

TEACHING RESOURCE FOR THE ARTICLES OF FAITH

For use with the Faith in God Activity Day Program

This information is a condensed version of the book *Articles of Faith* by Elder James E. Talmage, talks from General Authorities, *the Friend*, and other sources on the website www.lds.org. This is only a small snippet of what is available. I hope that this works for teaching the meaning of the Articles of Faith for the Faith in God Activity Days.

Each one of these Articles of Faith is separated out for an easier understanding. Please feel free to add additional thoughts and feelings that may help relate the information better. Remember that there is a tune in the *Children's Songbook* for each of the Articles of Faith that you can sing to help remember that particular Article of Faith.

~Lorena Brown

QUICK OVERVIEW

Theology: The word comes from the Greek word *Theos*, which means God, and *logos*, which means discourse or lesson of knowledge. Thus the term means a lesson or knowledge of God.

Where did the *Articles of Faith* come from?

In Elder L. Tom Perry's April 1998 General Conference talk:

"Let us review for a moment how the Articles of Faith came to be. The Prophet was often asked to explain the teachings and practices of Mormonism.

"John Wentworth, editor of the Chicago Democrat, asked Joseph Smith to provide him with a sketch of 'the rise, progress, persecution, and faith of the Latter-Day Saints.' Mr. Wentworth, originally from New Hampshire, desired this information to help a friend compile a history of his native state. "Joseph complied with this request and sent Wentworth a multi-page document containing an account of many of the early events in the history of the Restoration, including the First Vision and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. The document also contained thirteen statements outlining Latter-day Saint beliefs, which have come to be known as the Articles of Faith." The information sent to Wentworth was not published in the Chicago Democrat, but in the Church newspaper, Times and Seasons, published in March of 1842.

"In 1851 the Articles of Faith were included in the first edition of the Pearl of Great Price published in the British Mission. After the Pearl of Great Price was revised in 1878 and canonized in 1880, the Articles of Faith became official doctrine of the Church" (see Church History in the Fullness of Times [Church Educational System Manual, 1993], 256-57)."