

NAME _____

Confirmation Independent Study/Make-up Lesson

01: Intro to the Apostles Creed / God the Father

1. The Apostles' Creed is named after Jesus' apostles. Apostles were disciples sent by Jesus to make more disciples. What they taught is summarized in the Creed. Everything in it is from the Bible, so we consider it God's Word for us--our core beliefs sorted into three parts, or "articles of faith" concerning God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Think about all the different things people may or may not believe. What about you? (*Check all that apply.*)
 - I believe that Bigfoot, or Yeti, is real.
 - I believe Tattoos are cool, and I want one.
 - I believe Justin Beber is truly talented.
 - I believe cheating is always wrong.
 - I believe ghosts are real.
 - I believe most politicians are honest.
 - I believe that the U.S.A. is the greatest nation ever
 - b. Do your best to answer this question: Why are beliefs about God important?

2. What follows is from Luther's Small Catechism:

The First Article: Creation

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

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

From Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, www.cph.org

- a. What is it about God that motivates Him to supply our needs? _____
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b. What is our response to God supposed to be? _____

3. Read Hebrews 11:3.

a. Did God make the universe out of matter that already existed? _____

b. How do we understand that the universe was formed by God's command? _____

4. Read Romans 1:18-25.

a. How would people know about God's invisible qualities? _____

b. Define the word, "suppress." _____

c. What are people guilty of suppressing? _____

d. What is God's attitude toward godlessness, or refusing to thank and glorify Him as creator?

e. What consequence does God give to those who worship created things rather than the creator? _____

5. The devil, or Satan, is a deceiver (John 8:44). He tells lies about God. Listed below there is a list of different types of lies that He likes to get people to believe about God. In the blank lines beside each lie, write a number from 1 to 5 to show how common you think it is for other people in the world to believe each of the lies about God (1=not commonly believed about God; 5=very commonly believed about God; remember this is about *what you think others believe*; not *what you yourself believe*):

_____ **The Absent Parent** (God has abandoned people and left them on their own to figure out how to cope and survive in this world.)

_____ **The Demanding Parent** (God demands perfect obedience and high performance from people, and has contempt for those who do not measure up to his standards.)

_____ **The Abusive Parent** (God likes to inflict physical and emotional pain on people.)

_____ **The Passive Parent** (God generally wants everybody to be good but doesn't get involved or do anything about it when people aren't good, no matter who gets hurt.)

6. Read Hebrews 12:5-13.

a. Who does God discipline? _____

b. Put a check by all the things that are true about God's discipline:

- God disciplines because He is mean.
- God disciplines us because he wants us to share in his holiness.
- God's discipline is not pleasant when we are going through it.
- God's discipline is easy to deal with.
- God's discipline results in strength, peace, and right living.
- God does not discipline people who are not his children.
- God's discipline for us can come through any difficulty or hardship we experience in life.

7. Read Hebrews 12:9.

a. Who is the father of your spirit? _____

b. Who is the father of your body? _____

8. Read Luke 15:11-32 (The Parable of the Lost Son).

a. Why did the younger son feel like he was no longer worthy to be called his Father's son?

b. How did the Father respond when he saw the younger son returning to Him? _____

c. How did the older son feel about his younger brother when he returned? _____

d. What is the Lord Jesus showing you from this parable? _____

9. Read John 1:17-18.

a. Who reveals the Father to us? _____

b. What is the difference between Moses and Jesus? _____

10. Read John 1:12-13.

a. To whom does God give the right to become His children? _____

b. Is being a child of God something that is *natural*, or *supernatural*? (Circle what you think.)

11. Read 1 John 3:1-3.

a. What motivates God to make us his children? _____

b. You are called a "child of God." Is this a *fact* about who and what you are, or a *figure of speech* that may be a nice thought, but isn't real?

Circle one: FACT FIGURE OF SPEECH

c. Check the statement below that you think best explains this statement: "we children of God will be like Christ the Son of God when he appears at the end of the age:"

We will be souls without real bodies, floating around in clouds singing hymns and playing harps.

We will be ourselves but with fantastic, glorious bodies, and we won't have any insecurities or fears, because we will feel completely one with God.

12. *Identity* is the condition of being identified with a specific person or thing. A person's identity enables others to know who they are and with whom they belong.

a. What are some slang labels you have heard used to identify kids who play sports, play an instrument, make straight A's, play video games, listen to a certain kind of music, dress a certain way, etc. _____

b. Do you identify with any of those labels? What do you like or dislike about some of them?

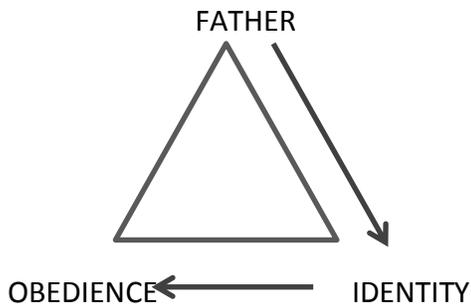
c. Draw a circle to show whether you *agree* or *disagree* with this statement: A person who has a strong sense of identity is also more secure with himself/herself.

AGREE DISAGREE

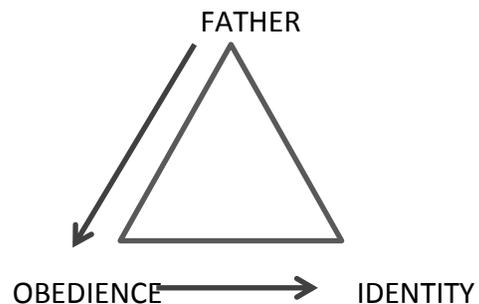
d. In your opinion is it easy or hard to have an identity as a Christian? (Explain your answer) _____

13. We use “the Identity Triangle” to help illustrate the proper relationship between knowing God as Father, your identity as His child, and the obedience you show. Put a check mark in box next to the picture below which illustrates the correct “flow” of the relationship:

Our obedience to God flows out of our identity as His child, being secure in His love and acceptance, and wanting to give him glory.



Our identity as God’s child flows out of our obedience to Him, because we don’t deserve to be called his children unless we first obey Him.



14. Watch this video on your computer: <http://fathersloveletter.com/video.html>

_____ Put your initials in the blank to show that you watched the full six minute video.