

## 2025 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

“Do you believe this?” (*John 11:26*)

### ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The 2025 international and Canadian WPCU resources are available to download at:

[www.weekofprayer.ca](http://www.weekofprayer.ca) (English)

[www.semainedepriere.ca](http://www.semainedepriere.ca) (French)

**We encourage you to be creative in your use of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity resources!** For example, you may wish to alter the ecumenical worship service to better suit the context of your community, or you may draw inspiration from the WPCU materials to create something entirely new. Communities should also feel free to use the WPCU materials not only during the traditional Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25 in the northern hemisphere), but throughout the year, to pray for Christian unity and to foster ecumenical fellowship, hospitality, and service.

This year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) theme is focused on the Council of Nicaea and Jesus’ question to Martha in the Gospel of John: “Do you believe this?” (John 11:26). These activities are for children of all ages to learn more about the 2025 WPCU theme and celebrations, and how we can reflect on our faith and the various ways we express our belief.

#### Council of Nicaea

1. For older children, print several copies of the Nicene Creed out and share them with the group. Ask them to go over the creed slowly, and in each section, highlight or underline any points in the creed that are confusing, or new words. Then as a group discuss what those terms mean.
2. What is a creed? A creed is a set of beliefs that a group or organization agrees upon together and is a part of how they act in the world. What are some beliefs that your Sunday School class or youth group share? Write them down together to create your own creed.
3. Many churches do not use the Nicene Creed as their primary creed, but either have their own or use another ancient creed. Research what the creed is for your denomination, which might be called the Articles, the Confessions, etc. How do they differ? How are they the same?

#### For younger children

1. One God, One Tree, Many Branches: To show how our churches come from the roots of the early Church, this moving activity has children start at the base of the tree (one

end of the room), with Jesus Christ. Through the telling of the story of the early Church, give each participant a long piece of string and instruct them to move forward as the Church grows, and then divides into different branches. At the end they can see where there are many branches of the Church, but all come back to the original source of God and the Trinity.

2. Have children illustrate each section of the Nicene Creed (or creed of your tradition) on a mural with a large piece of parchment paper, paint, markers, etc. Each section of the creed can be illustrated with simple symbols. For example, “We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible” can be an image of the Earth with a heart surrounding it.

#### External Resources

*The Nicene Creed Illustrated and Instructed for Kids*

Author: Joey Fitzgerald

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