

Third Grade: Lesson 9

What Catholics Believe

Lesson Objectives:

These outcomes help the children see the characteristics of the Church that Jesus established. It gives us confidence that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church to fulfill its mission to make disciples of all nations. The Apostles' Creed is introduced as a statement of faith but will be explored in more detail in subsequent lessons. Comment about the fact that we say the Nicene Creed at Mass, but we use the Apostles' Creed for the rosary.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Identify and discuss the four marks of the Church as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic (CCC 811).
- Define creed as a statement of faith (CCC 187).
- Explain the elements of faith in the Apostles' Creed (CCC 190, 191 and 194).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, crayons,
- Copies needed:

As Students Enter Class:

- While waiting for everyone to arrive, it's a good idea to have something engaging for the children to do (warm-up).
- One suggestion for today is to either let students write on the board or on a large sheet of paper that is taped to the board. Pose this question: What do we believe as Catholics? Draw or write your thoughts on the board or paper. Be ready to explain what you drew or wrote about.
- If you have a lot of students, then have a few pieces of paper ready. This is a fun creative outlet that encourages students to think about the topic for a lesson.

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to gather around your prayer space. If you have established this routine, pick a student's name from a small bag or basket and ask them to choose a traditional Catholic prayer for you all to say together.
- Provide time for special prayer intentions.

- Provide time for students to share their answer to today's warm up.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 9 Video	<p>This video is 2:49 in length.</p> <p>If you have access, consider having a Missal from your church to show where the creeds are located.</p> <p>Highlights: How are we called to live, based on what we believe as Catholics? We can learn what the Church believes by studying the creeds and the 4 marks of the Church.</p> <p>Creeds are statements of faith and the 4 marks are found in the Nicene creed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One • Holy • Catholic • Apostolic
 <p>Analogy to the game called telephone</p>	<p>The two creeds in the Catholic Church are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Apostles Creed • The Nicene Creed <p>The Apostles Creed is older than the Nicene Creed. We pray the Nicene Creed during Mass and we pray the Apostles Creed when we pray the rosary.</p> <p>Have you ever played the game, telephone? It's actually harder than you think it would be. Usually what the last person says, is not the same as the message the first person said. Something similar occurred within the Catholic faith. There was a misunderstanding of what Jesus wanted us to know. After Jesus died, rose, and resurrected into heaven, many people, such as the Apostles, started sharing the good news. Sometimes, people didn't hear it quite right, just like in the game telephone. For these reasons, the Apostles, like St. Paul, started writing letters to different groups of people. We have saved these letters and they</p>

	<p>are now different books in the New Testament, for example, Galatians and Corinthians.</p> <p>Over time, misunderstandings continued and the Church needed to explain the beliefs of the Church to all Catholics. They wrote them down and we now have the two creeds, along with other Church doctrines.</p>
Marks of the Church Video	<p>This video is 1:31 in length. The narrator speaks quickly, and at times, is hard to understand. Therefore, what follows is nearly verbatim of the video in order to help provide a clear understanding of the 4 Marks of the Church.</p> <p>The 4 Marks of the Church is how we know which Church is the one true Church founded by Jesus. Only the Catholic Church possesses all 4 marks to the fullest.</p> <p>1st – ONE: The Church is unified and there is only one true Church.</p> <p>The church is the congregation of all baptized, united in the same true faith, the same sacrifice, and the same sacraments, under the authority of the Pope.</p> <p>2nd – HOLINESS: This does not mean that we are not sinners. The Church is holy because Jesus is the founder and He is holy. Also, the Church teaches holy doctrines because it provides what is necessary to live a holy life.</p> <p>3rd – CATHOLIC: The Church is Catholic, which means universal because it will exist for all time and will never fail to bring the faith to all nations.</p> <p>4th – APOSTOLIC: The Church was founded by Christ, first governed by the Apostles, and always will be governed by their successors.</p>

<p>The Four Marks of the Church Video</p> <p>1 Cor. 12 and Rom. 12</p> <p>→</p>	<p>This video is 3:24 in length. It is well done and the narration takes place inside and outside of a Catholic Church.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>ONE: Jesus found one church. St. Paul says, we are members of one body and Christ is the head. We are all united in the mission to make God's kingdom a reality here on Earth.</p> <p>Despite its ups and downs, the Church has remained ONE because Jesus prayed that it remains one. In John 17, Jesus says: That they may all be one, just as the Father and I are one.</p> <p>HOLY: This means set apart for a special purpose by God and for the Lord. The Church is holy because the one person, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is fully God and fully man, founded it all. We're holy because Christ is holy.</p> <p>CATHOLIC: Think of a lower-case c in the word catholic, when then means universal. The invitation is for all to join the church; all the truth, the universality of truth, is contained in the Catholic Church.</p> <p>APOSTOLIC: There is a direct succession of popes all the back to St. Peter.</p> <p>Discussion: As we move our focus into the two creeds of our church, remember the 4 marks. Why do you think these 4 marks of the Church are important?</p>
<p>The Apostles Creed Song</p>	<p>This Christine in Action video is 1:32 in length.</p>

<p>Reminder: This Creed is said when praying the Rosary 😊</p>	<p>The words of the Apostles Creed along with small visuals will help students focus on learning this Creed.</p> <p>Follow up Discussion: What is the Apostles Creed telling us? What does it focus on?</p> <p>Try to lead students to the understanding that the Apostles Creed states the truths that we believe as Catholics?</p> <p>Why do you think it's important for Catholics around the world to believe in the same things?</p>
<p>The Nicene Creed Explained</p> <p>Reminder: This Creed is said during Mass 😊</p>	<p>This video is 12:16 in Length.</p> <p>Highlights:</p>