

## **LESSON 7 - Using Creeds to Confess God's Message**

### **Questions and Answers – Student Guide**

**Lesson Goal:** Many of our lessons have dealt with what is most important: they have told what God has done for us. God has given us his saving Word, he has made us righteous and free in Christ Jesus, and he has given us Baptism and the Lord's Supper to create and strengthen faith and assure us that God has forgiven us. Today's lesson will talk about something we do with the Word. We will answer the questions, "What are creeds and what do we do with them?"

**Pre-lesson Preparation:** Read Acts 15:22-35.

#### **Think**

Imagine you are going through a stack of papers that belonged to one of your deceased grandparents, and suddenly you find a letter addressed to you. How would you feel?

Years ago some men found what we call the Rosetta stone, a stone carved with a message written in three languages: hieroglyphs (picture carvings), a language used daily by the Egyptians, and a formal Greek language. Until this discovery, no one had known what the hieroglyphs meant! The other two languages were known, so they could be used to translate what the picture language meant.

Ancient writings are very important. The Bible is an ancient writing, the most important ancient writing. God uses it to tell us what he did for us from the beginning of time on earth. It is there that we read about God's entire plan to save us.

Today's lesson will talk about some old writings from the Christian Church. These writings are called *creeds*. We will answer the questions, "What are creeds and what do we do with them?"

#### **Evaluate**

1. Who are the characters in this story?
2. What are the objects in this story?
3. Where did this story happen?
4. When did this story happen?
5. What is the problem?
6. What events occurred in this story?
7. Is the problem solved?

#### **Learn**

8. What is the main theme of this lesson?
9. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
10. Where do you see the God's love in this story?
11. What does God teach you to do in this lesson?

#### **Lead**

12. What would be a good situation in which to share this message?

### Additional questions

13. Writing is important. In this lesson, writing encouraged new believers. There are old writings we use today to state what we believe as Christians. These writings are called *creeds*. Probably the most familiar one is called *The Apostles' Creed*. It was not written by the Apostles, but it was based on what the Apostles learned from Jesus and his Word. It was written about 150 AD and was used to summarize the Christian faith and explain God's message to people who wanted to learn about Christianity. When a Christian church has its people say the Apostles' Creed aloud at church services, what does this show about that church?
14. Creeds can be used to confess what we believe. The word *confess* can mean to admit one's sins to God, and it can mean to proclaim what one believes. Which meaning is used when we use a creed as part of our confession?
15. Read Romans 10:9,10. What confession does a Christian make? A Christian believes with his or her \_\_\_\_\_ and confesses with his or her \_\_\_\_\_. We Christians use creeds to confess what we believe and to show others the truths of God's Word.
16. At times in the history of the Christian Church, there were false teachers who confessed ideas that were not in line with what the Bible teaches. Christians wrote creeds to fight against such false teachings and to proclaim the true message of God's Word. What are a few of those historical creeds?
- A. The \_\_\_\_\_ Creed (written in the fourth century) was named after the city of Nicea where believers met to combat the false teaching of Arius. He taught that Jesus was not fully God, equal to God the Father and the Holy Spirit, and had not existed from eternity. Why would this teaching be dangerous? Thank you, Lord, for the confession the believers made in Nicea long ago!
  - B. The \_\_\_\_\_ Creed (written in the fourth century) fought against teachings of Athanasius who said that Jesus was not true God and man in one being. He also denied the Trinity, that God is one God, yet three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Creeds state what the Bible teaches in short, compact form to fight against false teachings. How did creeds written long ago benefit the Christian Church as it grew?
17. We live at a time when people want churches to "get along and be united" and "agree to disagree." Read the following passages and explain what God teaches us to do with his Word.
- A. Acts 17:11:
  - B. Romans 16:17,18:

### Lesson wrap-up

18. What are creeds and what do we do with them?