



ACTIVITY 5

A Summary of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY

Age Level: All ages

Recommended time: 15 minutes

What you need: The Apostles' Creed (**page 13** in the children's activity book)

What you need to know before you begin:

In addition to trusting, the word *faith* includes all the things revealed to us by God that we believe. These truths are summarized for us in creeds. The word *creed* comes from the Latin word *credo*, which means "I believe." Creeds are summaries of our faith that gather together the essential truths that we profess.

One creed has a special place in the life of the Church: the Apostles' Creed. Although not written by the Apostles themselves, it contains the most important truths of our Catholic Faith that God wants us to believe – to have faith in. There are 12 doctrines (or articles) that make up the Apostles' Creed:

1. God the Father, Creator
2. Jesus Christ, only Son
3. Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit, birth from the Virgin Mary
4. Jesus' Passion, death, and burial
5. His descent into hell and Resurrection
6. Ascension and Glory of Christ
7. Judgment of all the living and the dead
8. Holy Spirit
9. Holy Catholic Church; Communion of Saints
10. Forgiveness of sins
11. Resurrection of the body
12. Life everlasting

Activity

- A. Discuss the content above with your children at an age appropriate level. Help them understand what a creed is as well as the purpose of the Apostles' Creed.
- B. Have your children turn to **The Apostles' Creed (page 13 in the children's activity book)**. For younger children, read the Apostles' Creed aloud so they begin to become familiar with it. For older children, go over with your children the 12 articles of the Creed. You may wish to have them underline each of the 12 articles.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. AMEN.



Connection to the Catechism

The Apostles' Creed is so called because it is rightly considered to be a faithful summary of the apostles' faith. It is the ancient baptismal symbol of the Church of Rome. Its great authority arises from this fact: it is "the Creed of the Roman Church, the See of Peter the first of the apostles, to which he brought the common faith". (CCC 194)