



Calling deserters back to the gospel  
Mark 14:72

SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

### **He's Got the Whole World in His Hands.**

#### **Hear** ☼

*The Creed is Provided  
on the Back Page*

We are spending time on the Apostles' Creed, but this doesn't mean that we won't stick with the simplicity we normally enjoy in family worship. Don't burden yourself with lofty and artificial goals for time or activity. Read. Sing. Pray. Read a short passage of Scripture together (maybe a Psalm or a story from the *Jesus Story Book Bible*), Pray, and Sing one or two short songs together. This kind of simplicity normally fits in a 10-15 minute window. The time spent with the Apostles' Creed is not meant to replace reading Scripture, but it's not intended to become a theology lecture either. Each day consider, discuss and understand one item or point in the Creed. Keep working to memorize the Creed together if you don't have it down yet, and don't worry about discussing anything beyond the first article this week - "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth".

#### **Love** ☼

What does it mean to call someone "Father"? What does it mean to call God our Father?

What is the first thing we say about God the Father?

Why do you think the Creed starts with God as Father, and then quickly moves to creation?

What does it mean that God is Almighty?

#### **Proclaim** ☼

The Creed was originally sung in Greek, and the word originally used for *almighty* meant, more literally, "all-holding." Why do you think it is good news to proclaim together that God the Father is the One who holds everything? Think of it like the song you sang when you were young, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." What things in your life now, whether you are young or old, need the good news preached in God the Father's all-holding power?



This creed was not always called "The Apostles' Creed;" it picked that up as a nickname a few centuries after it started being used in the church. The legend became that the Creed could be arranged in 12 lines, and each one had been written by one of the apostles. The legend isn't true, but the church has kept the name, because the Creed very simply summarizes the gospel that the apostles preached. Why do you think that people wanted the strong attachment to apostolic authorship? Does the truth about the creed's origin change its importance for the church? If so, how, and what is its importance?

## **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.