



RCIC PROGRAMME

Unit 6 - THE CREED



What do Catholics believe?

AIMS

1. To reflect on what Catholics believe in and become more familiar with what we profess in our Creed.
2. To reflect on ways how our Faith can grow.



KEY WORDS

- Creed
- Faith
- Believe
- Articles of Faith

INTRODUCTION

- Recap some of the main points from previous sessions.
- Introduce this session's objective. Elicit the fact that as Christians we have a basic set of beliefs that drive our actions and behaviour. We call this set of beliefs 'The Creed'.

MAIN

- Look at or read through the Apostles' or the Nicæan Creed (Prayer Book - Page 14). Explain that this is a list showing what we believe. Explain that sometimes these things we believe in are called 'articles of faith'. We recite the Creed every Sunday at Mass. It helps us understand and be able to explain what we believe.
- Using Part A of Worksheet 6, invite children to provide examples of one of the 'articles' in the Creed and lead a group discussion to ensure they understand what each means. For each article suggest a caption children can write and a simple symbol they can draw. Examples of this can include:
 - a. One God: Eternal, not created. (draw picture of the number 1)
 - b. Father: Creator of everything. (can't draw image of God but can draw picture of symbols such as cloud or finger of God etc which are images or words used in the Bible)
 - c. Son: JESUS the son of God who became a human like us. (draw picture of Jesus or Cross)
 - d. Holy Spirit: Gives us Gifts to lead a good life. (draw picture of flame of fire or a dove)
 - e. The Holy Catholic Church: Community of all the people who believe in Jesus and follow him. (draw picture of church building and people)
 - f. Communion of Saints: Everyone who follows Jesus. (draw picture of Jesus surrounded by other good people)
 - g. Forgiveness of Sins: God can forgive our sins (draw the word SIN crossed out)
 - h. Resurrection of the body: We rise again after death. (draw picture of Jesus' empty tomb)
 - i. Life Everlasting: We are called to live forever in heaven. (draw picture of radiant cross)
- **Talk about meaning of each of the above** as the session progresses. *Example:* One God; the Holy Trinity etc. (Avoid including other ideas that are not strictly related to the creed. Children may suggest other things such as the Bible, prayer etc. Stick to articles of the Creed in this session)
- Move on to Part B of the Worksheet. Explain that although we formally become Christians when we are baptised, we should carry on doing things in order that our Faith can grow. Talk about Mark 9: 24 'I believe; help my lack of faith'. Discuss: what can we do to make our faith grow? Discuss examples provided by children.

RESOURCES

- Prayer Book - The Creed
- Images related to articles of faith (*Example:* Picture of Jesus, dove or flame as an image of the Holy Spirit, etc)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

- Create a prayerful atmosphere and possibly play some background quiet music.
- Together read out the Creed (See PRAYER BOOK) as a final profession of our Christian Faith.

NOTES

See www.sdc.me.uk/resources for a PowerPoint presentation on the Creed.

ACTIVITY

- Review ideas provided by children and allow them to start writing about them and draw pictures in Part B of worksheet. (*Example:* Growing our Faith by praying more; Reading the Bible; Paying attention at mass, etc)
- Remind children to complete all parts of the Worksheet at home. They should also write their own prayer about growing faith in the space provided.