

NAME _____

Confirmation Independent Study/Make-up Lesson

Apostles Creed: God the Son

1. Review:

- a. Fill in the blanks to the first article of the creed:

I believe in God the _____, _____ of heaven and earth.

- b. The theme or subject of the first article is *C* _____.

- c. TRUE or FALSE By studying how the universe is designed, we can know there must be a Creator, but we cannot know whether He cares about us individually and personally.

2. Read John 1:17-18. Who is the only one who can let us know how God feels about us? Why?

3. Read what follows from Luther's Small Catechism (especially the "What does this mean?" part) and answer the questions below:

The Second Article: Redemption

And [I believe] 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

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

- a. Define innocent -- _____

- b. Define redeem -- _____

- c. Define condemned -- _____

- d. Define reign -- _____

- e. TRUE or FALSE If anyone believes that Jesus was only a historical figure like other famous people, but not truly God in human form, then they cannot live in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting blessedness.
- f. TRUE or FALSE Living under Jesus in his kingdom means being or becoming innocent of sin.
- g. TRUE or FALSE If a person believes he or she has been redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ that person is under the power of the devil.
- h. Below are different synonyms for "Lord." Circle the one you like the best, or think of another synonym you like:
Boss Owner Coach Director Master Commander (other) _____
- i. If Jesus is your Lord, how will this affect the way you make decisions? _____

4. Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

- a. Is it easy to believe that Jesus, who walked on earth some 2,000 years ago, was tempted in every way, just as you are? _____ Why or why not? _____

- b. In your opinion, have technological advances changed anything about how temptation happens for people? _____ Explain. _____

- c. Why can you trust the Lord Jesus Christ to help you when your faith is being tested?

- d. Was Jesus human? _____ Did he sin? _____
- e. Write your thoughts about this: If Jesus can be human without sin, does that mean that you can be a human being without sin? If not, then why? If so, then how and when?

5. Match each part of the 2nd Article of the Creed with its corresponding bible passage. The *italicized* words in the passages give a clue about which phrase to match it with.

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|--|--|
| ___ And [I believe] | a. The angel said, "You will be with child and give <i>birth</i> to a son."
"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a <i>virgin</i> ?"
(Luke 1:31, 34) |
| ___ in Jesus Christ, | b. <i>Pilate</i> took Jesus and had him flogged (John 19:1). |
| ___ His only Son, | c. " <i>Believe</i> in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31). |
| ___ our Lord, | d. From [the people of Israel] is traced the human ancestry of the
<i>Christ</i> , who is God over all (Romans 9:5). |
| ___ who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit, | e. <i>For us</i> there is but one <i>Lord</i> , Jesus Christ, through whom all
things came and through whom we live (1 Corinthians 8:6). |
| ___ born of the Virgin
Mary, | f. "It is the <i>third day</i> since all this took place (Luke 24: 21)." |
| ___ suffered under Pontius
Pilate, | g. The soldiers found that Jesus was already <i>dead</i> (John 19:32). |
| ___ was crucified, | h. "What is <i>conceived</i> in Mary is <i>from the Holy Spirit</i> (Matthew
1:20)." |
| ___ died | i. They will have to give an account to him who is ready to <i>judge</i>
<i>the living and the dead</i> (1 Peter 4:5). |
| ___ and was buried. | j. For God so loved the world that he gave <i>his one and only Son</i> , . . .
(John 3:16). |
| ___ He descended into hell
[=Hades]. | k. After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was <i>taken up into</i>
<i>heaven and he sat at the right hand of God</i> (Mark 16:19). |
| ___ The third day He rose
again from the dead. | l. David spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not
abandoned "to the grave [=Hades]" nor did his body see decay
(Acts 2:31). |
| ___ He ascended into
heaven and sits at the
right hand of God, the
Father Almighty. | m. Joseph of Arimathea placed the body in a <i>tomb</i> cut out of the
rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance (Mark 15:46). |
| ___ From there He will
come to judge the
living and the dead. | n. It was the third hour when they <i>crucified</i> him (Mark 15:25). |

6. TRUE or FALSE The second article of the Creed is God's Word for us because it summarizes information from God's Word, the Bible, without adding anything not in the Bible.

7. Read Luke 1:1-4. This is the introduction to Luke's Gospel. Put a check beside each true statement below:

a. TRUE or FALSE Things that Jesus said and did were being passed on by word of mouth for many years after he was crucified, raised, and taken into heaven.

b. TRUE or FALSE Luke wanted to write about the most sensational things he could find about Jesus because he wanted to be a famous author.

c. TRUE or FALSE Luke was careful to include eyewitness accounts about Jesus.

8. On the left hand are some common lies about Christianity. Match each lie with the facts or argument from the right hand column that best refutes the lie:

___ The things written in the New Testament have little historical value.

___ Because many ancient non-Christian writers of the first century did not mention Jesus, this shows that he did not exist.

___ Christianity was made up by people with wishful thinking who mixed together their Jewish experience and myths from other religions.

a. Jesus chose twelve disciples specifically to serve as eyewitnesses of his teaching and miracles, and of his death and resurrection. Ten of these were cruelly tortured and killed because they would not deny their conviction that Jesus had come back alive after having been dead in the tomb. They wouldn't suffer and die for something they knew was untrue.

b. Names, places, and events mentioned in the New Testament are consistent with ancient records, writings, and artifacts found by archeologists.

c. Things described in the Gospels are mentioned by the Jewish historian, Josephus, and in the Jewish Mishnah (part of the Talmud). Two of the most important Roman historians of the first century, Tacitus and Suetonius, mention the followers Christ in Rome.

9. Read John 5:17, and John 10:27-33. Why did the Jewish leaders want to kill Jesus? _____

10. Read John 15:18-25.

a. How should we expect the world to feel about Jesus? _____

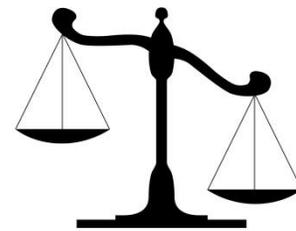
b. How should we expect the world to feel about us if we belong to Jesus? _____

c. What reasons do you think people might have for hating Jesus? _____

11. C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) became an atheist when he was young. Later, when he tried to show how Christianity was false, the opposite happened—he became a convinced believer! Read what he wrote in the box, and then write down the three choices he says we have when we hear that Jesus claimed to be God: Either Jesus is a [1] _____, or [2] _____, or [3] _____.

“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn’t be a great moral teacher, he’d either be a lunatic—on the level with a man who says he’s a poached egg—or else he’d be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. . . . But don’t let us come up with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He hasn’t left that open to us. He didn’t intend to.”
C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

12. 1 John 2:2 says, “Jesus Christ the Righteous One is the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.” That means that the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is what balances the scales with God. Read the following paragraph, and then label the scale to show that you have understood what you have read:



Imagine a scale . On one side of the scale are gathered the sins of

the entire human race, from Adam until now, and the condemnation of God against these sins. On the other side is placed the death of Christ. But suppose Christ were not God and only a man, and that when he sacrificed himself it was only his singular human righteousness balancing against the sins of the world. The weight of the sins of the entire human race would far outweigh the righteousness of one person. But if on the other side were placed the suffering of God, the death of God, the blood of God, or that God had suffered for us and had died, then that side of the scale would become heavier and more weighty than all sins and all the wrath of God against sin. Moreover, in order that God might be able to suffer and die, it was necessary that He become a human being, for God in His own nature cannot die. But because both God and man are now one person in Christ, we can rightly speak of the death of God, when that man died with whom God is one person.

Write in the letters A, B, or C, to show which two items belong on the scale and where:

- A. The righteousness, suffering, and blood of a Christ who is only human.
- B. The righteousness, suffering, and blood of a Christ who is God and human.
- C. The cruelty, pain, sickness, and false worship of the whole human race.

13. If you were to die, would you be sure that you would have eternal life? _____

Why? _____

14. Read 2 Corinthians 5:19.

a. Define "reconcile" as it is used in this passage: _____

b. Who did the work of reconciliation? _____

c. Why did reconciliation need to happen? _____

15. What are some ways you think people might try to "balance the scales" with God when they are feeling guilty?
