

Start-Up/Third Grade Lesson Plan
Lesson 8 – Followers of Jesus/The Creed

Materials needed:

- **Disciple's name tags**
- **Blue tape**
- **Miniature candy bars, as many students as you have in your class x 10 (please get these for your class. You may turn in the receipt to us for reimbursement.)**
- **"The Apostle's Creed" handout – 1 per child**
- **Pencils**

Before class:

- ✓ Put a small roll of tape on the back of each name tag and have them ready to hand out as students come in the door.
- ✓ Before next week: Read your next lesson plan. Be sure to let Debbie know if you will be having a Christmas party and need to be in the gym with food.

Put a disciple's name tag on each child as they enter the classroom.

Prayer:

Our Father/Hail Mary/Glory Be

Say:

(Walk around the room calling the kids by the names on their name tags.)

- **Hi Andrew! And this is Bartholomew? And you are Simon the Zealot, and you're Matthew...hmmm, those are very different names than I was calling you last week! Can you guess who we might be talking about this week? Who are all these guys?**
- **When Jesus was about 30 years old, he left home to begin His ministry. That means he was ready to travel around and tell all the people about God and the good news of the Gospel.**
- **That's a pretty big job, right? Jesus needed some helpers so He chose the disciples.**
- **What is a disciple anyway? Disciples are learners and helpers.**
- **In Jesus' day there were many teachers. Disciples would choose a teacher and follow them. Jesus turned it around and chose His own disciples.**
- **How many disciples did Jesus choose? (12)**
- **There's a great story in the Bible about how Jesus picked His first disciples, would you like to hear it?**
- **The first disciples were fishermen and they worked every day with their boats on the Sea of Galilee.**

- **One of them was named Simon and he had a brother named Andrew. Also there were two brothers named James and John.**
- **One day Jesus was teaching the crowds of people down by the lake. There were so many people that they almost crowded Jesus into the water! So Jesus hopped in Simon's boat and asked him to push back from the edge of the land a little.**
- **From there it was easier for Jesus to talk to the crowds. Jesus finished his preaching and then started talking to Simon and his brother.**
- **Jesus went up to the fishermen and said: "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men."**
- **What do you think Jesus meant by that?** (Instead of catching fish, the disciples would be bringing people to God. Jesus was using a little play on words 😊)
- **These men must have known Jesus was someone very special because they left their boats, their nets, their homes and everything else to follow Jesus and become His disciples.**
- **So, let's learn a little bit about each one. Only four of them were fishermen. The others were from different walks of life and one of them was even a hated tax collector. Do you know which one it was? What do you say we meet them all and find out?**

(Have each “disciple” come forward, introduce himself and read what is on his name tag to the class. They can pull the tag off and stick it back on if they want.)

- **As we will learn later, the disciples were also very special people. They went through very hard times with Jesus and almost all of them laid down their lives for Him.**

(Cookie break in gym or just time to stretch legs and move around – 5 minutes)

- **There is a lot more we could learn about the disciples (you might also hear them called “apostles”.) All of them except one are now saints. Which disciple did not make it to the saint list? (Judas).**
- **I wish we had more time to study the lives of Jesus first chosen followers but next we need to talk about what Jesus actually taught them.**
- **I know what you’re thinking! You don’t know what Jesus taught the disciples 2,000 years ago...do you?**
- **Well, yes I do! Have you ever heard of something called the Apostle’s Creed?**
- **A creed is a statement of what someone believes in. It comes from the Latin word “Credo” which means “I believe”.**

- **We have the Creed of the Apostles that they said when they gathered together for the first Masses after Jesus died. And guess what! It is the same creed we still say at Mass today. What do you suppose we call it? (The Apostle’s Creed)**
- **A longer version of the Apostle’s Creed was written at a great council called Nicaea (Ny-see-a) in the 16th century. It’s called the Nicene (Ny-seen) Creed and we sometimes say this at Mass.**
- **But for now, let’s take a look at the Apostle’s Creed. We’ll make a little game out of it with this handout. You can see that some of the words are left out and it will be up to us to figure out what they are. Every time you get an answer right, I’ll have my assistant put 12 little candy bars in this jar.**
- **At the end of the night, you will get to take home as many candy bars as questions you answer correctly. Ready?**

(Give each student “The Apostle’s Creed” handout.)

† 1) Father

† 2) Heaven

† 3) Son

† 4) Mary

† 5) Crucified

† 6) Third

† 7) Right

† 8) Dead

† 9) Believe

† 10) Saints, Sins, Life

- **Great job! You can pick up your candy bars on the way out.** (If the students got 8 questions right, they each get 8 candy bars, etc.)
- **Let's pray the Apostle's Creed together before we go.**