



Becoming a Disciple

Step 1

Mentor's Journal



Mentor's Journal

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Mentor's Responsibilities	3
Baptism Celebration	4
Resources	
Dictionary	5
The Apostles' Creed & History	6
The Lord's Prayer & Bible Memory Verses	8
Song Lyrics	9
Next Steps.....	13
Session 1: Seeing the Light	14
God and Me	
Daily Steps	
Mentor's Notes: The Apostles' Creed - Sections 1 & 2	
Moving Forward	
Session 2: Choosing the Way	19
A.B.C. Prayer	
Daily Steps	
Moving Forward	
Session 3: Becoming a New Creation	25
Daily Steps	
Moving Forward	
Session 4: Celebrating a New Identity	29
Daily Steps	
Mentor's Notes: The Apostles' Creed - Sections 3 & 4	
Moving Forward	
Session 5: Belonging to God's Family	35
Daily Steps	
Moving Forward	

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Introduction

Welcome to Young Disciples Step 1, a 5-session course that is the first in a series of three steps recommended for children and teens expressing a desire to grow in their faith. A disciple is a follower of Christ. Every disciple needs support and accountability, and in your role as a mentor, Young Disciples Step 1-3 will present you with opportunities to provide both.

Step 1 focuses on what it means to become a disciple, exploring topics such as salvation, the Church, the Apostles' Creed, and baptism. At the conclusion of Step 1, you and your young disciple will have the opportunity to attend a baptism together, either as participants or as witnesses.

Young Disciples Step 2 centers around living as a disciple according to Jesus' commandments in Matthew 22:37-39.

Step 3 emphasizes what it means to go and make disciples as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:18-20.

The goal of Step 1 is for your young disciple to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to become a disciple of Christ and to belong to God's family, the Church. During Step 1, you and your young disciple can develop a positive relationship of mentor and disciple that will continue for years to come!



Mentor's Responsibilities

Please read the following statements, and provide your signature and the date below:

- I will invest in my young disciple by making every effort to attend each session.
- During each week, I will complete Daily Steps and Moving Forward, located in my Mentor's Journal.
- I will bring my Mentor's Journal to each class, and encourage my young disciple to bring his or her Student Journal to each class.
- I will make every effort to attend the baptism ceremony with my young disciple at the conclusion of Step 1.
- I will pray that God might use Step 1 to bring my young disciple and me closer to God, and to one another.
- I will look for opportunities to reinforce what my young disciple is learning in class.
- I will look for opportunities to build my relationship with my young disciple.

Mentor's Signature: _____

Name of your Young Disciple: _____

Today's Date: _____



Baptism Celebration

At the conclusion of Young Disciples Step 1, all students, mentors and their families are invited to attend a baptism together. Any student or mentor participating in Young Disciples Step 1 is invited to be baptized at this special celebration. All who attend are witnesses to each baptism performed there.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location/Address: _____

How to I register to be baptized? Let your Young Disciples leader know you and/or your student are interested in being baptized.

What do I wear to be baptized? Your Young Disciples leader will provide you with additional information as the date for the Baptism Celebration gets closer.

What should I expect concerning the baptism experience? Your Young Disciples leader will provide you with additional information as the date for the Baptism Celebration gets closer.



Dictionary

Baptism: The sprinkling or immersion of a believer in water. Going under the water and coming up stands for the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It also stands for the way new believers have died to their old ways and now have a new identity as a follower of Christ.

Notes: _____

Body of Christ: The entire group (past, present and future) of all who follow Christ. Each member of the body of Christ is different, yet important to the whole body.

Notes: _____

Born again: The transformation that occurs when we choose to follow Jesus. We are given a second birth as a new creation - changed from a person who lives and dies apart from God, to a child of God who will live forever close with God.

Notes: _____

Church: The entire group (past, present and future) of all who follow Christ. The Church is also known as the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, and God's family.

Notes: _____

Christian: A follower of Christ, also known as a disciple, believer, or saint.

Notes: _____

Disciple: A follower of Christ also known as a Christian, believer, or saint.

Notes: _____

God's family: The entire group (past, present, and future) of all who follow Christ. All who follow Christ are adopted by God as His own children.

Notes: _____

Holy: Perfect and without sin.

Notes: _____

Redeemed: purchased. Jesus is our Redeemer because He fully paid for our sins. All who believe in Him belong to Him and are free from the punishment of sin.

Notes: _____

Saved: Rescued. Jesus is the Savior who rescues us from a life without God by taking the punishment for our sins. Without Him, our souls would not live forever. When Jesus saves us, our souls live forever close with God.

Notes: _____

Sin: Doing wrong in God's eyes.

Notes: _____



The Apostles' Creed

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again 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."

In the first four sessions of Step 1 for Young Disciples, we will explore each statement of faith as we study The Apostles' Creed in one section per session. In session five, we will memorize the creed together. In Session 6, we will confess the creed together at the Celebration of Holy Baptism.

Section 1: Identity of God the Father

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

Section 2: Identity of God the Son

"I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead."

Section 3: Identity of God the Holy Spirit

"I believe in the Holy Spirit,"

Section 4: Identity of God's Family

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



The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 with the doxology

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen.

Bible Memory Verses

"I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,'
and believe in your heart that God
raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
Romans 10:9



Song Lyrics

I Am the Way (John 14:6; Romans 10:9)

I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me.
I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life. (Echo.)
No one comes to the Father except through Me.

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"
Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,
You will be saved. You will be saved.

For He said, I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life. (Echo.)
No one comes to the Father except through Me.
I am the way (Way!). I am the truth (Truth!). I am the life. (Echo.)
No one comes to the Father except through Me.

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"
Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,
You will be saved. You will be saved.

For He said, I am the way (Way!). I am the truth (Truth!). I am the life. (Echo.)
No one comes to the Father except through Me.
I am the way (Way!), I am the truth (Truth!), I am the life. (Echo.)
No one comes to the Father except through Me.
I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me, through Me, through Me.



Song Lyrics continued ...

For God So Loved the World (John 3:16)

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son
That whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

I believe. Yo creo.

For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son.

Tanto amo Dios al mundo

Que dio a su Hijo unigenito,

Para que todo el cree en El

No se pierda, si no que tenga vida eterna.

I believe. You creo.

For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son.

*Reading: Tanto amo Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigenito,
Para que todo el cree en El, no se pierda, si no que tenga vida eterna.*

Tanto amo Dios al mundo. God so loved the world.

Que dio a su Hijo unigenito. He gave His only Son.

Para que todo el cree en El. That whoever believes in Him.

No se pierda, si no que tenga vida eterna. Shall not perish, but have eternal life.

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Hide it under a bushel, no, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Let it shine all over the world, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Let it shine, let it shine (3x)

I'm gonna let it shine



Song Lyrics continued ...

We Believe by Hillsong (Album: No Other Name)

In this time of desperation
When all we know is doubt and fear
There is only one salvation
We believe, we believe
In this broken generation
When all is dark, You help us see
There is only one foundation
We believe, we believe

We believe in God the Father, We believe in Jesus Christ
We believe in the Holy Spirit, And He's given us new life
We believe in the crucifixion, We believe that He conquered death
We believe in the resurrection, And He's coming' back again, we believe

So, let our faith be more than anthems
Greater than the songs we sing
And in our weakness and temptations
We believe, we believe!

We believe in God the Father! We believe in Jesus Christ!
We believe in the Holy Spirit! And He's given us new life!
We believe in the crucifixion! We believe that He conquered death!
We believe in the resurrection! And He's coming' back again!

Let the lost be found and the dead be raised!
In the here and now, let love invade!
Let the church live love our God will save
We believe, we believe!
And the gates of hell will not prevail!
For the power of God, has torn the veil!
Now we know Your love will never fail!
We believe, we believe!

We believe in God the Father, We believe in Jesus Christ
We believe in the Holy Spirit, And He's given us new life
We believe in the crucifixion, We believe that He conquered death
We believe in the resurrection! And He's comin' back,
He's comin' back again! He's comin' back again! We believe! We believe!



Song Lyrics continued ...

This I Believe by Hillsong (Album: No Other Name)

Our Father Everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Savior.

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in one
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

Our Judge and our Defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high

I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.



Next Steps

After you have completed Young Disciples Step 1, pray for God to guide your next steps. Consider the suggestions below and explore other ideas as God leads you. Whatever activity you choose, look for opportunities to support and encourage your young disciple in his or her walk with Christ.

Suggestions:

- Make plans to meet regularly with your young disciple to discuss life as a disciple, especially as it applies to current challenges and recent victories or failures that have inspired his or her spiritual growth.
- Find fun ways to invest in your young disciple. You may choose to attend a special event, bake cookies, eat a meal, play a sport, or enjoy a bicycle ride together.
- Look for opportunities for you and your young disciple to serve the church and/or the local community together,
- Sign up for Young Disciples Step2!

Session 1: God and Me

Date: _____

Circle the sentence that best describes your relationship with God today.



I know about God.



I love God.
He is the most important one in my life.



I'm not sure what I believe about God.

Use the space below or the back of this page to write your questions about God.



Daily Steps: Session 1

This week, your young disciple will be reading various Bible passages. Look for ways to encourage him or her to use the Daily Steps Journal as a way to grow closer to God.



Day 1 Read Genesis 1:1-4 and 1 John 1:5.

What does "God is light" mean to you? _____

Read the first section of the Apostle's Creed (located in your Mentor's Journal). What is most meaningful to you about God's role as Father Almighty and Creator of heaven and earth? _____

What questions do these readings cause you to consider? _____



Day 2 Read Daniel 2:20-23.

Is there an area in your life, or a question that has been troubling you in which you would like God to give you discernment? If so, write your prayer for God to reveal His truth concerning this. _____

Why do you think God wants to reveal His mysteries to us? _____



Day 3 Read John 1:4-5.

Think about a time when you felt God’s light in your life. Now, express that experience in a way which would be easily understandable for your young disciple. _____

Is there an example of a time when God’s light overcame the darkness in your life? If so describe that here. _____



Day 4 Read John 8:12.

In your own words, explain how Jesus is the Light of the world. _____

What does it mean to you to trust and follow Jesus as Lord of your life? _____

How might you express this to your young disciple? _____



Day 5 Read John 12:46.

If you are a follower of Jesus, describe the difference in your life now that you are part of the kingdom of light. Describe this in a way that is age-appropriate for sharing with your young disciple. _____

If you are not a follower of Jesus, how do you think your life might be different if you followed Him? _____



Day 6 Read Psalm 89:15

God's light shows us truth and gives us new understanding about many things. What has God been showing you this week ...

about Himself? _____

about your young disciple? _____

about yourself? _____

Consider sharing what God has shown you this week with your young disciple.



Moving Forward

Things to remember about your young disciple:

Ideas for building your relationship with your young disciple:

Ideas for encouraging spiritual growth with your young disciple:



Session 2: A.B.C. Prayer

Lord Jesus, I **A**dmit that I'm a sinner.

I **B**elieve You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please **C**ome into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray, AMEN!



Daily Steps: Session 2

This week, your young disciple will be reading various Bible passages. Look for ways to encourage him or her to use the Daily Steps Journal as a way to grow closer to God.



Day 1 Read Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-6.

What rule did God give Adam and Eve? _____

Why might the knowledge of and the choice between good and evil lead to death? ____

A simple definition of sin is doing wrong in God's eyes. Briefly describe the events leading up to a time when you made a choice you knew to be wrong in God's eyes. ____

Read Isaiah 59:2 and John 1:5-6. What is it that separates us from God? _____

Why do you think sin cannot be in God's presence? _____

Read Romans 5:12, 19. What does the Bible say comes to us through sin? _____



Day 2 Read Psalm 86:15.

In your own words, explain what this verse tells you about God. _____

Read John 3:16.

Why do you think God chose to create a way for us to return to Him? _____



Day 3 Read 1 Peter 3:18 and Acts 10:43.

Everyone sins (does wrong in God's eyes). God the Father is perfect and holy; He cannot be near sin. How did Jesus make a way for us, as sinners, to come to God the Father? _____

This week, look an opportunity to engage your young disciple in a discussion about how Jesus is like a bridge to God the Father. What questions or specific points do you think would be most meaningful to your young disciple? _____



Day 4 Read John 14:6.

Just as you must choose to use a bridge to get to the other side, we must choose to follow Jesus as our Lord in order to come to God the Father and to be close with Him forever. Do you remember a time when you decided to follow Jesus?

If so, describe where you were, who was with you, and what you did. Describe this in a way that is age-appropriate for sharing with your young disciple. _____

If not, what do you think keeps you from pursuing a life centered on following Jesus? _____



Day 5 Read Section 2 of the Apostles' Creed (located in your Mentor's Journal).

This section of The Apostles' Creed describes who Jesus is according to the Scriptures. To follow Jesus, it is essential that we know who He is and what He has done for us. What is most meaningful to you about this description of Jesus? _____

What questions does this section of the Apostles' Creed cause you to consider? _____

To prepare for future discussions with your young disciple about the Apostles' Creed, review the "Mentor's Notes: The Apostles' Creed Sections 1 & 2" on the next page.



Day 6 Memorize John 14:6.

Through Jesus, God made a way for us to be reconciled with Him. What has God been showing you this week ...

about Himself? _____

about others? _____

about yourself? _____

Consider sharing what God has shown you this week with your young disciple.



Mentor's Notes

The Apostles' Creed - Sections 1 & 2

Review the notes below to prepare for discussions of The Apostles' Creed with your young disciple.

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

Read Genesis 1:1. How does God's creation show you His power? His creativity? His ability to plan details? His artistry?

"I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,"

Read Matthew 17:5 and Romans 10:9. When we say "our Lord," we claim Him as our Lord. What do you think it means when someone says Jesus is the Lord of his or her life?

"conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,"

Read Luke 1:35. God, as the Holy Spirit, formed baby Jesus in Mary's womb. Jesus was then born to His mother Mary who was a pure young maiden.

"suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried."

Read John 19:1-3, 16, 30. Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea who sentenced Jesus to be crucified. How does knowing that Jesus chose to suffer and die for you affect your relationship with Him? Read Mark 15:44-47. Roman centurion testified that Jesus died. In proving that Jesus truly died, why is it important to have the word of a Roman guard, rather than only the word of His followers?

"On the third day He rose again"

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. As Christians, we believe God the Father, raised Jesus from death to life. Jesus proved this Himself by appearing to over 500 witnesses during the 40-day period between God raising Him from the dead and God lifting Him up to heaven.

"He ascended into heaven"

Read Acts 1:8-11. Where do Christians believe Jesus is living now?

"He is seated at the right hand of the Father,

Read Mark 16:19. "Seated at the right hand of the Father" means seated on God's throne in heaven. What do you think Jesus does as He sits there? Read Romans 8:34. "To intercede" means to plead for someone else. How does it feel to know Jesus is pleading to God the Father for you?

"He will come to judge the living and the dead."

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 and 2 Timothy 4:1-2. Who will Jesus judge when He returns? Those who believe in Jesus will be judged and rewarded fairly for their thoughts, words, and deeds; but they will not be punished for their sins. We look forward to Jesus' return!



Moving Forward

Things to remember about your young disciple:

Ideas for building your relationship with your young disciple:

Ideas for encouraging spiritual growth with your young disciple:



Daily Steps: Session 3

This week, your young disciple will be reading various Bible passages. Look for ways to encourage him or her to use the Daily Steps Journal as a way to grow closer to God.



Day 1 Read the words of Jesus in John 5:24 and Romans 8:1-11.

Summarize this passage in a way that is age-appropriate for sharing with your young disciple. _____

Read Romans 8:37-39. Now, replace each noun with specific life events or choices you have made. For example, for "Neither the present," insert your own present choices, concerns, or circumstances. _____



Day 2 Read John 3:1-8.

How would you explain to your young disciple what it means to be born again? _____

Nicodemus was a religious leader. He came to Jesus at night, perhaps so he would not be seen with Jesus. We all have questions about God, yet many of us who are religious are hesitant to ask for fear of what others might think. What would you ask Jesus if you were alone with Him? _____

Read John 3:16-17. Why did God send His only Son?



Day 3 Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

The metamorphosis in the life of a butterfly is the changing in form from a caterpillar to a protective shell called a chrysalis to a butterfly. It is a great picture of how God makes us a new creation when we believe in Jesus. If you were going to compare who you are today to one part in the life of a butterfly, would you be more like the caterpillar, the chrysalis, or the butterfly? Explain your answer here. _____



Day 4 Read John 14:26, Romans 5:5, and Section 3 of the Apostles' Creed (in your Mentor's Journal).

When we are born again, the Holy Spirit comes and lives in our hearts forever. What does the Holy Spirit help us do? _____

The Holy Spirit speaks to us in different ways. If you have ever sensed the Holy Spirit leading you, describe the setting and how you sensed His leading? _____

To prepare for future discussions with your young disciple about the Apostles' Creed, review the Mentor's Notes on the Apostles Creed (Section 3) in your journal.



Day 5 Read Ephesian 2:4-10.

What did God do for us when we were “dead in our transgressions (sins)”? _____

What do you think some of these good works that God has already prepared for you to do might be? _____



Day 6 Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17.

What has God been showing you this week ...

about Himself? _____

about others? _____

about yourself? _____

Consider sharing what God has shown you this week with your young disciple.



Moving Forward

Things to remember about your young disciple:

Ideas for building your relationship with your young disciple:

Ideas for encouraging spiritual growth with your young disciple:



Daily Steps: Session 4

This week, your young disciple will be reading various Bible passages. Look for ways to encourage him or her to use the Daily Steps Journal as a way to grow closer to God.



Day 1 Read Matthew 3:13-17.

What impresses you most about the scene described here of Jesus being baptized in the Jordan River? _____

Jesus was baptized when He was approximately 30 years old. It was just before He began His public ministry. Since He never sinned, He had no need of a baptism for the purpose of repentance and forgiveness. Jesus' baptism was an act of obedience and a moment when others heard God's voice confirming Jesus' identity as the Son of God. We can clearly see the three persons of the Trinity (The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in the moment when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. Circle the person of the Trinity whose role you understand best.

Father Son Holy Spirit

Today, as you consider the mystery of the Trinity, write your observations and your questions here. _____

Arrange a time to meet with your young disciple this week to discuss the upcoming Young Disciples Baptism. He or she may ask questions that you are unprepared to answer. If so, that would be a good opportunity to show your young disciple how we search for answers concerning our faith. Praise your young disciple for asking such thoughtful and challenging questions! Grappling with our faith is an important part of our walk with God and His family. When we don't have an answer, we ask God to lead us and to give us patience to trust Him until we understand. We also look to the Bible for answers. We ask more experienced members of the family of God such as the Young Disciples class leader, a teacher, or a pastor. Be sure to confirm answers you find or hear with what is in the Bible. Through all our searching, we have the opportunity to build our relationship with God by trusting Him.

If your young disciple wants to be baptized, discuss his or her reasons together. The four paper water drops from class may aid in your discussion. If you are not your young disciple's parent or guardian, be sure to discuss the baptism with a parent or guardian and the class leader. Remind your young disciple to be ready to tell others why he or she wants to be baptized,

If your young disciple has already been baptized or is not yet ready to make that choice, this is a good opportunity to discuss the meaning of baptism, why we attend baptisms as witnesses to the baptism of others, and how to encourage those who are being baptized.



Day 2 Read Section 4 of the Apostles' Creed (located in your Mentor's Journal).

This section of The Apostles' Creed describes key elements in the life of the family of God in accordance with the Bible. What are the elements that are currently the most meaningful to you? _____

What questions does this section of the Apostles' Creed cause you to consider? _____

To prepare for future discussions with your young disciple about the Apostles' Creed, review the Mentor's Notes on the Apostles Creed (section 3&4) in your journal.



Day 3 Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

Baptism connects us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Going under water stands for letting our old way of thinking die. Coming up out of the water reminds us that Jesus lifts us up to a new life, forever close with God. Write 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 in your own words. _____

Why do you think it is important to be reminded at your baptism of Jesus' death and rising? _____

This week, look for an opportunity to engage your young disciple in a discussion about being baptized. Share your own story of your choices concerning baptism. What questions or specific points do you think would be most meaningful to your young disciple? _____



Day 4 Read John 1:12.

In terms that are easily understandable to your young disciple, describe what it means to you to be a part of the family of God. _____

Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. There are people of every race and every age in the family of God, There are so many differences! What is the one thing that everyone in the family of God has in common? _____

What is the most important thing to you about your relationship with others in the Family of God? _____



Day 5 Read Romans 10:9.

If you have not yet been baptized and are considering being baptized at the upcoming Young Disciples Baptism, ask God to make your heart ready. In class this week, you received 4 paper drops of water. Below are the words printed on the first three water drops. The fourth water drop is blank.

Baptism lets others know that Jesus is my Lord
and that I will follow Him forever.

Baptism stands for my desire
to live every day for Jesus.

Baptism is something others are doing
or want me to do.

It is important to put into words why you are glad you were baptized, why you want to be baptized, or your concerns about being baptized. Use the blank water drop or a separate piece of paper to describe or draw your feelings about baptism. Include the reasons why you are glad you were baptized, why you want to be baptized, or your concerns about being baptized.



Day 6 Read Colossians 3:1-2.

This week, we learned three motions that help us remember the meaning of baptism. If you aren't sure of the motions we learned in class, make up new ones!

1. (Point to yourself with your right thumb.) "I used to live my life MY way."
2. (Slowly lower your right palm beneath the imaginary water.) "But I've laid that way of thinking DOWN."
3. (Slowly raise your right palm up to a 90-degree angle; point to heaven with index finger.) "Now I live my life for JESUS, doing things His way."

In the space provided, explain these three important statements in terms that are easily understandable to your young disciple,

"I used to live my life MY way." _____

"But I've laid that way of thinking DOWN." _____

"Now I live my life for JESUS, doing things His way." _____

Consider sharing what God has shown you this week with your young disciple.

Moving Forward

Things to remember about your young disciple:

Ideas for building your relationship with your young disciple:

Ideas for encouraging spiritual growth with your young disciple:



Mentor's Notes

The Apostles' Creed Sections 3 & 4

Review the notes below to prepare for discussions of The Apostles' Creed with your young disciple.

"I believe in the Holy Spirit"

As Christians, we believe in one God. This one God is a mystery because He is three in one. He is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We call these three persons of our one God, the Trinity.

Read Genesis 1:1-2. The Holy Spirit created the world with the Father and the Son. He visited people in the Old Testament, giving them power to say and do mighty things.

Read John 14:26-27. Jesus promised His Spirit would lead us in truth. The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible. He points us to Jesus and helps us believe. He guides us in making choices that please God. The Holy Spirit is also called the Counselor.

Read Acts 1:8. The Holy Spirit gives power to love, serve, and point others to Jesus.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit whom Jesus sent to live in the hearts of believers when Jesus returned to heaven.

"(I believe in) the holy catholic church"

The word "catholic" has two meanings. When it is capitalized, it refers to a certain church group called the Roman Catholic Church. The leader of the Roman Catholic Church is the Pope. The Apostles' Creed uses the other meaning of catholic. When the word is not capitalized, it means universal or worldwide. "The holy catholic church" refers to the whole group of believers from every tribe, nation, and denomination.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:2. While we may worship and serve in different places all over the world, we are still one church made up of people who follow Jesus. Why do you think the worldwide church is such an important part of our faith?

"(I believe in) the communion of saints"

"Saints" means believers. In the Apostles' Creed, the "communion of saints" does not refer to the taking of the bread and the cup at the Lord's Supper. It means believers coming together.

Read Matthew 18:20. God wants His believers to gather and worship Him together. He promises that wherever two or more are gathered in His name, He is there, too!

“(I believe in) the communion of saints” *continued...*

Read Hebrews 10:25. The Bible reminds us never to give up meeting together with the saints. Why do you think it is important for believers (saints) to get together often? (In gathering to worship, we can worship in unity. We are encouraged to come together to remember who God is and what He has done in our lives.) Why do you think God wants us to assemble? Brainstorm ways to connect the church worldwide.

“(I believe in) the forgiveness of sins”

As Christians, we believe in the forgiveness of sins. Sin is doing wrong in God’s eyes. Read Acts 10:43. Before Jesus came to earth, God promised He would one day make a new covenant with His people. A covenant is an agreement that usually includes a promise. In the old covenant, God promised if the people obeyed Him fully, He would make them His treasured possession. Unfortunately, the people kept breaking the old covenant by disobeying God. That’s called sin - disobeying God by doing wrong in God’s eyes. Everyone sins. Under the old covenant, what was the final punishment for sin? What did Jesus do to take away our final punishment?

Read Hebrews 8:10-12. God’s new covenant with His people promises that whoever believes in His Son Jesus is forgiven. When Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins, He bought total forgiveness for all who believe. Why do you think it is such an important part of our faith to believe in the forgiveness of sins?

“(I believe in) the resurrection of the body”

Resurrection means having been risen from the dead. As Christians, we believe that all who believe in Jesus will be raised from the dead and will have life everlasting with Him.

Read John 11:25 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52. What is the sound we will hear just before Jesus comes back to raise the dead? Our bodies will be changed from bodies that can die to bodies that live forever in heaven with Jesus. What do you imagine your new body will look like?

“(I believe in) the life everlasting.”

Read John 6:47. Everlasting life is life forever. Jesus promises everlasting life to all who believe in Him. That means even if our body dies, our souls will live forever close to God. Why do you think it is such an important part of our faith to believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting?



Daily Steps: Session 5

This week, your young disciple will be reading various Bible passages. Look for ways to encourage him or her to use the Daily Steps Journal as a way to grow closer to God.



Day 1 Read John 1:12-13.

Circle your favorite from the following words that describe anyone who trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Christian – Child of God – Disciple – Believer – Follower – Saint

Why is the word you circled special to you? _____

In our last class, we discussed the meaning of baptism and you received an invitation to attend the Young Disciples' Baptism Celebration. This is a time for both students and mentors to be baptized. If you have not been baptized, would you consider being baptized at this upcoming celebration? _____

Why or why not? _____

Find time in the next few days to discuss the baptism invitation with your young disciple. If he or she would like to be baptized, this is your opportunity to prepare him or her for baptism. Review the Apostles' Creed (located in the Mentor's Journal and Student's Journal) and work on memorizing it together. Also invite family and friends to the celebration. Additional information about the baptism celebration can be found under "Preparing for Baptism" in your journal.



Day 2 Read Matthew 12:48-50.

What does Jesus say we need to do to be called members of His family? _____

Read Hebrews 2:10-13. The church, the kingdom of God, and the body of Christ are all names used in the Bible for God's family. Which is your favorite name and why? _____

How might you explain your favorite name for God's family to your young disciple? _____



Day 3 Read John 14:2-3.

What do you think will be the most amazing thing to you about heaven as the home for God's family? _____

Who do you hope to see when you reach your heavenly home? _____



Day 4 Read Colossians 3:14-15 and Ephesians 4:14-16.

God the Father wants His family to grow in number and in maturity, becoming more and more like His Son Jesus. What is one activity you can do to help your young disciple grow in his or her own faith? _____

Modeling a walk of faith is more effective than teaching about it. In the future, how might you share your own steps in spiritual growth with your young disciple? _____



Day 5 Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

How is the family of God like a body? _____

Describe ways you have seen God use our strengths, weaknesses, successes, and failures to help His family grow in spiritual maturity and in number. _____



Day 6

Review The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles' Creed, and John 14:6 so that you can lead your young disciple when everyone recites them as a group at the Baptism Celebration. Practice them with your young disciple.

Skim through this journal, reviewing your answers and thoughts, the Lord's Prayer, The Apostles' Creed, and John 14:6. What is the main thing God has shown you about Himself? _____

about your young disciple? _____

about yourself? _____

Consider sharing what God has shown you this week with your young disciple.



Moving Forward

Things to remember about your young disciple:

Ideas for building your relationship with your young disciple:

Ideas for encouraging spiritual growth with your young disciple:
