



Introduction

The aim of this Faith Trail marker is to help children and families learn more about what we believe when we confess the Apostles' Creed and to provide an opportunity for parents and children to talk about what they believe.

Things to do

- Set up tables and chairs.
- Place butcher's paper on wall for Graffiti and gather markers together for children to use.
- Make *Apostles' Creed* puzzles (see separate sheet) laminate and cut puzzle into 15-20 pieces – one per family.
- Print copies of *Apple Creed* – one per family (Appendix 1).
- Print copies of the *Apostles' Creed and Luther's Small Catechism explanation* – one per family (Appendix 2).
- Print copies of *Apostles' Creed worksheets* – one per family (Appendix 3).
- Draw a cross (X) on 5 x A4 sheets of paper and a nought (0) on 5 x A4 sheets of paper to use when playing Creed Noughts and Crosses. Use masking tape to create a large grid on an appropriate floor space.
- Print one copy of the question sheet for the Noughts and Crosses game (Appendix 4).

Things you need

- Butcher's paper and markers.
- The Apostles' Creed puzzle/s.
- Apple, cutting board and sharp knife - one per family.
- Masking tape for game of noughts and crosses.
- Worksheets and pencils/pens.
- Order suitable tracts from Lutheran Tract Mission (www.ltm.org.au).

Session Outline

1. Welcome & Warm-up.
2. Naming the Faith Trail marker.
3. Equipping the Parents and the Children.
4. End of Session Blessing.
5. Rite of Gifting (see separate file).

Welcome and Warm Up

Have labels and textas available for participants to write a nametag.

Invite children and parents to write what they believe in on the Graffiti wall. You might like to have a few statements already on paper as suggestions. For example:

I believe that God made the earth...

I believe that school is a great place to learn new things...

I believe that I have the best family in the world...

I believe that we should always be respectful of others...

I believe that Australia is a great place to live...



Naming: TRAIL MARKER ELEVEN: Apostles' Creed

Hand out the *Apostles' Creed* puzzle piece sets. Invite families to put it together. Then recite the Apostles' Creed as presented on the puzzle. Direct the groups to pack away their puzzle and suggest they can keep it to use at home as they continue to learn it off by heart! Continue by using the script below in your own way to explain a little about the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed has been around for 1800 years—since around 200AD. Millions of Christians all over the world know these words. You can go into church where you know no one and speak these same words of confession with the other Christians standing there. When you do, you'll know that you are united in your Christian faith.

The Apostles' Creed is called a creed because in the old days people would say the words in Latin. In Latin, the word for "I believe" is *credo*. The creed is called the Apostles' Creed because it was based on the teachings of Jesus' followers who were called apostles. It's what they believed.

The Apostles' Creed has simpler words than most of us would use for telling a friend what we believe. But, when Christians gather together to worship, it's a powerful thing to hear the voices of many other Christians all saying, "I believe" right along with your voice. It's a way for Christians to stand together in faith. We're not only standing together in faith with everyone else in the church, but we stand together with Christians across 2,000 years of time!

Equipping

The Apple Creed

Provide each family an apple, cutting board, sharp knife and copy of the Apple Creed worksheet. Tell them to start by cutting the apple in half. They then should follow the directions on the sheet. Walk around to answer any questions as people work through their sheet. **Assure them that there are no right answers—just creative ones!** The goal is to get adults and children talking about their faith. Gather the group back together for a time of sharing... if time permits!

You might like to conclude by saying:

Even though we can easily think of ways to divide the apple—skin, fruit, seeds—it's all of these things together that make the apple an apple. The same is true of God. We can imagine ways to divide God into three different persons—Father, Son, Holy Spirit—but none of these is God without the other. Like an apple is 3-in-1, so our God is 3-in-1.

