

**Purpose**

This week Pastor Todd should come get the sixth graders to show them what he wants of them and directions for making their profession of faith and baptism. He usually takes all of the kids so they can have something to look forward to. If he wants to come another week just swap the lessons. The lessons should fit anywhere during the month. If he does not come or it does not take the entire time I will give you information on Creeds and the differences.

- To review Creeds

**Materials**

- Bible

**Background Information****NO CREED BUT CHRIST**

Since the time of Jesus, the church (people of faith) has been trying to state clearly what they believe. What is this faith in God that makes me a Christian? As the letter to our disciples were passed around people began to feel the need to write down what they believe. The people of the early church were trained in the culture of the Jewish faith. As the early church grew it became more and more important to state what belief in God through Jesus Christ means. This has been done several times. People often write that they believe and call it their “creed”. One of the earliest examples of this work is the *Nicene Creed*. This was written overnight because the leaders of the church had to work through many ideas. This Nicene Creed was the church’s way to saying, in a simple and concise way that people could memorize, how God sent Jesus to save creation from sin. They had planned that people would memorize this creed and repeat it when needed.

Creeds surfaced early in the church’s story also as a way to protect and preserve Christian doctrine from those who would distort it. Another ancient creed is the *Apostles’ Creed*. Later when the church split, each branch of the church would develop its own creed, and say that the others were wrong. Many times churches would test people by using these creeds. If you didn’t agree with their creed, you couldn’t be a member, and you couldn’t participate in communion.

When the early leaders of the Disciples were searching for a common ground to bring Christians together they saw creeds, as something that divided not united. Because of this they did not deviled a creed. You many times hear that they believed there should be no creed but Christ. This means you only believe in Christ and make him the focal point of your life.

Many years later the Disciples Affirmation was written as a preamble to our church's constitution.

Have them define creed. Read through the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed. Ask if it would be possible for everyone to believe in each phrase. Would it be divisive if the entire class had to accept all that was said in the creeds in order to remain in this class? Compare and contrast phrases or ideas that are seen in both creeds. Which are repeated or left out? Now read through the Disciples Affirmation of Faith. Compare and contrast the Affirmation with the two creeds. Are these similar or different? Carefully check out the first paragraph of the Affirmation. Discuss how the Affirmation is a summary statement or a faith statement of belief. Is this a creed? The Affirmation is not a test of fellowship. We are free to think through our own belief system. Check out the first paragraph of Affirmation and see how it is scriptural and central to our faith as Christians.

You are going to try and write your own affirmation. Please spend a lot of time thinking so that it will mean something to you.

### **Procedure**

- Look over handouts 30-1, 30-2 and 30-3. Compare the creeds.