

# Building Little Pillars

Teaching the Foundations of the  
Christian Faith to Children Ages 3 to 6

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# Introduction



pillar provides support for a structure. It is strong and sturdy and can endure the elements that assail it. We want our children, like the pillars of a structure, to remain strong when their faith is tested by doubt and lies. We want to ground their faith in more than feelings. We want their foundations to run deep with biblical truths which connect them with resources that have strengthened the Church for centuries. Our children's faith will be tested. Let's equip them to stand firm in the face of those tests!

*Building Little Pillars* is designed for pre-school children ages 3- to 6-years old who regularly attend church to expand their understanding of Bible stories by exposing them to Reformed, biblical doctrine. Each lesson takes between 30–45 minutes to complete. *Building Little Pillars* is a tool that churches can use as part of a Sunday school, Children's Church, or Wednesday night program. Parents can incorporate *Building Little Pillars* into their local homeschool co-op or family Bible time. It may be used as a one-year curriculum or be used as three parts, perhaps to fit a summer schedule. Lessons may be combined or expanded as needed to fit your calendar.

*Building Little Pillars* provides parents and teachers with the tools they need to bring solid doctrine to life. Children will learn Reformed, biblical doctrine through vivid object lessons and Scripture study. They will have opportunity to memorize age-appropriate Bible verses that support the scriptural truths found in the Apostles' Creed, Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer. Biblical lessons are enhanced with hands-on learning and crafts, games, movement activities, and puzzles. Opportunities are provided for children to practice prayer and see the Lord working in their lives by keeping a prayer journal.

In Deuteronomy 11:18-19, the Lord gives His people this command:

*You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

As we build a foundation of understanding on which faith can grow, we want to train our children to set their minds on God's truth and to know Jesus as the Cornerstone of their lives so they can be pillars that stand strong in the shifting sands of this world.

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## Using *Building Little Pillars*

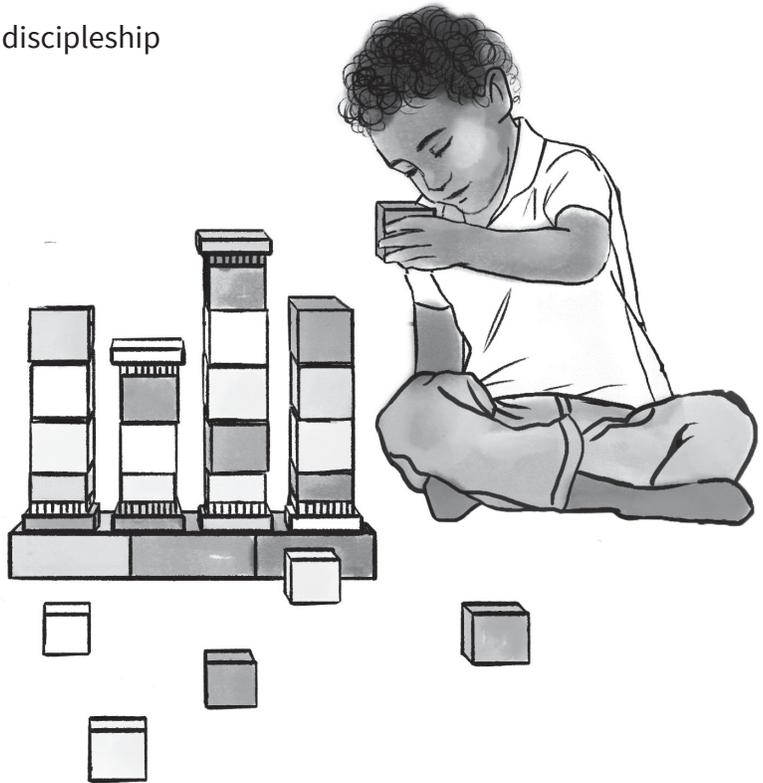
Each lesson contains four sections to aid in the discipleship of young hearts.

### Parents' Letter

Keep parents informed about what their children will learn in each unit. Be sure to personalize it with your signature.

### Thoughts for the Teacher

Written as a themed devotional based on the subject matter taught that week, this section provides an opportunity for the teacher to reflect on the Word of God. It provides scriptural meditations, historical or biblical context, and thought-provoking questions to guide the teacher in preparation for the lesson to be taught.



### Mystery Bag

Children are naturally curious. By using an object concealed in a bag, students' curiosity is piqued and interest is engaged as they attempt to guess what item will be revealed. All items tie in to the story or lesson being taught that day. With students' attention "grabbed" early, they are more likely to listen to the stories being told.

### Bible Lesson

Each Bible story is retold using language easy for little ones to understand yet staying true to the original biblical text. Teachers are encouraged to enhance the storytelling experience using pictures, coloring pages, flannel boards, or objects or toys found around the home.

### Hands-on Learning

Preschool children learn best through movement, activities and play. *Building Little Pillars* enhances its Bible lessons with hands-on learning including crafts, games, movement activities, and puzzles. These activities bring solid doctrine to life for young ones.

# The Apostles' Creed

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# The Apostles' Creed Introduction

## Bible Memory Verse

*Remember, then, what you have received and heard.*

Revelation 3:3a



## Thoughts for the Teacher

If you have a question, what do you do to find the answer? Many of us stretch out our hands to clasp a thin, electronic device to summon up a genie-like tool called Google. We swipe or speak our question, and seconds later, dozens and dozens of helpful (though not always relevant) responses flood our vision. Question answered!

How did people ever survive before smartphones?

In Deuteronomy 11:18-19, the Lord gives His people this command:

*You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

For most of history, human beings have only had their memory to store important information. In fact, reading and writing were not commonplace among many segments of the population. That sort of education was limited to the privileged few. For centuries, God's people depended upon oral traditions and recitations to help make their faith personal and mobile. Thus, songs and stories and creeds were used to impart knowledge to the generations coming behind.

What we consider to be the modern Apostles' Creed first appeared in the early 700s. The Apostles' Creed is a concise recitation of who the Trinitarian Godhead is. It provides a framework for

Christians to bring to mind the important tenets of the faith. It is a tool to serve the believer's memory.

These next 18 weeks will prove to be precious as you introduce a new generation of young minds to the sacred truths expressed in the Apostles' Creed. Not only are you passing on a piece of history, you are fulfilling a godly command to share knowledge of our Maker with the next generation. You are teaching children a way to express their Christian beliefs clearly and concisely.



## THE MYSTERY BAG

**Mystery bag item:** “sticky” notes

I have something in my bag today that helps me remember important things. What do you think I use to help me remember important things? **(Allow students time to guess.)**

Those are all great guesses! I brought in my bag today “sticky” notes. **(Pull out pad of “sticky” notes.)**

“Sticky” notes are very handy. I can write a message on one—like “call Mom”—and then stick it someplace where I’ll see it. **(Demonstrate by writing message and sticking the note somewhere in the room.)** Whenever I see this note, I’ll remember that I need to call my mom.

What are some things that are important to remember? **(Allow students time to share thoughts.)** All of those are very good thoughts. In today’s lesson, God had something He wanted His people to remember. We’re going to learn about a method God’s people used to remember.



## Bible Lesson

### *Taken from Deuteronomy 6:5-7*

God was talking to His people. He wanted them to do something hard. He wanted them to remember.

Some things are easy to remember.

Birthdays and play dates and trips to the ice cream shop are very easy to remember. They are fun. They make us feel happy and special.

Some things are harder to remember. Remembering to pack vegetables in our lunchbox, remembering to get all our homework done, and remembering that one thing Mom asked us to do before dinner are all a little more difficult to do. Even though they are things that are important, they don't seem to be much fun. Things that we find boring or hard work are often things that are easy to forget.

Long, long ago, God was talking to His people. He was telling them all the things He wanted them to do. He was telling the people lots and lots and lots of things about Himself. It was a lot for these people to remember.

God said, "I want you to love Me with all of your heart. I want you to love Me with every thought. I want you to love Me with every move your body makes."

The people nodded. They loved God. It's easy to love, right?

God continued, "I want you to teach every single thing I've taught you about Myself to your children. I want you to talk about Me when you sit in your house. I want you to tell them stories about Me at bedtime. I want you to talk about Me when you get up for breakfast and when you play outside. I don't want you to ever forget Me."

Now the people felt a little bit worried. God had told them a lot of things. How could they possibly remember every little thing? How could their little children remember all these things about God? There's a lot of stuff to know about God!

Even though God wanted His people to remember so many things, God knew His people were creative. He knew they would think of ways to help them and their children remember.

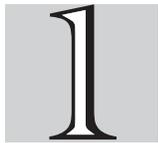
Over the many years, God's people have come up with creative ways to remember important things

about God. God’s people write songs to remember His love. (**Sing “Jesus Loves Me” or another song children might know.**) God’s people paint pictures to remember His stories. (**Show a picture of a famous painting by Raphael, Michelangelo, or Leonardo da Vinci.**) And God’s people write poems or creeds to remember important things about Him. (**Pull out copy of the Apostles’ Creed. Read it to the students.**)

Over the next 18 weeks, we’ll be memorizing this creed. I know it seems really long right now, but we will break it into small pieces and memorize a little bit each week. Before you know it, you will have the whole thing memorized. You’ll be able to share all these wonderful things about God with other people. How awesome is that!

## Hands-on Learning

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### **ACTIVITY – “Sticking God in My Heart” Game**

#### **Materials:**

- Poster board
- “Sticky” notes
- Blindfold
- Markers
- Tape

#### **Before Class:**

1. Draw and color in a large heart on poster board.
2. Write the word “God” on the notes (one for each student).

#### **During Class:**

Tell students to always remember God in their hearts. Play a “Pin the Tail on the Donkey” game.

1. Mount the poster board with the heart on a classroom wall at students’ shoulder height.



2. Line students up a short distance away from poster board.
3. Hand each student a “sticky” note with the word “God” written on it.
4. Blindfold the first student in line and turn them carefully in a circle. Stop them facing the poster board.
5. Have student carefully walk blindfolded toward poster board and stick their note to it.
6. Remove blindfold so student can see where they stuck their note. How close did it get to the heart?
7. Repeat play with other students.



## **ACTIVITY – Apostles’ Creed Memory Game**

### **Materials:**

- Memory game pictures found on pg. 18 (one copy for each student)
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Plastic zipper bags (one for each student)

### **Before Class:**

1. Copy the “memory game” cards page on cardstock, one sheet per student.
2. If teaching younger children, cut the cards apart and place a set in a plastic bag for each child.

### **During Class:**

1. Provide each student with a page of memory game pictures.
2. Have students color pictures.



3. As they are able, have students cut out picture cards.
4. Have students play with a partner a memory game using the picture cards.\*
5. At the end of class, place each student's cards in a plastic zipper bag to take home.

**\*Rules for memory game:**

1. Flip all cards over so that the picture side faces down on the table.
2. Mix up cards.
3. Arrange cards in four equal rows.
4. Flip over any 2 cards. If they match, player keeps pair and takes another turn. If they don't match, player flips them back over and their turn is done.
5. Players alternate turns until all cards are matched.
6. The player with the most matches at the end of the game is the winner.



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## The Apostles' Creed Introduction

### **Bible Memory Verse**

*Remember, then, what you have received and heard.*

Revelation 3:3a

### **Bible Lesson Taken from Deuteronomy 6:5-7**

After God brought Israel out of bondage in Egypt, He taught them many things about Himself and about how to live. Then He commanded them to remember what He taught them and to teach those things to their children and to all future generations.

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