

THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE

UNIT 1 COMMUNITY BUILDING

Lesson 2

The Apostle's Creed

Unit 1 Lesson 2

Building Community

Praying the Apostle's Creed

Lesson Overview

Introduce the **Apostle's Creed** as a mentor text. Discuss the meaning and purpose of the prayer.

Duration: 60-80 min total (2 class periods)

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Religious Education:

Fundamental Concept BL2: The Creed as a Summary of Catholic Belief and a Profession of Faith.

Gr 5 - BL2.2: Compare the professions of faith found in the Apostle's Creed to those of the Nicene Creed to identify Catholic beliefs that are professed in only one of the two Creeds.

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

The Catholic Social Teachings evident in this lesson include:

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations evident in this lesson include:

A Discerning Believer Formed in the Catholic Faith Community who:

CGE1a: illustrates a basic understanding of the saving story of our Christian faith

GUIDING QUESTIONS (coming out of the Big Idea)

Big Idea:

- The Creed is an authoritative summary of the central beliefs of the Christian faith (e.g. Trinity, Incarnation, the Virgin Mary, Communion of Saints, forgiveness of sin, resurrection, final judgment and eternal life).

Scripture Passages:

- Eph. 4:3-5; 1 Cor. 10:17; John 10:16

LEARNING GOALS

At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:

- Pray and understand the Apostle's Creed.

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Success Criteria, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the “look-fors”) in relation to curriculum expectations.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT

Terminology:

- Incarnation, the Virgin Mary
- Communion of Saints
- forgiveness of sin
- resurrection
- final judgment
- eternal life
- Trinity

Note:

‘He descended into hell’
Like all human beings, Jesus experienced death. He descended into hell as Saviour, freeing the just souls who had gone before him. (see Catechism of the Catholic Church Nos. 631-636)

Materials:

- Apostle’s Creed (full and cut into sections)
- Chart Paper
- Markers (1 per student)

Prep: Write or cut and paste sections of the Apostle’s Creed on chart paper

Internet Resources:

- Teenagers reciting the Apostle’s Creed
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLU9RP5khyQ>

Resources:

- Apostle’s Creed and Sample End of the Day Prayer (*Appendices 1 and 2*)
- What is the difference between the Nicene and Apostle’s Creed? (*Appendix 3*)
<http://catholicstraightanswers.com/what-is-the-difference-between-the-apostles-creed-and-the-nicene-creed/>

MINDS ON

- Establishing a positive learning environment
- Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences
- Setting the context for learning

Watch the video of teenagers reciting the Apostle’s Creed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLU9RP5khyQ>

Where have you heard this prayer before?

What is this prayer about?

Why do you think the students repeated certain words or sections of the prayer?

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ACTION

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided → independent)

Split students into mixed ability groups

Activity: students work in groups with their section of the Creed on chart paper; write everything they know or understand about their section, graffiti style, on their chart paper; post charts around the classroom; gallery walk; students may add to the charts.

Teacher directs conversation around the room, looking at each section of the prayer to discern the real meaning with the students.

Watch the 2 minute video “*Ignite Your Faith: What is a Creed?*”

<http://www.archmil.org/c4video/C4-14.htm>

Compare the text of the Apostle’s Creed to that of the Nicene Creed. (*see Appendix 3*)

CONSOLIDATION

- Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection
- Helping students demonstrate what they have learned

Using the Apostle’s Creed as a mentor text, have students brainstorm ideas for their own class prayer.

- This prayer can be said daily (end of the day, before recess, after lunch, etc.).
- Work collaboratively to create a short prayer that incorporates your school’s theme, messages, etc.

CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Further extensions to this lesson might include:

- Annotate a copy of the Apostle’s Creed for students to keep on file in their religion notebook/duotang/scrap book
- Write your own version of the Apostle’s Creed explaining what the prayer means to you

APPENDIX 1

The Apostle's 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,
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

APPENDIX 2

Sample End of the Day Prayer

Thank you, God, for our school and for all of the staff and students here.
Thank you for all of the blessings you have given us today.
Be with us as we journey home.
Please keep us safe and watch over our families and friends.
Help us to be the change in the world. Amen.

APPENDIX 3

The Apostle's 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,
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.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven:

And by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried,

And rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the
Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, holy,
Catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.