

Grade 8 Confirmation

Session 2: How do I know God is Real? / “I Believe” Creed

Goals:

To talk about proof of the existence of God and the connection between reason and faith.
Look at the distinction between “believing in God,” and “believing there is a God.”

Key Concepts:

- We are religious beings that are designed to worship God. But we can choose to ignore God or reject Him.
- Faith is not opposed to reason. God uses science and reason as ways that we can come to know him.
- There is a difference in believing there is a God and believing in God. Believing in God causes a conversion in our lives, and we surrender our lives to God. Conversion is a radical re-orientation of a person’s whole life away from sin and evil and toward God.

How Do I Know God is Real?

Print Session 2 worksheet. Read the bulleted objectives at the top. Read through the reflection questions on the worksheet. Reflect and answer the questions on the worksheet as you are watching the video segments.

Watch Videos: Segment 1 (10 min); Segment 2 (8 min); and Segment 3 (8 min)

What do I believe? The Creed

The Creed is the proclamation of what we as Catholics believe. Every Sunday we proclaim what we believe at Mass. The Creed, or the Profession of Faith, is a way of reminding us exactly what we believe.

The Apostles’ Creed

The word creed comes from the Latin word *credo*, which means “I believe.” The Apostles’ Creed is a summary, or short version, of the beliefs of Jesus’ chosen followers. From the beginning! The Apostles’ Creed is most commonly recited at the beginning of the Rosary. When we say the Creed and believe the words we say, we draw close to God. St. Ambrose called the Creed “the treasure of our soul.”

The Nicene Creed

At each Sunday Mass, after the priest gives the homily, we stand together and “profess our faith;” that is we recite a summary of the most important beliefs we share as members of the Church. The profession of faith we make is usually the Nicene Creed. This Creed was composed as a result of two great councils of bishops held in the cities of Nicaea and Constantinople in the fourth century. Think of it, for sixteen centuries Catholics have professed this same summary of our faith!

“You have committed to be confirmed in the Catholic faith! Are you willing to stand up for your beliefs? Many people will tell you what you should believe. You need to take a stand and stand firm in the truth. The truth is Jesus!”

Reference/Reflection Page for Creed Teaching

- If someone asked you to prove the existence of God, would you respond with a scientific proof or experiment? Would you talk about the Bible or your personal experience?

Faith and Reason Work Together

- Some people question the existence of God and will look to science. Science is the use of logic and reason to determine truth. Science often brings people to God!
- The Church teaches that, God can be known with certainty from the created world by the natural light of human reason.
- For many years throughout history, people (some philosophers and theologians) have made sound arguments for the existence of God (St. Augustine, Immanuel Kant, Rene Descartes, St. Thomas Aquinas and C.S. Lewis.)

God Reveals Himself Through Creation (St. Paul, Romans)

- When we look at the world, we see order. Everything works together perfectly. If conditions were only slightly different, our universe could not sustain life.
- Looking at creation we realize God must exist!
- St. Augustine said the beauty of creation is a profession of our Creator who loves us!

God Reveals Himself Through Our Reason

- God reveals Himself through the human person-through us.
- We were created to know love and serve God and to be open to truth and beauty.
- God's Gifts help us to become open to faith and to trusting God even though we can not see Him.
- This total trust in God is God reaching out towards us and showing us through His Gifts how much He loves us.

Our Desire and Thirst for God. Maybe think about: Is there an event or activity in your life that you really look forward to each year. (example: Thanksgiving Dinner, vacation, travel event...)

- God has created all of us with a desire and thirst for Him! We won't be satisfied until we surrender to Him. We were made for God and won't be happy until we trust and follow in Him completely!
- Questions you need to ask yourself is if you've made the right choice: Do you believe in God, with your whole heart, mind and soul? Do you acknowledge that there is a God? Do you live as if God is alive and your Creator?
- Many people worship false idols such as money, popularity, power, immorality, they may hope to find God in these but they won't. They need to trust in God alone!
- God has given us life! We were created to give our lives back to God freely, and in doing this we find happiness and fulfillment in God. God exists! We have to choose to believe in Him with our whole heart, mind and soul! We need to acknowledge God is working in our lives!