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. Be sure to keep this topic non-political as that is not the purpose of this lesson. Do not get into the details of the New Apostolic Creed (Articles of Faith). They will be discussed later in this lesson. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How are you and how are you feeling today? ➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week? ➤ Play all or a portion of the Schoolhouse Rock Video "We the People" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_NzZvdsbWI. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." ○ The Preamble states the goals and objectives of the forming of the US Government. It is an introduction for the rest of the Constitution and the laws and rights that go along with it. ➤ Discuss the video with the students, using the questions below to determine what they know. If it's helpful, write answers to the questions below on a whiteboard or chart paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What's the name of the document that is the basis for our government? (<i>The Constitution.</i>) ○ What does the Constitution do for the United States? (<i>It established America's national government and fundamental laws. It contains guiding beliefs for the country.</i>) ○ What do some of the articles listed in the Constitution discuss? (<i>The powers of the branches of government, relationship of the government and the states, the ability to add more to the constitution.</i>) ○ What do we have as Christians that is the "guiding principle" for our church? (<i>The creed of the church, also known as the Articles of Faith.</i>)

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

I wonder...

- What is a creed? (Catechism Q&A question 29)
- How are we like other Christian denominations? (Catechism Q&A question 36)

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- If students are not familiar with this topic, use the facts in this part of the lesson rather than just asking the questions.
- Be sure to explain to the students that the terms "New Apostolic creed" and "Articles of Faith" are the same thing.

- Ask if the students know what the definition of "creed". Explain to them that:
 - A creed is a set of fundamental beliefs or guiding principles.
 - A creed contains all the beliefs which the members of a particular religious denomination profess. It is by way of a creed that a religious denomination distinguishes itself from another. (Catechism Q&A question 29)

Student Question #1 What are the early church creeds that all Christian religions have in common?

- Early church creeds:
 - The first Christian creeds are called the "early church creeds". These creeds became necessary because there had been disputes about various contents of faith. (Catechism Q&A question 31).
 - The Apostolic Creed ("Apostolicum") was compiled between the 2nd and 4th century. (Catechism Q&A question 34)

Student Question #2 What is included in the New Apostolic creed in addition to the content of the early church creeds?

- The New Apostolic creed (Articles of Faith) builds upon the early church creeds.
 - What parts of the early church creeds are included in our New Apostolic creed? (*The first three Articles of Faith largely correspond to the Apostolic Creed.*)
 - What do the first three articles of faith include? (*They deal with the triune God – the Father, Jesus, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*)
 - What was added to the early church creeds to complete the New Apostolic creed? (*The activity of the apostles and other ministers (4 & 5), three sacraments (6, 7, 8), hope for the future (9), and Church's relationship to the authority of the state (10) (Catechism Q&A question 40)*)

- Universality: the quality or state of being present or occurring everywhere.
- Universality does not mean uniformity

Student Question #3 What do all Christian denominations have in common?

- Similarities between churches is called “universality”.
- The gospel is for all people. The one church of Jesus Christ is revealed in varying ways and to varying degrees in the New Apostolic Church and in the other Christian churches. (Catechism Q&A question 371)
- All Christians believe in the church of Christ. By “church” we don’t mean a physical building, but instead the group of people who are followers of Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 366)
- Universality among Christians includes:
 - The desire of God for all to be redeemed (or saved) from sin.
 - The commission of the church and people of the church to preach the gospel to all people.

Student Question #4 How do we differ from other Christian denominations?

- The multiplicity of Christian communities (denominations) has come about owing to varying interpretations of the gospel, as well as cultural, social, and historical differences. (Catechism Q&A question 407).
 - People and nations have differing cultural features owing to their way of life, their history, their experiences, their religious and political origins, their customs, their worldviews and convictions, etc.
- Other Christians believe in the apostles in the Bible but do not have living apostles.
- The apostle ministry brings clarity to the gospel and proclaims Christ’s message of salvation to the world.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with why we must understand our Creed and beliefs, linking it to our desire to help spread the gospel.

Close with the "I Wonder...." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder...." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe...." statement or an "I Believe....." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to surrendering themselves in belief in God.

I wonder...

- What is a creed?
- How are we like other Christian denominations?

I believe...

- A creed contains all the beliefs which the members of a particular religious denomination profess. It is by way of a creed that a religious denomination distinguishes itself from another. (Catechism Q&A question 29)
- Articles 1-3 constitute a binding element among all Christian denominations. (Catechism Q&A question 36)

Point to Ponder....

- Why is it important to have established and consistent belief statements (as a church, family, or even personally) ?

A Call to Action....

- This week, discuss your New Apostolic religion with a friend of a different religion and see what the two have in common.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

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References: Catechism Q&A questions 29, 31, 34-40, 366, 371, 407	

Read the Preamble to the US Constitution and discuss with the group. WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

1. What are the early church creeds that all Christian religions have in common?

2. What is included in the New Apostolic creed in addition to the content of the early church creeds?

3. What do all Christian denominations have in common?

4. How do we differ from other Christian denominations?

Point to Ponder: Why is it important to have established and consistent belief statements (as a church, family, or even personally) ?

Call to Action: This week, discuss your New Apostolic religion with a friend of a different religion and see what the two have in common.