

Using Creeds to Confess God's Message

Lesson 7 — Student Guide

Prepare for class: ReaActs 15:22-35

Lesson Goal

The goal of this lesson is to answer the following question: **What are creeds and what do we do with them?**

Think

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 us to confess?
10. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
11. What does God teach us 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?
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 Nicene 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?
 - b. The Athanasian 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

What are creeds and what do we do with them?