

# Year 6 Term Four Week Three: Wednesday Religion Task

## The Nicene Creed:

### Need for a Second Creed

Christians are not the only ones who believe in God. The Jews and the Muslims believe in the same God as Christians. Christians, Jews and Muslims believe that God is a personal God. God loves us and knows us better than we know ourselves.

However, unlike Jews and Muslims, Christians believe that God is a Trinity. They believe that Jesus is the Son of God and has one and the same divine nature as God. Christians believe that God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are One. Christians believe God is a Trinity of Three Divine Persons in One God.

Jesus revealed many truths about the mystery of God to the apostles. These beliefs were recorded by the early Church after the apostles had died. Belief in God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit formed the baptismal profession of faith, which in time became known as the Apostles' Creed.

So you would think that the Church should not need another creed! After all, the Apostles' Creed made clear what Christians believe.

Still, people in the Church continued to argue about the nature of God.

### Arianism

During the third and fourth century CE, a heresy called Arianism was spreading rapidly. Followers of Arianism denied that Jesus was fully divine. They said that God the Father had created Jesus. They refused to believe that Jesus shared the one divine nature with the Holy Spirit and the Father. To them, Jesus was not consubstantial with the Father.

The Church Fathers were worried about the spread of Arianism. They believed that it was necessary to write a creed that would include more explicit detail to correct this heresy. So they gathered at the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. Here they wrote the Nicene Creed. This Creed ended after '*I believe in the Holy Spirit*'. The remainder of the text was added to the Creed during the Council of Constantinople in 381 CE.



# NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true  
God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the  
third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and  
is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to  
judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the  
Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the  
resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

**After listening to and reading the Nicene Creed, what are we stating are our beliefs? (list in dot points)**