

Confirmation Project—Apostles' Creed Photo Essay

A creative project in which students explore the meaning of the Apostles' Creed through photos and share their insights with the congregation through a photo essay.

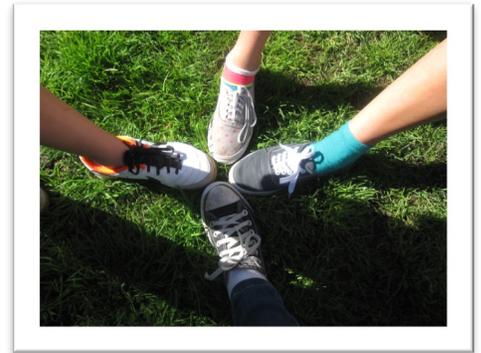
Objectives:

- To help students extend their understanding of the Apostles' Creed in a creative manner.
- To engage students with different learning styles.
- To share with the congregation the insights from the confirmation class.

Audience: middle school or high school students

Duration:

- Time for taking pictures (we spent half a day including having lunch)
- Time to discuss the photos
- Time to organize a power point presentation



Materials/Preparation Needed:

- Directions for students
- Permission slips from parents if you are leaving campus
- At least one camera per group of students (can be on a smart phone or other type)
- Access to computer software/projector to set up a visual presentation in church

Lesson/Event:

This project is a good activity to use at the end of a unit on the Apostles' Creed. It gives students the opportunity to apply their understanding of the Apostles' Creed by taking photos to represent the three articles and key phrases of the Creed. Students then discuss why they took the pictures they did and the class decides which pictures they want to include in the photo essay. The end product is a PowerPoint presentation (or other type of visual display) that can be shared with the congregation.

1. Determine the date, time, and place that you will conduct the activity. A mall, park, or other type of large venue can make for some interesting choices for students. You also could consider several different types of locations if that works better for you.
2. If needed, recruit drivers and have students bring a sack lunch or money to buy lunch. Get permission slips signed to take students off campus. Make it a fun fellowship event as well as learning experience!

3. Run off copies of the Apostles' Creed to give to students or have them download a version on their smart phones.
4. Once you have arrived at the designated place, divide groups of students into threes and give them instructions to take photos that represent the different phrases of the Apostles' Creed. Let them know that they will need to explain how each photo relates to the Apostles' Creed. Give them a set time to meet you and the parameters of where they can go. Make sure you have a cell phone number for at least one student in the group and each of the groups has your cell phone number in case of emergency. Now let them go!
5. Once students are back, have them send all their photos (tagged with the corresponding phrase) to you so that you are able to show them to the group. Sort them so that pictures for the same phrase are together and can be shown in succession. For example, all the pictures for "was crucified, dead, and buried" should be together and those for "communion of saints" should be together.
6. Meet with students later to discuss the photos and decide which ones they want to use for the photo essay. In your discussion, encourage students to share *why* they took that photo, not just *what* it symbolized to them. Decide as a class which ones you like best—choose as many as you like. While you may decide to eliminate some photos as you go through, be sure that all students get at least one photo into the final selection so everyone is represented and feels like they had a part in the product.
7. Once photos are chosen, arrange the photos into a PowerPoint presentation or other type of visual display with the words of the Apostles' Creed superimposed on or beside the images. Again, you can use more than one image for a phrase so the congregation can see different perspectives. (If you have a parent or students who want to take on this project, great!)
8. Determine when and how you will share it with the congregation. It can be during worship as the congregation says the Apostles' Creed, during an education hour where the students explain their understanding of the Creed, or at some other special event.

