

Apostle's Creed Study in the English Language



The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father, almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to 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 communions of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed is not part of the Bible, but is a summary of the teachings of the Christian church. The twelve statements in this Confession of Faith date back to the first centuries and still retain their simplicity, beauty and truth.

Each statement is studied individually with Bible texts and questions. The following pages can be used for individual study or to promote a discussion in group studies.

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Let "**Each One, Teach One**" be our motto and "**God's Glory**" be our goal.

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 1

I. I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

1. Read the story of creation as it is recorded in Genesis, Chapters 1 and 2.
2. Read what God says to the Israelites in Isaiah 40:6-31.
3. Read how God answers the doubts of a child of God in Job chapters 38-41.
4. Read how God feels about those who do not worship Him as Creator in Romans 1:18-25.

Questions:

1. Genesis requires only an average level of intelligence to understand and only a childlike faith to believe. Why then do some people find the creation story so difficult to accept? Read also I Corinthians 1:18-31.
2. Since God is so great, so powerful, so self-sufficient, why does He concern Himself with mankind? See also I Peter 3:8-10.
3. Using Job as an example of God's disciplinary trials, should our response in a similar situation be one of rebellion, reasonings and questionings, or submission? Read Job chapters 1 and 2. Reread 2:9-10.
4. What is the sin in this text and how does God react to it?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 2

II. And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord.

1. Read how Jesus' birth was foretold in Luke 1:26-38 and then the actual incarnation in Luke 2:1-20.
2. Read how Jesus explains His oneness with God the Father in John 20:17 and verses 28-29.
3. Read Romans 8:1-4 to see the relationship between God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.
4. Read John 1:1-5 to see the divine and eternal attributes of Jesus.

Questions:

1. Compare Micah 5:2 which was written hundreds of years before the birth of Christ with the New Testament story.
2. What promise does Jesus give anyone who accepts Him as Savior and Lord?
3. How does verse 3 clear up any question about who Jesus is or why He came to earth?
4. What does this text reveal about the equality of the Father and the Son?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 3

III. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.

1. Read what the gospel of Matthew adds to Luke's story of the conception of Jesus in Matthew 1:18-25.
2. Read in Hebrews 4:14-15 and Luke 2:41-52 how Jesus kept His Godly nature even as He lived on earth.
3. Read Isaiah 9:6-7 and Isaiah 7:13-14 and compare the Old Testament prophecy of Christ's birth with the New Testament revelation.
4. Read Jude verses 17-23 to see what influence the Holy Spirit has in the Christians' lives.

Questions:

1. What was Joseph going to do when he found out Mary was pregnant, and what did he do?
2. What feelings do you have as you realize that Jesus is our Mediator before the Father, and that He lived on earth with all of its problems just like you and me?
3. Why is the concept that Jesus must be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin so important to Christians?
4. What then should be the Christian's response?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 4

IV. Suffered under Pontious Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, He descended into hell.

1. Read the story of the arrest, trial, crucifixion and burial of Jesus in John, chapters 18 and 19.
2. Read Matthew 26:52-54 to find the reason why Jesus didn't fight back.
3. Read Hebrews 2:14-17 to understand why Jesus had to die.
4. Read in Matthew 27:45-46 and Luke 22:39-44 how Jesus suffered the pangs of hell as the Father totally deserted Him.

Questions:

1. Was Jesus ever found guilty? Did the punishment fit the crime? (For whose crime was He punished?)
2. Also read John 12:27 to see His total commitment. What was the reason He came?
3. Who are Abraham's descendants in Hebrews 2:16 and why was death necessary?
4. What are some of the pangs of hell that Jesus suffered and why was this necessary?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 5

V. The third day He rose again from the dead.

1. Read the story of Jesus' resurrection in John 20.
2. Read how the Apostle Paul explains the resurrection in I Corinthians 15.
3. Read how the Christians will be made alive in Christ in Ephesians 2:1-7.
4. Read what your reward will be when you are resurrected as Paul relates in Colossians 3:1-4.

Questions:

1. How did Jesus prove He had power over death?
2. What comfort can a Christian find in the resurrection of the dead?
3. Since all people, through their sinful nature had merited only the anguish of hell, explain what verse 5 means to you.
4. Of all people on earth, why do only Christians have a right to be happy?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 6

VI. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

1. Read the ascension story as it is related in the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 1:1-11.
2. Read that Christ is in heaven for our interest and benefit in Hebrews 9:24-28.
3. Read Hebrews 4:14-16 to find out why we should have a confident attitude and live a grateful life.
4. Read I John 2:1 to understand what Jesus is doing in heaven.
5. Read Ephesians 2:1-9 to see how our eternal life with Christ is a gift of grace and cannot be earned.

Questions:

1. What was the Holy Spirit's baptism that Jesus promised the disciples, and how does it compare with Acts 2:1-41?
2. Why was one sacrifice sufficient?
3. Why may we pray with confidence to Almighty God?
4. Does being a Christian mean we will not sin?
5. Compare to Galatians 4:1-7. Does this make obedience to the Great Commission "Go Ye" easier?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 7

VII. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

1. Read Philippians 3 to see what the goal of every Christian should be.
2. Read Titus 2 to see how the Christian should live while we are waiting for Jesus Christ to return.
3. Read I Thessalonians 4:13-18 to see what the Scripture says about Jesus' return.
4. Read the parables that Jesus relates in Matthew 25.
5. Read II Thessalonians 1:3-10 to learn about God's justice.

Questions:

1. How should the Christian feel when he reads verse 20 and realizes that Jesus is his Creator, Savior, and Judge?
2. What is the Christian's blessed hope?
3. Compare to Revelation 1:7 to see the different feelings of all who will witness Christ's return.
4. What are some of Jesus' requirements for salvation?
5. Since all men are sinful, and all sin must be punished, how shall Christians escape?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 8

VIII. I believe in the Holy Spirit.

1. Read Galatians 4:4-7 again to see how the Spirit has changed slaves of sin into children of God.
2. Read II Corinthians 1:20-22 which shows what methods God uses to help His children stand firm in their faith.
3. Read Ephesians 1:13-14 to see how God fulfills our call to faith through the operation of the Holy Spirit.
4. Read I Peter 1:1-2 to see how God chooses His own.

Questions:

1. What is the Christian redeemed from? What will he be redeemed to?
2. Compare with Psalm 1. How does a Christian respond to the Holy Spirit's urgings?
3. What comfort does the Holy Spirit give us now and for eternity?
4. How does Romans 8:18-27 show the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit on those who are chosen?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 9

IX. I believe a holy catholic church, the communion of saints.

1. Read Genesis 26:1-6 to see when the catholic, or universal, church was first prophesied?
2. Read Acts 10 where we learn that Jesus Christ is Lord of all and non-Jews can also become part of the Kingdom of God.
3. Read I Corinthians 12 to understand that the church of Jesus Christ is one body but has many parts.
4. Read Ephesians 4:1-16 and learn how the body of Christ grows and builds itself up in love.

Questions:

1. Who were the Old Testament "Chosen People"?
2. How is Genesis 26:4 fulfilled in Acts 10?
3. How does using all of our different gifts to God's glory make for a happier communion of the saints?
4. Why is unity within the body of Christ so important if every Christian's goal is praise to God?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 10

X. The forgiveness of sins.

1. Read I John 1:7 and I John 2:1-2 to know what happens when a Christian falls into sin.
2. Read Romans 7:21-25 to see that even a saved Christian must fight against a sinful human nature.
3. Read Romans 3:21-28, Galatians 2:15-16 and Hebrews 11 where we learn that we are justified through faith by God's grace and not by our works.
4. Read Micah 7:18-19 to understand how our forgiveness was planned hundreds of years before the birth of Christ.

Questions:

1. How does our redemption take place?
2. Why must every Christian ask for forgiveness of sins every day?
3. By what process are my sins moved from my sinful self to Christ's sinless self?
4. What feelings do you have when you see the Old and New Testaments so perfectly matched?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 11

XI. The resurrection of the body.

1. Read Luke 16:19-31 in which Jesus explains some details of life after death.
2. Read Philippians 1:21-24 to know how Paul felt about life and death.
3. Read Revelation 20:11-15 to see how we all will be judged.
4. Read I John 3:1-3 to help you grasp the great difference between Christian and non-Christian thought.
5. Read I Corinthians 2:6-9 to help you understand what is in store for the Christian.

Questions:

1. According to this parable, will there be recognition of and feelings for our earthly loved ones?
2. What should a Christian feel about leaving this life and entering eternity?
3. Read also Psalm 139. Do you find it condemning or comforting that God knows our thoughts as well as our deeds?.
4. Why does not everyone repent of their sins and come to Jesus for forgiveness? See also Matthew 24:36-40.
5. Will God's personal presence be the real glory?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Apostle's Creed Study - Lesson 12

XII. And the Life everlasting. Amen.

1. Read II Corinthians 5:1-6 to better understand our heavenly home.
2. Read Revelation 22 and try to picture with your finite mind what is in store for us.
3. Read Matthew 6:9-13 where Jesus instructs His disciples how to pray.
4. Read I Corinthians 1:1 8-20 and Revelation 22:21-22 to see how the word "Amen" is used.

Questions

1. What should our attitude be of our earthly home and possessions?
2. What should this symbolic glimpse of our heavenly home do for our life on earth?
3. In the prayer that Jesus taught, does a condition where the Father's Name is perfectly hallowed and His will is perfectly done help you to foresee heaven?
4. Since Amen in the original tongue meant true, faithful, and certain, what should John's eyewitness account in Revelation do for us and to us?

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Apostle's Creed Study

Therefore ...

Having studied God's Word, is this a good time for self-examination? What is your relationship to Jesus Christ? As 1 Timothy 3:14-17 states, Scripture is useful for many things, but according to James 2:19, knowledge of God's Word does not guarantee salvation.

To become a child of God, one must progress through these stages:

1. Knowledge of sin. Read Luke 18:9-14; 1 Samuel 1:1 and 12:1-13; Romans 3:10-12.
2. Acceptance of salvation. Read Ephesians 2:1-9; Mark 16:16; John 20:24-28.
3. Public profession and works of gratitude. Read Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 23:39-43; James 2:26; Isaiah 6:8.

Read and meditate on these topics and texts and then offer a prayer of penitence, asking Jesus Christ to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

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A Note from the Author of the Apostle's Creed Study Guide

To those seeking the Apostle's Creed Study Guide:

Much of my life was spent teaching sixth graders at Lynden Christian School (Lynden, WA). I soon realized that we needed to communicate. You can't teach them if you can't reach them. After retirement, I began visiting seamen when ships came into port. What a challenge! They were of many cultures and languages, and I speak only English. To solve this communication problem, I wrote a Study of the Apostle's Creed--full of Bible verses and very basic. I then had it translated into thirty different languages and put into bi-lingual booklets, and English with each of the others. Copies have been sent to many mission stations and to all the Seamen's centers around the world. The Lord has blessed this venture beyond our wildest dreams.

Remember..... If you wish to make copies to distribute, I give my permission. I am the owner of the copyright to the translated text in these files.

God Bless,

Les Hendricks
Lynden WA 98264 USA
E-mail: hendlesa@juno.com

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