

Family Discussion Guide

Session 1 – Apostles’ Creed, Article 1

Week 1 – Readings, Prayers and Discussion Questions

*Use this sheet with your family members and keep it someplace near the dinner table, like on the fridge. At least two times this week at dinner or another time that fits your family schedule, use **Prayer Time** and one **Bible Reading** to make your confirmation learning come alive!*

Prayer Time

Begin by discussing the people and circumstances you wish to bring to God in prayer. Pray for those concerns as they arise. At other times you may wish to pray this prayer:

Gracious Father, all that we have is an unearned and unmerited gift from you. Grant that we are not selfish with what we have been given and that we might be better at helping you to take care of your creation. We ask all of this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Bible Readings

During this week, read the passages listed below and discuss the questions listed after them.

Reading and Discussion Time 1:

Genesis Chapters 1 & 2

Discuss:

- What amazes you most about creation?
- God didn’t just wind up the world and let it go. How does God still care and provide for you?
- When was the last time you just stopped and thanked God for the beauty of his creation?

This week, make an intentional effort to challenge each family member to not only recognize the beauty of God’s creation, but to look at the beauty around you and talk about it in your family time.

Reading and Discussion Time 2:

Psalm 136

Discuss:

- Parents, take time to reflect on this reading and talk to your child about when they came into the family. Share with them how special they are to you – and how special they are to God.

Memory Assignment (Optional)

Each day during the week read and discuss the assigned Bible verse and Article of the Apostles' Creed so that by the end of the week the words are memorized and the meaning known.

Assigned for this week are:

Colossians 1:16

*Small Catechism, page 110, Passage #328 (you may read this passage directly from the Bible, or look for it in your *Small Catechism* at the location listed above)*

First Article of the Apostles' Creed

Small Catechism, page 15, bold section

(NOTE: although it is not expected that the explanation of the First Article will be memorized, please read through it each time you read through the First Article so that its meaning is clearly understood.)

Random Acts of Kindness

*During this month, as a family, find **ONE** way to show your faith to someone else by helping them in a small, unexpected way. Some suggestions are:*

- Arm yourselves with rakes and head over to a neighbor's yard to do some fall clean up. Elderly or homebound neighbors are always appreciative of this kind of unexpected help.
- Buy an extra bag of groceries with the "staples" in it and take it to a local food pantry to help others in need. You might even ask if there's a little something you can do at the pantry to help out – stock shelves, bag groceries, etc.
- Prepare a meal for a neighbor, friend, or family member who has been experiencing some difficulty. When you drop off the meal, plan to stay a few minutes to converse – who knows, you might be their only visitor that week – and what a blessing that could be for both of you.
- Or – make your own "random act of kindness" and let us know what you did. Maybe it will be something someone else might like to do in the future.

Parents, remember to record on your Parent Report Form the progress of your student. This report should be brought back with the child to the next class session.

Family Discussion Guide

Apostles' Creed, Article 2

Week 2 Readings, Prayers and Discussion Questions

*Use this sheet with your family members and keep it someplace near the dinner table, like on the fridge. At least two times this week at dinner or another time that fits your family schedule, use **Prayer Time** and one **Bible Reading** to make your confirmation learning come alive! Don't forget to finish your time by reciting the assigned **Bible Memory Verses** and the **First Article of the Apostles' Creed**.*

Prayer Time

Invite God into your gathering by celebrating and lifting up the people and circumstances that dwell deep in your heart this week. Pray this prayer together:

Lord, you died for our sins. Grant that we might be better witnesses to your amazing grace so we might share the Good News with others. Make us instruments of your peace in a violent and broken world. And give to us the wisdom and the strength to work your will. In your loving name we pray. Amen.

Bible Readings

During this week, read the passages listed below and discuss the questions listed after them.

Reading and Discussion Time 1:

Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:12-21

Discuss:

- How is what Moses did and what Jesus did similar? (Compare the actions of the people who were bitten by a snake to us being bitten by sin and how they looked to the pole where we look to the cross!)

Reading and Discussion Time 2:

Luke 2:1-20

Discuss:

- What is the most challenging thing Mary & Joseph faced?
- How is the message of the angel in verses 10-11 also a message for us to hold on to when we are frightened and challenged?

Memory Assignment (Optional)

Each day during the week read and discuss the assigned Bible verse and Article of the Apostles' Creed so that by the end of the week the words are memorized and the meaning known.

Assigned for this week are:

John 3:16

*Small Catechism, page 107, Passage #313 (you may read this passage directly from the Bible, or look for it in your *Small Catechism* at the location listed above)*

Second Article of the Apostles' Creed *Small Catechism, page 16, bold section*

(NOTE: although it is not expected that the explanation of the First Article will be memorized, please read through it each time you read through the First Article so that its meaning is clearly understood.)

Random Acts of Kindness

*During this month, as a family, find **ONE** way to show your faith to someone else by helping them in a small, unexpected way. Some suggestions are:*

- Arm yourselves with rakes and head over to a neighbor's yard to do some fall clean up. Elderly or homebound neighbors are always appreciative of this kind of unexpected help.
- Buy an extra bag of groceries with the "staples" in it and take it to a local food pantry to help others in need. You might even ask if there's a little something you can do at the pantry to help out – stock shelves, bag groceries, etc.
- Prepare a meal for a neighbor, friend, or family member who has been experiencing some difficulty. When you drop off the meal, plan to stay a few minutes to converse – who knows, you might be their only visitor that week – and what a blessing that could be for both of you.
- Or – make your own "random act of kindness" and let us know what you did. Maybe it will be something someone else might like to do in the future.

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Family Discussion Guide

Apostles' Creed, Article 3

Week 3 Readings, Prayers and Discussion Questions

*Use this sheet with your family members and keep it someplace near the dinner table, like on the fridge. At least two times this week at dinner or another time that fits your family schedule, use **Prayer Time** and one **Bible Reading** to make your confirmation learning come alive! Don't forget to finish your time by reciting the assigned **Bible Memory Verses** and the **First Article of the Apostles' Creed**.*

Prayer Time

Invite God into your gathering by celebrating and lifting up the people and circumstances that dwell deep in your heart this week. Pray this prayer together:

Spirit of God, on Pentecost you were poured out upon the church to form it, empower it, and cause it to grow. On the day of our baptism, you were poured out upon us. Form us, empower us, and make us grow to be instruments of love and peace. We ask all of this in Jesus' name, who sent you. Amen.

Bible Readings

During this week, read the passages listed below and discuss the questions listed after them.

Reading and Discussion Time 1:

John 14:15-17

Discuss:

- Jesus promises to send an Advocate to take care of his followers.
- How does your family help take care of you?
- How does God help take care of your family?

Reading and Discussion Time 2:

Acts Chapter 2

Discuss:

- In this chapter the Holy Spirit is described as sounding like a mighty wind. What other sounds do you think might describe the Holy Spirit?
- After the Holy Spirit came, people from all over could hear the good news of Jesus being preached in their own language. What ways is the church today bringing the good news to people of other languages?

Family Web Time

Check out “where in the world” the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is reaching out with the Gospel by going to the LCMS website - www.lcms.org – and find the listings of all the regions where our church body is actively spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to peoples around the world. (This link should take you there - <http://lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=294>)

Once you’ve opened the tabs (What We Do, Missions and Outreach, Where We Are – People, Places and Projects) note all the countries where the LCMS has a mission presence. Are there any places in the world where the church currently doesn’t have missionaries? Why do you think that is so? Choose one country from the list, click on it, and read the Ministry Summary to learn more about our efforts to tell of Jesus’ love in that country.

Memory Assignment (Optional)

Each day during the week read and discuss the assigned Bible verse and Article of the Apostles’ Creed so that by the end of the week the words are memorized and the meaning known.

Assigned for this week are:

1 Corinthians 12:3

*Small Catechism, page 150, Passage #556 (you may read this passage directly from the Bible, or look for it in your *Small Catechism* at the location listed above)*

Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed *Small Catechism, page 17, bold section*

(NOTE: although it is not expected that the explanation of the First Article will be memorized, please read through it each time you read through the First Article so that its meaning is clearly understood.)

Random Acts of Kindness

During this month, as a family, find **ONE** way to show your faith to someone else by helping them in a small, unexpected way. Some suggestions are:

- Arm yourselves with rakes and head over to a neighbor’s yard to do some fall clean up. Elderly or homebound neighbors are always appreciative of this kind of unexpected help.
- Buy an extra bag of groceries with the “staples” in it and take it to a local food pantry to help others in need. You might even ask if there’s a little something you can do at the pantry to help out – stock shelves, bag groceries, etc.
- Prepare a meal for a neighbor, friend, or family member who has been experiencing some difficulty. When you drop off the meal, plan to stay a few minutes to converse – who knows, you might be their own visitor that week – and what a blessing that could be for both of you.
- Or – make your own “random act of kindness” and let us know what you did. Maybe it will be something someone else might like to do in the future.

Parents, remember to record on your Parent Report Form the progress of your student. This report should be brought back with the child to the next class session.

Parent Report Form
Session 1 – Apostles’ Creed

Student’s Name:

	Assignments	Check as Items are Completed
Week 1		
Readings	Genesis 1 & 2	
	Psalms 136	
Memorization	Colossians 1:16	
	First Article of the Apostles' Creed	
Week 2		
Readings	Numbers 21:4-9	
	John 3:12-21	
	Luke 2:1-20	
Memorization	John 3:16	
	Second Article of the Apostles' Creed	
Week 3		
Readings	John 14:15-17	
	Acts 2	
Memorization	1 Corinthians 12:3	
	Third Article of the Apostles' Creed	
	Random Acts of Kindness	
	Rake	
	Food Pantry	
	Meal for Neighbor	
	Other (specify):	
<p>Please give us some details of the project you did. It may give us ideas for others to become involved with in the future! Use the back of this form to tell us what you did and the impact it had on your family.</p>		

NEXT CLASS SESSION: Saturday, October 20, 2018, 10 am – 2 pm

Return this form at the next class session.

Parent’s Signature _____ Date: _____